

Georgia Southern University

Digital Commons@Georgia Southern

Honors College Graduate Brochures

Honors College

Spring 2021

Spring 2021 Honors Graduates

Georgia Southern University, Honors College

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/honors-gradbook>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

This program is brought to you for free and open access by the Honors College at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Honors College Graduate Brochures by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.



**GEORGIA
SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY**

HONORS COLLEGE

Spring 2021

**Honors
Graduates**

From the Dean



Students who join the Honors College understand that they are going to be challenged. In fact, taking on a challenge is often one of the main reasons they join. When this year's graduates started, however, they couldn't have anticipated the challenges that faced us all this past year. The fact that these students have been resilient in completing their honors requirements in the midst of these challenges is truly a cause for celebration!

This booklet provides a brief overview of each of our spring 2021 graduates and the difference they have made while at Georgia Southern. Chief among their accomplishments is the completion of the Honors Thesis/Honors Project. All students learn while in college. These projects demonstrated that these honors students have not only learned a great deal but they have also created new knowledge. Because of the importance of the thesis, you will see that it is listed right after their major, along with the name of their faculty mentor.

As you read this, you will also learn about our graduates' next steps. We have been delighted that they spent a few years with us on our campuses, but we are even more excited about what will come next. They have some bold plans, and I look forward to hearing their future accomplishments.

One particularly noteworthy fact about this semester's graduates is that they will be the first graduating class to receive the new Honors College medallion. As they walk across the graduation stage and hear their name announced as an "Honors College Scholar," we hope they will proudly wear this medallion as part of their graduate regalia. Let us remember, however, that the medallion is just a symbol of the accomplishments. The more important take-away will be the skills they developed, the experiences they engaged in, and the memories they made with their friends, professors, and mentors. They have endured great challenges and have been successful, and I am confident that they will have continued success in the future.

Congratulations Honors College Graduates!

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Engel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. Steve Engel
Dean, Honors College

Congratulations Honors College Graduates!

Andrea Appleton

Biology
Evolution and Development of Staminodes in
Paronychia (Caryophyllaceae)
Mentored by Dr. John J. Schenk

Andrea Appleton will join the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University as a PhD student in fall 2021 to study floral evolution. At Georgia Southern, Andrea fell in love with plants through conducting botanical research, leading the Natural History Collections Club, and serving as the interim curator of the Herbarium in the Department of Biology. Andrea was awarded the 1906 Scholarship, the nationally competitive Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, and several grants in support of her research; presented her research at several regional and national conferences; and has had a first-author manuscript accepted for publication.

“Participation in the Honors College helped me cultivate meaningful personal and professional relationships, encouraged the discovery of new interests, and taught me how to genuinely love learning. I am most thankful to have met some of the most thoughtful and kind-hearted people on the planet through the program.”



Brooke Armesto

Elementary Education and Special Education

Becoming Inclusive: A Collection and Analysis of the Perceptions of Newly Qualified General Elementary Education Teachers on their Preparedness for Teaching in Inclusive Settings

Mentored by Dr. Catherine Howerter

Brooke Armesto will begin her career as an elementary school teacher in fall 2021. During her time at Georgia Southern, Brooke was awarded the 1906 Scholarship and served as an Honors Ambassador. She was also a member of the Georgia Southern Dance Team for two years. In her free time, she worked as a teacher's assistant and undergraduate research assistant for teacher-education courses, and a substitute teacher at the preschool on campus. She also spent time volunteering, leading a group of Sunday school teachers at a local church and attending a Georgia Southern Alternative Breaks trip to Memphis, TN focused on education access.



“The Honors College has taught me the value of being curious, being a lifelong learner, and showing “Humility Before Honor.” In addition, through the Honors College, I was able to form relationships with so many incredible, inspiring, and encouraging people.”

Samantha Baker

Biology

Algal Mimic Filament Length Affects Microplastic Capture Mentored by Dr. Jay Hodgson

Samantha Baker plans to finish her minor in chemistry this summer at the Statesboro campus of Georgia Southern University, along with her prerequisites for pharmacy school. She plans to take a year off to decide between graduate school or pharmacy school. As an undergraduate, Samantha enrolled all four years at the Armstrong campus. From doing so, Samantha developed much pride and fondness for Savannah and will always be an AASU pirate by heart. For Georgia Southern, she has presented her research on algal mimic affecting microplastic capture at the Virtual Honors Symposium and COUR Virtual Symposium. Although she is taking a gap year, Samantha is eager to continue her learning as a first-generation female graduate for her family.



“My years in the Honors Program have shown me my fullest potential. I came to Armstrong unsure of who I am or what major I wanted. But through taking honors courses, I challenged myself. I learned that I loved seeking knowledge. My confidence grew, as well as my understanding of myself. I achieved a degree I never thought possible for myself. Honors taught me that succeeding is about hard work and determination above all else.”

Katherine Barrs

Biology

Characterization of Cuticular Hydrocarbon Profiles in Southeastern Argentine Ant (*Linepithema humile*) Colonies Mentored by Dr. Joshua Gibson

Katherine Barrs will work as a research technician this summer, and thereafter, will pursue internships until applying for a master's degree in Spatial Epidemiology. While at Georgia Southern, Katherine received the 1906 Scholarship, the Chandler Scholarship, and the nationally competitive Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. In her research, Katherine studied chemical communication in Argentine ants and is currently researching COVID-19. She participated in two Research Experiences for Undergraduates at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and Yale University, multiple research conference presentations, and a first-author publication. On campus, Katherine was involved as an Honors Ambassador, a Peer Mentor in the Honors LLC, a founding member of the Statesboro Campus Honors Student Organization, a student vice president of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, and as the president of TriBeta, the National Biological Honors Society. Off campus, she served as the Volunteer Coordinator at the Bulloch County Animal Shelter for and volunteered with Fostering Bulloch.



“My journey from freshman year to now has been filled with peers who challenged and encouraged me, professors who advised my research questions and career path, and university staff who believed in my dreams enough to help me realize them. The Honors College motto “Humility before Honor” taught me that I have the freedom to try difficult things, learn from my failures, and experience growth. I hold most precious the people I have encountered along the way who have become my family, lifelong friends, and colleagues. I’m so honored to be a graduate of Georgia Southern University. ‘Hail Southern and No Place Else!’”

Ashlyn Beasley

Nursing

Obesity Bias: Bachelor of Science Nursing Student Perceptions Mentored by Dr. Amber Derksen

Ashlyn Beasley will begin working at Candler Hospital as a Registered Nurse in the Intensive Care Unit in 2021. Ashlyn presented her research to the School of Nursing and plans to publish her research with Dr. Amber Derksen. Ashlyn plans to continue her education to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.



“Georgia Southern University and the Honors College have allowed me to thrive academically and make many connections with other students and faculty. I was provided endless opportunities to develop my leadership skills and introduced to the field of research. I will always be grateful that I was able to work with such amazing faculty and students at Georgia Southern University who made these past four years unforgettable.”

Madeline Bercher

International Studies and Spanish Transnational Perspectives and Euroscepticism: A Strategical Rhetoric of Blame Mentored by Dr. Jamie Scalera

Maddie Bercher looks forward to continuing her studies in graduate school, after one year of practical training. Maddie was very active on the Statesboro campus as the president and co-founder of the International Studies Society, a Writing Center consultant, a Political Science research assistant, and a volunteer tutor for French courses. As an international student from France, she was awarded the International Diversity waiver based on academic merit and served as an International SOAR leader two consecutive years. She presented original research on the European asylum crisis as well as on Euroscepticism at several conferences, including at the Florida Political Science Association in Tampa, FL, the Georgia Political Science Association in Atlanta, GA, and the Southern Political Science Association in San Juan, PR.

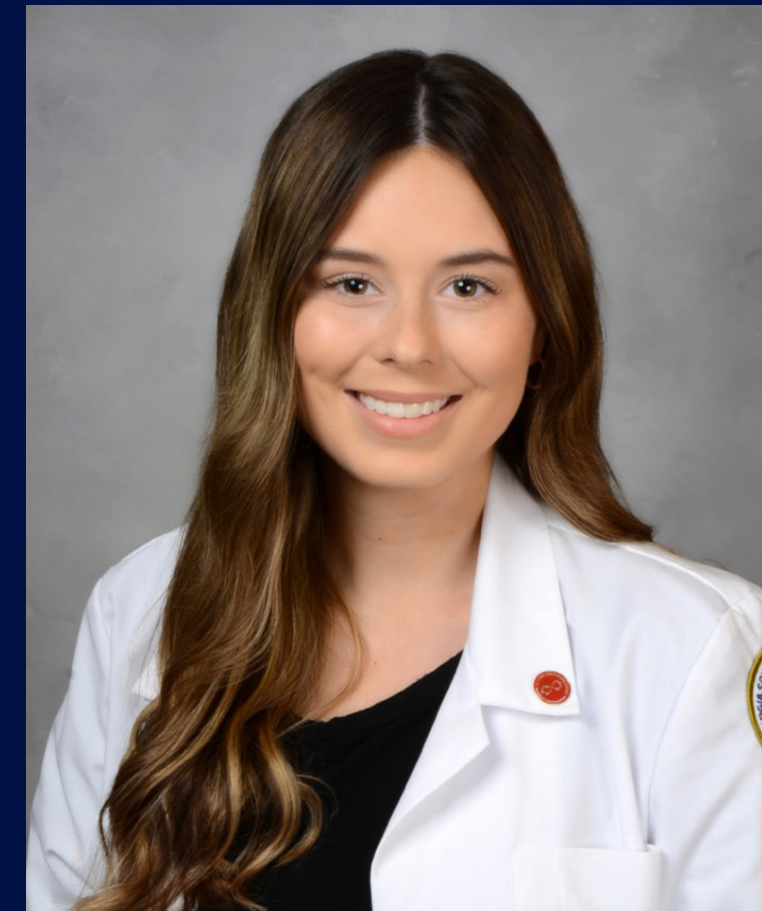


“The opportunity to work on an undergraduate thesis made my experience at Georgia Southern incredibly enriching. Through this project, I was able to connect and create strong relationship with faculty. It was an opportunity for both personal and academic growth, and I am extremely grateful for this experience.”

Cierra Berry

Nursing Undergraduate Nursing Student Perceptions of HIPAA Violations in Semi-Private Rooms in Hospitals Mentored by Professor Jeffrey Harris

Cierra Berry will graduate in May with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She completed her senior preceptorship in the neonatal ICU and plans on pursuing a career in that field in the near future. Cierra accepted a position in a residency program where she can apply the clinical skills learned in nursing school while gaining new knowledge necessary to become a successful nurse. As a student at Georgia Southern, she was awarded the Lettie Pate Whitehead nursing scholarship. Cierra plans to continue her education once she has experience as a registered nurse.



“The Honors College at Georgia Southern challenged me intellectually and gave me the best opportunities possible to grow as a student. The research skills that I gained will follow me in all of my future academic endeavors. I have met lifelong friends and amazing professors through Georgia Southern and enjoyed my time in Statesboro as an undergrad.”

Albani Berryhill

Communication Studies #Clickbait: Social Media, Attraction, and Relational Development Mentored by Dr. Beverly Graham

Albani Berryhill will begin the master's program in media and public communication at the University of Denver this fall. She has been awarded a teaching assistantship by her department. While at Georgia Southern, Albani was awarded over \$32,000 in scholarships, remained on the President's List for eight consecutive semesters, and was named the 2020-2021 Scholar of the Year for the Department of Communication Arts. Also, Albani had the opportunity to study abroad in Spain for a summer. During her time at Georgia Southern, Albani worked multiple on-campus jobs, served as a volunteer tutor for W.E. Move! Tutoring group, and was an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Her Campus, Minority Advisement Program, Student Government Association, and Phi Eta Sigma Honor's Society. Albani hopes to make her mark by offering solutions to global challenges and positively impacting the world.



"Being at GSU and participating in the Honors College has been a blessing. I have grown tremendously in all aspects of life and developed relationships with amazing faculty, staff, and peers that I will forever cherish. I am a better person because of Eagle Nation. No matter where I go in life, I will always love blue and live gold."

Jireh Bethely

Computer Science Studying the Effectiveness of Code Animation Mentored by Dr. Daniel Liang

During his time at Georgia Southern in the Honors College, Jireh made great connections with friends, peers, and instructors. The Honors Option and the Honors Thesis gave him an extremely valuable learning experiences that will help him throughout his career.



"I enjoyed every minute of it and would not trade the experience for anything."

Adrianna Bolton

Communication Studies Little Free Libraries Mentored by Professor Karla Jennings

Adrianna Bolton will be relocating after graduation in order to pursue her dream of event coordinating, while also running her own business on the side as a professional mermaid performer and photographer. She dedicates her free time to her hobbies such as free diving, photography, and modeling. She is passionate about advocating for the protection of the Florida Springs ecosystem, as well as environmental conversation as a whole. Adrianna is the proud recipient of the Student of the Year 2020-21 award for her major, a Horatio Alger State Scholarship, and a Gulfstream Scholarship. She also served as the vice president and social event planner for the Armstrong Campus' chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success.



“Georgia Southern and the Honors College have opened up so many avenues for my future. I am forever grateful for the amazing faculty and students I have had the pleasure of meeting. They helped me realize my passions and encouraged me to achieve amazing things in my academic and personal careers. I am thankful for my mentor, Professor Karla Jennings, who aided me in my goal to help end literature poverty in the Greater Savannah community by constructing multiple Little Free Libraries. I am proud to graduate as a student of the Honors College.”

Colton Borresen

Biology Knowing Food Preferences of the Diamondback Terrapin Will Help Identify Critical Areas to Focus Conservation Efforts Mentored by Dr. Kathryn Craven

Colton Borresen will begin the Master of Science in Marine Sciences program at Savannah State University this fall, but will first spend the summer working with DNR assisting with their Adult Red Drum and Shark Longline Survey in Brunswick, GA. While at Georgia Southern - Armstrong Campus, Colton was inducted into the NSLS, NSCS and was an active member of the University Honors Program as an Honors Ambassador and served as the Honors Student Organization's vice president and president. Thanks to scholarships from the Honors Program and the GSU Internship Scholarship, Colton spent the last three summers conducting shark and ray research in Clearwater, FL (where he found his passion in working with sharks) and the fall 2020 semester interning at the Georgia Aquarium. Colton conducted research to learn the food preferences of diamondback terrapins to help conservation efforts. Colton was on the President's and Dean's List each semester and completed over 500 service hours earning the U.S. President's Volunteer Service Gold Award.



“The Georgia Southern University Honors Program (Armstrong) completely made my college experience. The Program provided me with the opportunity to engage with fellow Honors students and amazing faculty, advisors, and professors. It gave me the security to become more involved on campus and in my community and the pathway to expand my leadership skills. The research and internship experience I have gained and the encouragement I received through the Honors Program completely solidified the next steps in my academic and professional career.”

Ashley Brown

Biology

DNA Methylation in the Response to Stress of Channel Catfish Mentored by Dr. Aaron Schrey

Ashley Brown will return to Georgia Southern University to complete the remaining prerequisites for medical school. Over the summer she plans to shadow several physicians and gain volunteer hours. In her time at Georgia Southern, she was recognized on the Dean's List and President's List several times. She also received the opportunity to work at Jackson Dental Associates. As part of the Honors program she presented her thesis project at the COUR and Honors Symposium.



"The Georgia Southern Honors College has helped me with improving my social skills and encouraged me to be an active member of my community. My participation has challenged me academically and has given me a deeper appreciation for Georgia Southern University for allowing me to build strong connections with my mentors. They have opened my mind to a new world of possibilities that I could not have dreamed of."

Lavauria Brown

Chemistry

Membrane Diode for Controllable Delivery of Nicotine and Smoking Cessation Treatment Mentored by Dr. Ji Wu

LaVauria Brown is looking to continue her education and attend graduate school to receive a higher degree in chemistry. Later, she hopes to pursue medical school in the state of Georgia to work in underserved rural areas. While at Georgia Southern University, LaVauria was a resident advisor, an active member of The 100 Collegiate Women of America, the Diversity Chair of Phi Delta Epsilon, member of Phi Eta Sigma, a volunteer at the Hearts and Hands Clinic, trip leader for SERVE 912, and the Recruitment Chair for Alternative Breaks. LaVauria also engaged in research within the Department of Chemistry.



"My acceptance into the Honor's Program has been an outstanding blessing. I was able to be challenged, to help build my professional career path and my current schooling. I would like to thank everyone in this program that has now blossomed into a college for the amazing help and coaching throughout my undergraduate experience."

Aubrey Brumblow

Writing & Linguistics and English The Scars You Don't See: A Short Story Cycle On Childhood Trauma Mentored by Professor Benjamin Drevlow

Aubrey Brumblow will continue her academic journey as an MFA candidate for Creative Nonfiction at Portland State University in the fall. A South Georgia native with a life-long love for reading, Aubrey has always dreamed of writing full-time and working with the publishing industry. Throughout her academic career at Georgia Southern University, she presented at the CURIO symposium, worked with Student Athlete Services as a student assistant tutor, received two consecutive scholarship editorial positions with *The George-Anne Reflector* Magazine, and served as a panelist for a visiting writer. Other organizations she participated in include the English honors society Sigma Tau Delta and The Creative Writing Club. She has been incredibly enriched by her experiences at Georgia Southern through not only the supportive and lively student writing community she has found but also through the wonderful faculty at Georgia Southern.



“Being an Honors student offered me so many invaluable opportunities and enabled me to work closely with amazing faculty and supportive peers. I am closer than ever to the writing career I’ve always wanted, and I am forever grateful!”

Nya Bryant

Political Science Police Brutality: Macroeconomic Effects in the United States Mentored by Dr. Kate Perry

Nya Bryant will attend the law school of her choice in fall 2021. While attending Georgia Southern, she accomplished many goals such as chartering her first organization, Leading Women of Tomorrow. Over her four year span, she has been a part of nine organizations, while holding four executive positions. Law has always been Nya’s passion, and she plans to use this in order to help minorities.



“My participation in the Honors College has been a challenge that was worth the experience since it opened my mind and taught me many new things.”

Ashlyn Burnsed

**Management/Entrepreneurship
Footloose Business Plan
Mentored by Dr. William Norton**

Ashlyn Burnsed will begin working with her real estate degree in Savannah, Georgia with Benchmark Realty as an agent. While at Georgia Southern, she took the opportunity to study abroad in Scotland, and was involved with the Alpha Delta Pi sorority, campus ministries, and intramural basketball and volleyball. Overall, she enjoyed her time and community in Statesboro, Georgia.



“I appreciate the Honors College and community. The Honors College challenged me and allowed me to improve me self not only intellectually but also professionally. I know that my time as an Honors student was beneficial to my goals in life. Thank you!”

Santiago Campo Ortega

**Management/Entrepreneurship
SuccessWay
Mentored by Dr. Curtis Sproul**

Santiago Campo will be working at the biggest engineered plastic distributor in the nation at Silicon Valley. While at Georgia Southern Santiago was awarded with many different scholarships and honors, including the Mark Enderson Scholarship, the Entrepreneurship Scholarship, and the Diversity Scholarship. He is a former president of Pi Sigma Epsilon Gamma Lambda chapter at Georgia Southern. Santiago also represented the Georgia Southern sales team in different competitions nationwide. He also became a Parker Scholar of the Parker College of Business in 2020, and was part of the soccer club for more than three years. Santiago was a Southern Leaders and volunteered more than 200 hours during his college career.

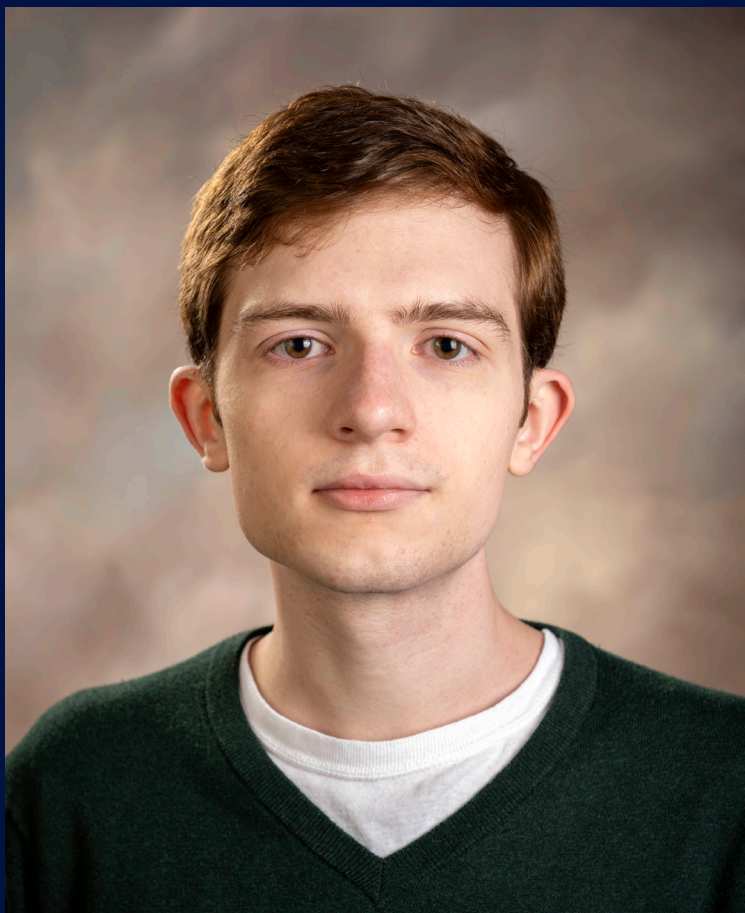


“Here at Georgia Southern, I met some of my closest friends. I was able to thrive surrounded by my peers that continue to encourage me to keep pushing myself, and I got to make great professional and personal connections. I’ll be forever grateful.”

Robert Carpenter

History Cypress Canoes and Periaguas: Shipbuilding and Maritime Culture in Colonial Savannah, Georgia Mentored by Dr. T. Kurt Knoerl

Bobby Carpenter will attend the University of Georgia this fall to study for an MA in history. During his time at Georgia Southern he was awarded the Honors Program Scholarship and was selected to join the Honors Program study abroad trip to Ireland in summer 2021, before it was unfortunately canceled. He also joined the Honor Societies of Phi Alpha Theta and Phi Kappa Phi. For his Honors Thesis he studied the maritime culture of Colonial Savannah, and he presented at 2021 Georgia Regional Conference of Phi Alpha Theta.



“Being in the Honors Program gave me access to academic resources and opportunities that helped me dedicate myself to making the most of my studies. The Honors Program helped me communicate with faculty and create course schedules that I enjoyed and benefitted from immensely. I believe that I would not have been able to progress as far as I have without participating in the Honors Program, and I am very grateful for their support.”

Taylor Close

International Studies and French From Hopscotch to Border Hopping: Assessing the Role of Education as a Catalyst for Child Migration from the Northern Triangle Mentored by Dr. William Biebuyck

Taylor Close will begin working in the nonprofit sector post graduation. During her time at Georgia Southern, she presented research at the Southern Regional Honors Conference in both Washington, D.C., and Memphis, Tennessee, as well as the Far West Pop Culture Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. She traveled to Costa Rica on the Honors Alternative Break Trip: Project Pura Vida, once as a trip member and once as the trip site leader. She also served as an Honors Community Resident Advisor and an Honors Ambassador throughout her time at the university.



“The Honors College has given me more opportunities than I thought possible. Not only that, they gave me a family at Georgia Southern. This program has been beneficial to my college experience by making me a member of a strong community and providing new experiences; I’m grateful for all it has given me!”

Madison Cocke

Biology

The Behavioral Response of *Culex erraticus* Mosquitoes to Snake Skin Odors Mentored by Dr. William Irby

Madison Cocke began attending Georgia Southern University when she was sixteen years old through the Dual Enrollment Program. After graduating high school, she was accepted into Georgia Southern's Honors Program, awarded the Honors College Scholarship, and received the College Office of Undergraduate Research grant to aid her thesis project. Madison is a member of Partners in Health, Net Impact, and a Service Learning Facilitator through the University's Office of Leadership and Community Engagement. Madison is also a self-taught, free-lance makeup artist, who uses her skills in her community to uplift those around her; she volunteered her time with the Statesboro's Boys and Girls Club's haunted forest and Georgia Southern's fashion show in order to assist their models with their makeup and costumes.



"The most rewarding and beneficial part of being in the Honors Program is the opportunity to conduct undergraduate thesis research. Connecting and building relationships with faculty, staff, and peers is an immensely valuable experience that will allow any student entering the job field after graduation to excel. The lessons I've learned and friendships I have made through the Honors Program will never be forgotten. I cannot thank Georgia Southern enough for giving me this opportunity!"

Kyle Combs

Mechanical Engineering

Implementation of Multi Material and Geometries on the Frontal Crumpling Zone of Electric Vehicles to Improve Crashworthiness Mentored by Dr. Ermias Koricho

After graduating, Kyle Combs will continue his search for jobs in the engineering field and the start to his career. He hopes to find a position focused in the automotive, aviation, or marine sector. During his time at Georgia Southern, Kyle was a member of Phi Eta Sigma and the shooting sports club. Under the mentorship of Dr. Koricho, Kyle was also part of a student research group working with former Olympic coach Lee Brandon to design her upcoming core trainer.



"The Honors Program at Georgia Southern has introduced me to many new people and allowed me to cultivate some very strong friendships. The experience and knowledge I gained through my involvement in student research is invaluable, and I have this program to thank for that opportunity and for making my time at Southern a memorable one."

Jonathan Copeland

Mechanical Engineering The Effect of Fuel Injector Spacing, Angle, and Blowing Ratio on the Fuel Air Mixing Performance of a Scramjet Engine Mentored by Dr. Marcel Ilie

Jonathan Copeland will begin a working with the Air Force Civilian Service in Warner Robins in July 2021. He served as the social media manager for the Georgia Southern Shooting Sports Club, and was a member of the pistol competition team. After a year of working, he will be attending a master's program to further his education.



“Through the Honors Program I have made many great friendships, and have had the opportunity to conduct research, on top of many other benefits that the program provided. Without the Honors Program, my experience at Georgia Southern would not have been this good.”

Shirlysia Daniel

Marketing The Impact of COVID-19 on China's Luxury Retail Market Mentored by Professor Hope Simpara

Shirlysia Daniel will continue her education in graphic design and Spanish in the fall. Next, she will further her education by pursuing a MBA in Business Administration. While at Georgia Southern, Shirlysia was a member of Phi Eta Sigma Honors Society, Visage Modeling and Fashion Company, and other campus ministries including CRU. As Shirlysia continuously landed on the Dean's List she managed to complete her BA in only three years. She serves faithfully in her community in Savannah Georgia at Bread of Life Ministries through media, childcare, community events, and at Heads Up Guidance Services through leadership in Art Therapy classes. Outside of school, Shirlysia is the CEO of an art and fashion business named Clart Washington and a Mother to her beautiful daughter Melonie Grace who keeps her motivated in everything she does.



“Being in the Honors College has been a very rewarding opportunity for me at Georgia Southern University. It improved me academically, personally, and mentally, pushing me as I completed my degree. I gained a great mentor, advice, and a support system that I am truly thankful for.”

Allison Davis

Psychology Perceptions of Asexuality: Comparing Attitudes Toward Different Sexual Orientation Labels Mentored by Dr. Brandon J. Weiss

Allison Davis will begin her master's training in psychological science at the University of Maryland College Park in fall 2021. Over the summer and while in graduate school, she will continue her work into clinical psychology. Allison was able to study abroad in Scotland in the summer of 2019 and hopes to return there to teach in the future.



"Here at Georgia Southern, I have achieved some of my largest goals such as studying abroad and being accepted to grad school. I was able to grow surrounded by faculty that continue to encourage me to keep pushing myself, and I got where I am due to the generous support of my family, the Honors College, and my mentors, Dr. Brandon Weiss and Dr. Olivia Carr Edenfield."

Marci Delcampo

Writing & Linguistics and Spanish i won't be silenced.: A Chapbook of Poetry Mentored by Professor Christina Olson

Marcelene "Marci" Delcampo wishes to return to Georgia Southern as a staff member to assist future Eagles, namely in an area that communicates the importance of DEI. Her Honors Thesis is a chapbook of poetry highlighting the discriminatory experiences of BIPOC and other minorities, which she hopes to publish after graduation. While at GS, she was awarded the Honors College Scholarship, the Jack and Addie Averitt Foundation Capstone Scholarship, and the Brittany "Ally" Harbuck Memorial Scholarship, among others, some of which helped fund her study abroad trip to Seville, Spain. Marci was very involved in the campus community serving as the student speaker at the spring 2020 Scholar's Day luncheon, a Resident Advisor, a Peer Academic Advisor, an Assistant Poetry Editor for Miscellany, and a Peer Leader Supervisor. She was also a Southern Leader, Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society Member, and a student representative or volunteer for various university-wide committees focused on promoting inclusive excellence and DEI within the GS community.



"From the moment I first toured the campus, I knew Georgia Southern was going to provide me with exceptional experiences and opportunities. I am beyond grateful for everything the university has done for me, specifically the Honors College, Department of Writing & Linguistics, and several other amazing programs and departments who continuously encouraged me throughout my college career and helped me establish myriad personal and professional relationships."

Alyssa Entrekin

Biology **Size and Condition of Seven Coastal Elasmobranchs** **from Georgia Nursery Areas** **Mentored by Dr. Christine Bedore**

After graduating, Alyssa plans to continue to pursue her love for biology in the form of a job in the field of forensic science. While at Georgia Southern University, she received many scholarships including the Honors Program Scholarship, the Southern Scholar's Award, and the Guy D. Foulkes, M.D. Scholarship. She was actively involved on campus as a tutor at the Academic Success Center and with the Honors Program as an Honors Ambassador. Alyssa is graduating from Georgia Southern University *summa cum laude*.



“The Honors College really gave me a place to find myself and truly take flight. I was never really alone in my college journey with the full support of my professors, peers, and Honors College staff. I got to push myself further than I had ever considered possible and learn much in the way of academics and professionalism. Along the way, I got to share much of my experience with incoming Georgia Southern students and help guide them on their own journeys, making my time here all the more rewarding.”

Samantha Estep

Exercise Science **Comparison of Laboratory Measures for Estimation of Body Fat** **Percentage Against Criterion Multi-Compartment Models** **Mentored by Dr. Ronald Snarr**

Samantha Estep will pursue a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree post graduation from Georgia Southern University. While at Georgia Southern University, Samantha was awarded the Continuing with Honors scholarship, the Southern Leaders Program scholarship and the Campus Recreation and Intramural Orr scholarship. She is a published writer with *Athletic Business* magazine under the Next Generation of Campus Recreation project. Samantha dedicated most of her time to CRI to pursue her passion of fitness and wellness as a Group Fitness Instructor and Small Group Trainer. She also worked as a Facilities Supervisor with CRI and volunteered with the Humane Society of Statesboro and Bulloch County and the GS Human Performance Lab.



“The Georgia Southern Honors College helped me to discover my true passion in life. My First Year Experience class started me on a journey to discovering who I really am and who I want to become as a physical therapist. The Experiential Learning courses and Honors Thesis project helped me to connect with professionals in my field, allowing me to grow as a young professional, myself. I am thankful for everything Georgia Southern and the Honors College have offered me over the past four years.”

William Farlow

Philosophy

Ontological Functionalism: You are an Abstract Computer

Mentored by Dr. Finbarr Curtis & Dr. William Eaton

Will Farlow plans to go to graduate school for analytic philosophy in the fall semester of 2022. In the meantime, he plans to study for the GRE and gain experience working in an office environment. His areas of interest within philosophy are metaphysics, ontology, and philosophy of mind.

Elizabeth Ferguson

Anthropology

Rites of Passage and Symbols among

Nursing Students

Mentored by Dr. Jennifer Sweeney Tookes

Elizabeth Ferguson will attend law school in the fall of 2022 after taking a year off to work in Atlanta. While at Georgia Southern, Beth served as the president of Phi Alpha Delta, was a SOAR Orientation Leader, and a Southern Ambassador. She also held several leadership positions in her sorority, Alpha Delta Pi, and worked as a U.S. History tutor for the Eagle Success Program. Beth was awarded the Gary A. Bacon Memorial Pre-Law Scholarship, Martin-Davis Pre-Law Scholarship, and the Persico Scholarship in Anthropology.



“Doing my honors research project introduced me to longer form research. Being able to create a longer piece of research will really help for applying and researching at the graduate level.”



“The Honors College has been a supportive and inspiring community during my time at Georgia Southern. I am grateful for the skills and relationships I have developed through my undergraduate research.”

Sydney Forsythe

Sociology

The Perception of Motherhood through the Smiles and the Spit-up Mentored by Dr. Pidi Zhang

Sydney Forsythe will serve as a Life Teen missionary for a year starting in September 2021. During her time here at Georgia Southern, Sydney became very involved in the community. She volunteered throughout Bulloch County with the BUILD program during her freshman and sophomore year, she served on the Catholic Campus Ministry Board for her freshman and sophomore years, she babysat for many families in the area, and she was the youth minister at St. Matthew, the local Catholic Church. Sydney loves working with people and she took this into consideration for her honors research, deciding to perform a qualitative study, interviewing local women about their experience and perception of motherhood. She plans on continuing to work with mothers and families in some way after her year serving as a missionary, and she desires to be a mother herself one day too.



“My participation in the Honors College here at Georgia Southern allowed me to have closer and more personal relationships with my peers and professors. It also challenged me to work hard in school, while also maintaining a healthy social life, and I know all of this has helped to prepare me for life after college.”

Keagan Galbraith

Computer Science

Prediction of Days-On-Market for Single-Family Homes in the Housing Market of Savannah Mentored by Dr. Ray Hashemi

Keagan Galbraith will begin law school in the fall of 2021. Throughout his three years at Georgia Southern, Keagan was awarded the Honors College Scholarship, Georgia Power Scholarship, and maintained the Zell Miller Scholarship. He was involved in many student activities including being the founder and president of the Developer Student Club by Google and holding elected positions such as treasurer and president of the club lacrosse team. He recently completed an Honors Thesis focused in data-mining and is planning on using his studies in artificial intelligence/ data analytics to benefit the criminal justice system.



“Being in the Honors College helped prepare me for law school. I was able to work closely with professors on projects, complete graduate level research, and have published research. I am very thankful for the support of the Honor’s College and my professors as they have helped me to achieve my goals.”

Joshua Gee

History

Defiance: Thomas Hardwick and the Backlash of the Ku Klux Klan in Georgia Politics Mentored by Dr. Lisa Denmark

Joshua Gee plans to continue his education in a graduate program this fall. During his time at Georgia Southern, he was awarded the Jack and Addie Averitt Scholarship and the R. Frank Saunders, Jr. Memorial Scholarship. In 2021, Joshua presented his research for his honors thesis at CURIO.

Alana Hall

Psychology

The Effects of Racial Discrimination on African American Students' Mental Health Mentored by Dr. Jessica Brooks

Alana Hall will begin her master's degree in social work in fall 2021. While at Georgia Southern, Alana was awarded the Honors Program Continuing Scholarship. She was heavily involved on campus serving as a Resident Advisor for two years, and she participated in multiple organizations such as Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Minority Advisement Program, Phi Eta Sigma National Honors Society, Psi Chi National Honors Society, and a host of others. Amongst her heavy involvement on campus, she still was able to give back to her community. Because of her volunteer work in the Statesboro community, she was awarded the Outstanding Student Volunteer of the Year at the Boys and Girls Club Statesboro.



"I am thankful for my time at Georgia Southern and the Honors Program. Both have tested me academically, but they have also developed me into a better man and prepared me for the future."



"Being a part of the Honors Program, has pushed me academically and personally to challenge myself and discover new strengths that I never thought I had before. I will be forever grateful for the connections that I made with both faculty and students."

Justin Hall

Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering Automated Image Dataset Creation via Machine Learning Mentored by Dr. Rami J. Haddad

Justin Hall will begin working during the summer of 2021. Justin was awarded the 1906 Scholarship, which enabled him to pursue extracurricular activities such as being an officer of the GSU IEEE and Phi Eta Sigma branches. Justin was a dedicated musician, performing with the Georgia Southern Jazz Ensemble and various other groups at various locations, including around campus. He started doing undergraduate research on machine learning applications in his freshman year, creating several technical publications and presenting at several events, including Posters at the Georgia State Capitol, IEEE SoutheastCon, and the Southern Regional Honors Conference.



“The Honors College has provided me with so many opportunities to grow as a person and learn about myself. Through all of the hardships and time spent, I know it will have been worth it in the end.”

Kylie Hannafey

Mathematics Mathematical Modeling of the Stock Market Mentored by Dr. Hua Wang

Kylie Hannafey will continue her financial analyst internship at The Rogers Firm in May 2021. While at Georgia Southern, Kylie was awarded the COUR grant to conduct her honors thesis. She presented research at several mathematical conferences, including the most recent Joint Mathematics Meeting. Kylie also competed in the Putnam Mathematical Competition, the Mathematical Contest in Modeling, and worked as a math tutor at Georgia Southern’s Academic Success Center.



“Georgia Southern gave me the opportunity to succeed. I accomplished more than I could have ever hoped for in these past four years thanks to my amazing professors and brilliant classmates.”

Kayleigh Heard

Psychology Childhood Abuse, Invalidation, and Personality in a College Population Mentored by Dr. C. Thresa Yancey

Kayleigh Heard will begin her master's degree in criminal justice and criminology in fall 2021. As a student at Georgia Southern, Kayleigh was awarded the Honors College Scholarship and the Richard and Ruth Ann Rogers Psychology Scholarship. She has dedicated her time to Georgia Southern by working within the Office of Admissions, University Advancement, and Donor Relations. Kayleigh has also conducted independent research in childhood maltreatment and personality and has volunteered with Camp Blue Skies and the local animal shelter.



“Being a part of the Honors College has allowed me to form lasting academic relationships with professors who have helped shape me into the scholar I am today. Through working on my Honors Thesis, I have transformed from a curious student into an academic researcher.”

Jenny Heller

Management and Spanish Cross-Border Acquisitions: A Country-Level Analysis Mentored by Dr. Katia de Melo Galdino

Jenny Heller plans to obtain a real estate sales license following her graduation. During her time at Georgia Southern, she was a sister of the Delta Phi Epsilon sorority, a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa honors society, and the secretary of the Society of Physics Students club. She also worked as a front office assistant for the Physics Department while attending Georgia Southern. Jenny presented her research on cross-border acquisitions at the virtual Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference in fall 2020.



“The Honors College has provided me with many opportunities to succeed academically that I never would have had otherwise. Through the Honors College I have met many great friends and professors that encourage me and motivate me to do my best. I am extremely grateful for the experience that the Honors College has given me, and I know what I learned from it will continue to benefit me in the future.”

Sterling Herrin

Nutrition & Food Science/Dietetics and Exercise Science Feasibility of Using Kudzu Starch to Maintain and Improve the Texture of Gluten-Free Chocolate Cake Mentored by Dr. Joelle Romanchik-Cerpovicz

Sterling Herrin will be beginning her internship in Community Nutrition with Georgia Southern in the summer of 2021. She aspires to be a registered dietitian and work to serve people by providing nutrition counseling and education. Sterling is an active member of the Baptist Collegiate Ministries and currently serves as vice president of Grow council. She has conducted research with exercise science and food science and has presented her thesis project at the Georgia Nutrition Council Conference.



“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.”
- John C. Maxwell

Susan Adanna Ihejirika

Biology A Forward Genetic Screen to Identify Human Genes of Interest and Their Roles in Ovarian Cancer Mentored by Dr. Dongyu Jia

Susan Adanna Ihejirika will begin her master's degree in biology in the fall of 2021, after which she will go on to pursue a doctorate degree in bioinformatics and computational biology. For her four years as a student at Georgia Southern, Susan was awarded the Honors College Scholarship and the International Diversity Scholarship. She was also a member of the Phi Eta Sigma and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars Honors Societies and has been on the President's/Dean's list for her eight semesters at Georgia Southern. What she considers to be the best part about her stay at Georgia Southern was the opportunity to pursue her passion in teaching, as she worked as a science tutor, supplemental instructor and substitute teacher, while also offering free tutoring services to those that needed it.



“Being a part of the Honors College was key to my success: from being able to register for classes early to the experiential learning and research requirements which pushed me to do more than I would have. During the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, the Honors College set up a lot of activities, such as trivias and virtual movie nights, to keep students socially engaged and still feel like part of a community. It was refreshing to know that students in the Honors College are truly cared for.”

Carissa Ingram

Nutrition & Food Science **Substitution of Kudzu Starch for Cornstarch Results in Dairy-Based Vanilla Pudding with Similar Texture and Consumer Acceptability** **Mentored by Dr. Joelle Romanchik-Cerpovicz**

Carissa Ingram will begin the Coordinated Program of the Department of Nutrition in the Pyridine F. Lewis College of Nursing and Health Professions at Georgia State University in fall 2021. Here she will receive her required 1200 hours of supervised practice before being able to sit at the Registered Dietitian exam. While at Georgia Southern, Carissa was involved as a mentor in the Minority Advisement Program, a member of Gamma Beta Phi National Honor Society, and served as the secretary of Phi Upsilon Omicron. Carissa worked as a desk assistant for University Housing for two years. Carissa excelled academically and was recognized on the Dean's List for several semesters.



“The past four years at Georgia Southern have been monumental. I found my home away from home. The Honors College has provided me with many opportunities that have allowed me to challenge myself, make valuable connections, and grow a deeper love for my field and future career. I will forever be grateful for the support and connections I received through this program.”

Sadie Ingram

History **The Tide is Coming In: Fort Pulaski's Historical Relationship with Water** **Mentored by Dr. Michael Van Wagenen**

Sadie Ingram will begin her master's degree in public history in fall 2021 at Georgia Southern University. While at Georgia Southern, Sadie was awarded the Jack and Addie Averitt Foundation Capstone Scholarship and the Sally T. Gershman Memorial Scholarship. She was president of the honors historical society Phi Alpha Theta and director of the Georgia Southern History Club. Sadie's research was accepted into numerous conferences, and most notably she helped host the Phi Alpha Theta Georgia Regional Conference of 2021 here at Georgia Southern. Throughout her undergraduate career, she interned at a variety of places, including Fort McAllister Historic State Park as an interpretive ranger.



“As part of the Honors College, I was surrounded by a group of people that pushed me to be the best version of myself, of which I am very thankful for. The College allowed me to strengthen my research skills, and obtain training and experience that has led me to make professional connections within my field.”

Jessica Jackson

Business Economics
Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council
Mentored by Dr. Brit McKay

Jessica Jackson was a Parker Scholar for the Parker College of Business as well as a research assistant, the president of the Armstrong Economics Club, a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, and a Resident Advisor for three years. She worked on multiple projects as a research assistant and economics major, was on the Dean's List every semester, interned at the City of Atlanta Watershed Department and the World Trade Center of Savannah, and was a student coach for the Engineering Design Challenge hosted by Georgia Southern. She is still waiting to hear from several graduate programs at various universities for acceptance in fall 2021, but is very excited for the road ahead of her and will be graduating *summa cum laude*.



“The Honors Program has helped me to challenge myself over the years as well as provided me with lifelong friends and the best courses with the best teachers. It has allowed me to gain experience in my field due to research projects, and I am eternally grateful.”

Amanda Jansch

Biochemistry
**Structural and Functional Characterization of PAA
Hydrolase PAAH-2**
Mentored by Dr. Mitch Weiland

Amanda Jansch will continue working on her master's degree in fall 2021. Once finished with her master's degree here at Georgia Southern, she plans on continuing her education in an MD/PhD program. During her time at Georgia Southern, Amanda worked as an undergraduate research assistant and presented her work at the 2021 Virtual Research Symposium. Outside of class, Amanda spent time serving in the Army National Guard as a chemical operations specialist.



“I am incredibly thankful to have attended Georgia Southern and the Honors College. Without it, I wouldn't have had the research opportunities, the friends, or the success as I worked to finish my degree. I have made so many connections, and look forward to continuing my research and education as I attend the master's program here at Georgia Southern.”

Arianna Johnson

International Studies Abenomics' Effect on Gender Inequality in Japanese Society and the Workplace Mentored by Dr. Christopher Brown

Arianna Johnson plans to enter the workforce after she graduates, specifically with global humanitarian organizations. As a student at Georgia Southern, she was awarded the Honors College Scholarship and maintained Georgia's HOPE scholarship. Arianna was given the platform to present her research through Georgia Southern University's Research Symposium and Honors Research Symposium. As a member of the Japanese Club and Honors College, Arianna gained new friendships and experiences that she believes she could not have gotten elsewhere.



"As a student of the Honors College, I was very fortunate to be given the opportunity to explore gender relations in Japan and other Eastern Asian countries. I have also made many great friendships with both my peers and the Georgia Southern faculty. I am very thankful to have been placed in such an encouraging and supportive environment."

Jacob Jones

Biology and Public Health Use of *Galleria mellonella* Larvae to Study *Rickettsia* Infection Mentored by Dr. Marina E. Ereemeeva

Jacob Jones will begin medical school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the fall. He will work toward his goal of serving Native American people as a medical doctor in the Indian Health Service (IHS) and with public health research. As a student at Georgia Southern, Jacob participated in two short term mission trips to Zimbabwe and the Navajo reservation in New Mexico, where he solidified his desire to serve Indigenous Americans with medicine. Pursuing his passion for the academic side of the medical sciences, he was awarded the COUR grant to fund his biomedical research project. Extracurricularly, Jacob served as the secretary and president of the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (SAACS) and ran in the Rock 'n Roll Marathon.



"The Honors College facilitated the opportunity to head my very own research project that connected my academic passion for biology with its practical application in medicine. My research experience gave me insight and tools to assist me in my journey of becoming a clinician scientist."

Katie Kennedy

Exercise Science and Spanish

The Experience of Dispositional Optimism among Female African-Americans, Latinas/Hispanics, and Caucasians in Generation Z: An Existential Phenomenological Investigation

Mentored by Dr. Daniel Czech

Katie will officially begin her master's degree in Spanish at Georgia Southern University in summer 2021. Throughout the next year, she will work as a physical therapy aide while applying to Doctor of Physical Therapy programs for admission in fall 2022. During her time at Georgia Southern, Katie was a member of the Division I Women's Swimming and Diving team where she was a four-year letter winner. She was also able to study abroad in Cádiz, Spain for a summer for which she was awarded the Honors Study Abroad Scholarship. Katie presented her research three times, once at the Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference and twice at the National Collegiate Research Conference at Harvard University.



"Being a part of the Honors College has pushed me to do things that I never thought would be possible. I have been challenged intellectually to break down barriers and grow into the person I am today. Additionally, I have been able to create amazing connections with my professors, peers, and with people from all over the world. I am beyond grateful for the Honors College and for all of the support I have received during my time at Georgia Southern. The Honors College really helped to turn me from a nervous freshman into a motivated professional, ready to take on the world."

Malachi Kent

Biochemistry

Functionalization of Morphologically Different Nanoclays for Enhanced Mechanical Properties

Mentored by Dr. Shainaz Landge

Malachi Kent will pursue a career in research or in the quality assurance field in Auburn, AL. As a student at Georgia Southern University he was granted the COUR 2019 grant for his research. He has presented at a few conferences for the American Chemical Society. He was the treasurer for his fraternity as well as a member of the Southern Pride Marching Band on the Georgia Southern Drumline.



"Georgia Southern and the Honors College have conditioned me well to accommodate the many challenges that will be thrown at me as I join the work force. It was also an amazing opportunity to get involved and discover passions that I am sure that I would not have been able to find anywhere else."

Jessica Kolman

Psychology
Unlearning Myths One Question at a Time
Mentored by Dr. Karen Naufel

Jessica Kolman will enter the work force after graduation. In fall 2021 Jessica plans to apply to Master's in Counselor of Education in order to receive certification in becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor. Over the course of her undergraduate studies Jessica volunteered at the Lodge at Bethany and traveled to Costa Rica to participate in the Honors Alternative Break Trip: Project Pura Vida.



“Being in the Honors College has awarded me the opportunity to travel outside of the country and meet some of my closest friends. Also, it has encouraged me to pursue my interest in research in cognitive psychology.”

Sydney Kyle

Writing & Linguistics
The Magical Path of Hickory Falls
Mentored by Professor Amanda Schumacher

Sydney Kyle will begin her master's degree in Special Education in fall 2021. During her time at Georgia Southern, she received the Honors College scholarship. She worked as a writing tutor at the University Writing Center and as a substitute teacher at the Child Development Center on the Statesboro campus. Sydney spoke at the Adrenal Insufficiency United Conference as a panelist for parents of children with Adrenal Insufficiency, as well as a panelist for teens and young adults. Sydney is currently on the path to publish her children's book written in fulfillment of her Honors Thesis.



“The Honors College set me up for the connections and friendships that have supported me through my college experience. The scholarship from Honors was also a tremendous help in making my degree a reality.”

Darrenisha Long

History

Black Marketing: The Media Representation of African Americans in Advertisements Mentored by Dr. Alan Downs

Darrenisha Long is a first generation college student and majored in history and minored in Spanish and sociology. Darrenisha has been a member of the Georgia Southern community since 2017. She plans to attend the College of Charleston where she will obtain her master's in history. Ms. Long will also be working as a Graduate Assistant at the Avery Research Center, where she will continue to immerse herself in cultural studies and activism.



"I am beyond grateful for my time here at Georgia Southern and within the Honors College. The connections I have made, the mentors I have gained, and the genuine love and guidance shown to me by my advisors in the Honors College and my respective programs has honestly been my favorite part of being here. Being a part of the Honors College was the result of me stepping out of my comfort zone and I am so glad that I did. I will forever be grateful to everyone that has impacted my life since being here."

Gabriel Loos

Mathematics

Designing Efficient Algorithms For Sensor Placement Mentored by Dr. Hua Wang

Gabriel Loos will attend grad school starting fall 2021 where he will be pursue his PhD in mathematics as a fully funded teaching assistant. However, he is still currently undecided on which program to attend. While at Georgia Southern,

Gabriel was a part of several research projects and presented at multiple conferences such as The 52nd SEICCGTC and CanaDam 2021. Gabriel also received the Dean's Recognition as a Research Scholar and highly competitive grant funding from the College Office of Undergraduate Research in the College of Science & Mathematics.



"While at Georgia Southern I have met many wonderful professors, friends, and mentors through the Honors College. I would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Paul Sobaje and a very special thanks to Dr. Hua Wang for everything they have done for me. I would not be where I am right now without their help and support."

John Mack

Political Science The New Open Forum: Social Media Use in Georgia Gubernatorial Elections Mentored by Dr. Patrick Novotny

John Mack plans on working in the Savannah region starting this summer. At Georgia Southern, John volunteered with Habitat for Humanity of Bulloch County. John was an active member of Georgia Southern's Young Democrats chapter, serving as the organization's Treasurer. In the summer of 2019, John studied abroad in London and received the Honors Study Abroad Scholarship. John wrote many research papers and presented his Honors Thesis at the Georgia Southern University Research Symposium and Georgia Southern Honors College Symposium.



“The Honors College has given me skills and characteristics that make me stand out to employers. My peers and the Honors faculty have challenged me to push for excellence in my work. I am grateful for the opportunities given by the Honors College.”

Joseph Markowich

Mechanical Engineering Analysis of Vertical Pressure Vessels: Effect of Decreasing Leg Length Mentored by Dr. Aniruddha Mitra

Joseph Alexander Markowich will enter the workforce upon receiving his degree. In his four years at Georgia Southern, Joseph broadened his horizons through a variety of work and recreation opportunities made available by the Honors College. Joseph had the pleasure of researching under the tutelage of amazing mentors. To get away from books and computers, Joseph volunteered at the Botanical Gardens for fulfilling physical experience around nature's wonder.



“The Honors College has provided me with such a wealth of benefits! I've forged a plethora of close connections with both my peers and my professors through the program, and without their help and encouragement, I doubt that I would be as well off as I am now. I have come a long way from the boy I used to be, and I am eternally grateful for those who kept me on my toes.”

Christian Marrero

Psychology
Media Representations of LGBT People
Mentored by Dr. Amy Hackney

Christian Marrero will attend New York University in August 2021. As a student at Georgia Southern, Christian was invited to join Dr. Amy Hackney's research lab and was awarded Honors funding for his Honors Thesis. He was a Club Swim member, Psychology Coalition executive board member, Peer Leader, and was also a Resident Advisor at Centennial Place for his junior and senior years. Christian was also able to study abroad in Madrid, Spain in summer 2019, and garnered many new memories and friends. His research focuses on the differences in racial groups in the LGBT community, and he plans to continue his work at NYU with a goal to enter the mental health field.



“Georgia Southern University has helped me reach new limits that I didn’t know existed and through this institution, I have found my purpose. Conducting research with Dr. Hackney and engaging with the Honors community has pushed me to achieve my goals and continue working towards the future that I dream of.”

Abigail Martin

Biology
Evolution of Blood-feeding, Non-blood-feeding, and Mixed Populations of *Wyeomyia Smithii*
Mentored by Dr. William Irby

Abigail Martin is currently applying to medical school in hopes to begin in August 2022. In her time as a biology student, she was awarded the Lovejoy Scholarship in Vertebrate Zoology as well as the Fleming D. Roach MD Scholarship. During her free time at Georgia Southern, she was a teaching assistant for the Department of Chemistry and a tutor for the Academic Success Center; these positions allowed her to assist students in their understanding of chemistry and biology. When she was not in the lab or tutoring, Abigail was an active member of Phi Delta Epsilon International Medical Fraternity. She even served as president of the Georgia Gamma chapter of Phi Delta Epsilon for the year 2020.



“Being in the Honors College was an incredible experience! Not only did I meet some of my closest friends while in the Living Learning Community, but I was also able to take challenging courses that guided me on my path to medical school. The variety of opportunities that were provided by the Honors College, from research to community service helped to shape me into the student and person I am today!”

Aminatta Mbow

Graphic Design An Exploration of Emotion Mentored by Professor Jason Murdock

After graduation, Aminatta Mbow hopes to move to Atlanta and pursue a career as a graphic designer while maintaining her freelance photography business. While at Georgia Southern, Aminatta was very active in the *George-Anne* Media Group, and served as the Creative Editor-In-Chief of the organization. She is also founder of the *George-Anne Deep Dive*, which is an inclusive excellence newsletter. Along with *George-Anne*, she has been involved with several clubs on campus including African Students Association and the Minority Advisement Program. She is the recipient of several scholarships from the Betty Foy Sanders Art Department including the Rosalind D. Ragans Art Scholarship. Aminatta also had an internship with the Business Innovation Group and designed the logo for Statesboro Urgent Care.



"I am very grateful for the Honors College because it pushed me academically and allowed me to become way more involved on campus."

Justin McCorkle

Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering Comparison of Various Autonomous Vehicle Self- Navigation Paradigms Mentored by Dr. Rami Haddad

Justin McCorkle is still waiting for responses from several defense companies and plans to begin working for one in early July 2021. While at Georgia Southern, Justin worked on research with the ONSmart research lab working on futuristic artificial intelligence technology, and ended up with several presentations at conferences around the country and at least one publication. He is thankful for the experiences he gained while in the Honors College and hopes to be able to use them as he goes out into the world.



"The Honors Program, or rather the Honors College now, was one of the most important experiences I had while at Georgia Southern. Because of the Honors LLC my first year, I met some of my best friends, who I wouldn't have been able to get through engineering without. The program also helped encourage me to do research every semester, leading to me having several published works. I'm truly grateful for all that I have learned and experienced here, and I hope that others will get to experience the same things. Go Eagles!"

Christina McKinley

**Writing & Linguistics and Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies
Addressing Religious Influence and Discrimination
Through Fiction
Mentored by Professor Jared Yates Sexton**

Christina McKinley will attend graduate school in fall 2022 in order to receive her MFA in Creative Writing. As a student, she received the Dorothy Smith Golden Scholarship. She also spent time both as a reporter and editor for the *George-Anne* Media Group, particularly *Reflector Magazine* and *Miscellany Magazine*, and as a TA in the writing department. Over the course of the year between degrees, she plans to write fiction and continue to work on her Honors Thesis to create a finished novel. In the future, she hopes to create stories that will normalize diverse representation in media and positively influence social views relating to race, gender, and LGBTQ+ issues.



“I am grateful to the Honors College for allowing me a chance to challenge myself, as well as meet many amazing people who have encouraged my passions and helped me grow along the way.”

Mackenzie Miller

**Fashion Merchandising & Apparel Design and Management/
Entrepreneurship
“We already look amazing, we just need designers to jump on
board”:
Apparel Design for People Who Use Mobility Aids
Mentored by Dr. Addie Martindale**

Mackenzie Miller will graduate *summa cum laude* from the Honors College with a dual degree in Fashion Merchandising & Apparel Design, Management/Entrepreneurship, and a minor in International Studies. During her four years at Georgia Southern, Mackenzie worked as a research assistant in apparel sustainability, social gerontology, and inequality in childrenswear. In addition, she is a four year Southern Ambassador tour guide, completed the Southern Leaders program, and was an officer for multiple student organizations such as the Honors Student Organization and Phi Eta Sigma. Mackenzie was also a Parker Scholar and studied abroad in Hong Kong, Trinidad & Tobago, and London. After graduation, Mackenzie will attend University of Missouri as a Textile & Apparel Management graduate student. She will continue research related to her Honors Thesis regarding accessibility in fashion design.



“Participation in the Honors College has shaped who I am as a scholar and person. It has allowed me to soar to new heights, studying abroad and presenting research over a dozen times at professional conferences. I will forever be grateful for the relationships with my peers and professors that I gained through my four years.”

Madison Mitchell

Psychology

Does God Condone Assault? How Religious Commitment Impacts Trauma Following Sexual Abuse Mentored by Dr. Brandon Weiss

Madison Mitchell will pursue a career in victim advocacy and human services after graduation. Madison was an active member of the RHA, Office of Student Activities, and the Academic Success Center as a Peer Mentor and Peer Leader. She learned the joys of research and hopes to one day pursue higher education in clinical psychology to help survivors of physical trauma.



“The psych department at GSU is the most amazing department I have ever gotten to be a part of. I love the faculty that has taught me all I know, and the friends that I have made here will last a lifetime. I was able to thrive here next to the best people I have ever met and I could not be more grateful.”

Yasmine Mosley

Fashion Merchandising & Apparel Design Read the Room: Exploring the Fine Line between Cultural Appropriation and Cultural Appreciation Mentored by Dr. Beth Myers

Yasmine Mosley completed her project on cultural appropriation through the lens of consumer perception. She will continue her schooling after a gap year taking on new internships. She also plans to pursue her master's in history and become an educator while working towards her fashion career.



“Joining the Honors College was one of the more difficult things I’ve ever decided to do, but it was worth it. I’m so proud of what I was able to achieve.”

Mikayla Murphy

Public Health

Perceptions of COVID-19 in College Students: Effect on Emotional Well-Being

Mentored by Dr. Joanne Chopak-Foss

Mikayla Murphy will begin her Master of Public Health degree at Georgia Southern in fall 2021. Over the summer, she will intern for the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services in the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality. As a student at Georgia Southern, Mikayla was an Honors Ambassador and worked at Southern Adventures. She also was a counselor at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta's Camp Strong4Life.

Jennifer Nelson

Child & Family Development

Age is an Attitude, Not a Number: The Change in Perceptions of College Students About Aging

Mentored by Dr. Jennifer Zorotovich

Jennifer Nelson will continue to pursue a career in clinical mental health counseling. She has applied to attend graduate school at Georgia Southern. While attending Georgia Southern, Jennifer served as a Southern Leaders Coach, was a Service Learning Facilitator, and was a member of Southern Leaders and Phi Upsilon Omicron.



"Georgia Southern and the Honors College made me realize that my goal of making a difference in the world can be a reality through my future career in Public Health. Being a part of the Honors College pushed me academically, helped me make great professional connections, and introduced me to some of my closest friends."



"I was originally hesitant to join the University Honors Program, but it was the best decision I could of made. Through this program I have been introduced to the process of a thesis and many volunteer opportunities. The Honors Program has given me a long lasting support system with faculty and students."

Adrenne Newell

Exercise Science Variables Related to Participation in Physical Activity Among Children with Cerebral Palsy Within the Socioecological Model Mentored by Dr. Gavin Colquitt

Adrenne Newell will attend the Physical Therapy Assistant Program in October 2021. As a student at Georgia Southern, she was awarded the Honors Continuing Student Scholarship and the Kiwanis Study Alternative Break Scholarship for a trip to Montego Bay, Jamaica working with the Committee for the Upliftment of the Mentally Ill. As a freshman, Adrenne began working as a lifeguard in the aquatic department of the Recreation Activity Center for Campus Recreation and Intramurals (CRI) and was quickly promoted to team leader. Throughout the three years as an employee for CRI, Adrenne received numerous accolades including the CRI Aquatics Top Guard Award fall 2019, CRI Leader of the Pack Award September 2019, CRI Aquatics 2018-2019 P.R.I.D.E. Award, and CRI aquatics employee of the year 2019-2020. Adrenne spent two summers volunteering and working with Camp RAD helping local youth with disabilities which led to the research she completed for her Honors Thesis.



“At Georgia Southern, I met some great, life-long friends and mentors throughout various forms of campus involvement. The community service I partook in for the Honors Program gave me humility and the experience of serving others. I was able to thrive in the Honors Program by surrounding myself with great peers who encouraged me to push myself to be better. After completing the Honors Program, I feel prepared for graduate school and a career as a healthcare professional.”

Kenneth Nwagu

Mechanical Engineering Modal Identification of Gelatinous Structure Using Vision-Based Vibrometry Mentored by Dr. Jinki Kim

Kenneth Nwagu will begin his master's degree in mechanical engineering in the fall 2021 semester. As a student at Georgia Southern he embarked in various research projects and presented in various conferences such as the The National Conference on Undergraduate Research. In addition, he was a member of various school organizations such as the Eagle Motorsports SAE where he represented the Georgia Southern Baja team in North Carolina. He dedicated his free time volunteering at the Habitat for Humanity and AfterSchool programs.



“Georgia Southern and the Honors College introduced me to a lot of faculty and students that helped me discover my passion for Mechanical Engineering and introduced me to great professional connections. I have also been able to participate in research projects that I believe can make a difference to the world in the future. I am thankful to the program and excited for the journey ahead!”

David Santiago Obando Ortegon

Mechanical Engineering
Aircraft Runway Safe Navigation System
Mentored by Dr. Valentin Soloiu

David Santiago Obando Ortegon will start his master's degree in mechanical engineering at Georgia Southern University doing research in the intelligent vehicles field. David was awarded with the Honors College Scholarship and received Honors College funding for his Honors Thesis. Additionally, David worked in CRI as a soccer intramurals referee, Facilities Assistant and Facilities Supervisor.



“The experience I have lived being part of the Honors College has been incredible. I am thankful for all the support given by the Honors College and my mentor. I will always keep in my mind to work with passion and discipline to achieve my dreams.”

Lily Paculis

Biology
A Genetic Screen to Identify the Roles of Human Genes in *Drosophila*
Mentored by Dr. Dongyu Jia

Lily Paculis will continue her work as a certified medication aide in Savannah, GA. While working, she will continue to apply to physician assistant schools throughout the state. Lily was an active volunteer at the Hearts and Hands Clinic where she worked as a CNA and front desk worker. She was a lab member of Jia Lab where she helped publish several research articles in scientific journals and presented her research at the Allied Genetics Conference 2020.



“Georgia Southern and the Honors College have given me many opportunities to grow both personally and professionally. I have had many good experiences being in the Honors College from my supportive colleagues, my intelligent professors, and my honors research. I am very thankful for everything the college and the Honors College have done for me.”

Evan Page

Economics

Determinates of Georgia White-Tailed Deer Harvests

Mentored by Dr. Michael Toma

Upon graduating from Georgia Southern, Evan Page hopes to begin graduate school focusing on a degree in environmental policy or applied economics. While attending Georgia Southern-Armstrong campus, Evan served as the community service officer for the Honors College and as the vice president of the Accounting Association. Additionally, he participated in several clubs and campus activities including the Economics Club and intramural frisbee. Finally, Evan was awarded the opportunity to present research at the Academy of Economics and Finance's 2021 virtual conference.



“ I am confident that without the friends, professors, and advisors I met because of the Honors College I would not be in this booklet in front of you. These people pushed and encouraged me to be the best version of myself, and for that I am very grateful.”

Gabrielle Peterson

Political Science and Writing & Linguistics

Nurturing Democracy? Mediating between Women

Chief Executives and Voter Turnout

Mentored by Dr. Jamie Scalera

Gabrielle Peterson will begin her master's in political science at Virginia Tech, where she has accepted a scholarship and funded position as a graduate teaching assistant. Throughout her career at Georgia Southern, Gabrielle was awarded Georgia Southern University, Honors College, and nationally-competitive scholarships, such as the Ruffin Humanities Scholarship, the Honors College Continuing and Study Abroad Scholarships, and the Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grant. She also received recognitions from the Department of Political Science and International Studies for Best Political Analysis Paper and Outstanding Introduction to Political Science Student. Her main involvements on campus have included positions in Honors Ambassadors, Model United Nations, and Political Science research. Gabrielle also studied abroad in Lucca, Italy and presented her Honors Thesis at six conferences, including ISA-South in Memphis and GPSA in Savannah.



“I am so grateful for the experiences afforded to me thanks to the Honors College. The Honors College allowed me to delve into Political Science research and connected me with mentors who will support me long after graduation. As I enter the next chapter of my educational career, I am certain that the Honors College has provided me with the foundation of knowledge and experiences I need in order to continue to be successful.”

Adrian Pizano

Physics

Measuring the Speed of Sound in Steel Using an FPGA and Geophones Mentored by Dr. William Baird

Adrian Pizano will begin the Ph.D. program in Electrical Engineering at Pennsylvania State University in fall 2021. While at Georgia Southern University, Adrian was a member of various organizations and clubs, as well as volunteered at events to help the community and as a student coach in the Engineering Design Challenge hosted by Georgia Sothern. In his undergraduate career, Adrian was involved in various research projects and presented research in national conferences.



“The Honors Program provided me with a place to study when I needed it, and it introduced me to some amazing people.”

Eilleen Plante

Fashion Merchandising & Apparel Design Can Marketing Content Strategies Help Promote Sustainability on Social Media?: Comparing the Effectiveness of Owned versus Earned Endorsement Mentored by Dr. Christin Seifert

Eilleen Plante will begin working at The Icebox May 2021. Eilleen joined the Honors Program her freshman year, which allowed her to perform undergraduate research on sustainability in the fashion industry. This research was presented at the 2020 ITAA conference. Eilleen was also a Peer Leader for the First-Year Experience Program at GSU, and was a second year Resident Advisor for University Housing. Both of her leadership positions involved working with freshman students. As a student, she has received several awards and honors, including the Betty Lane Family and Consumer Sciences Scholarship, the Centennial Place scholarship, and the Hope Scholarship. Eilleen has also made the President’s List every semester she’s attended college.



“The Honors Program pushed me to become a better student and to make the most of my education. I am proud of what I was able to accomplish during my time at Georgia Southern.”

Bryce Porter

Electrical Engineering
Pico-Micro Grid Power Management Energy Systems
Mentored by Dr. Rami Haddad

Bryce Porter will be working as an Electronics Engineer at the Warner Robins Air Force base in Warner Robins, GA and will return to school within a few years in order to get his master's degree. During his time at Georgia Southern he had many great opportunities to grow and learn, one such event was a study abroad to Monte Compatri, Italy. He was heavily involved on campus: he was a member of the Southern Pride Drumline freshman year, was a member of the Disc Golf Club for three years, was a Peer Leader for three years, was a Peer Mentor, and tutored student athletes for three years. Bryce loved every minute of his time here at Georgia Southern, especially the sporting events at Georgia Southern, where he was one of the biggest supporters at virtually all sporting events.



“Here at Georgia Southern, the Honors College has opened so many doors for me. I was able to connect with professors, was able to tutor, and study abroad thanks to the Honors College. Georgia Southern is where I met my best friends and every experience here is something I will never forget. Georgia Southern will always be a special place to me and will always be home no matter where I am.”

Cody Prentiss

Mathematics
Stock Price Prediction Using Support Vector Regression
Mentored by Dr. Kyle Bradford

Cody Prentiss will attend UNC Charlotte in August 2021. As a student at Georgia Southern, Cody was awarded the 1906 Scholarship. He was a member of the Georgia Southern University's Men's Soccer team for all four years and also participated in the Student Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) as a team ambassador. Cody is going on to study financial mathematics and pursue a career in quantitative finance.



“Georgia Southern and the Honors College have given me an enriching and lasting experience. Being surrounded by similarly curious and industrious minds helped foster my research interests and has me well-prepared for the next step in my academic journey.”

Holly Puckett

Computer Science

A Deep Analysis and Algorithmic Approach to Solving Complex Fitness Issues in Collegiate Student Athletes Mentored by Dr. Andrew Allen

Holly Puckett will begin working at PNC in August 2021. While at Georgia Southern, Holly received the Continuing Honors College Scholarship and is an active member in Google's Student Development Club. With her thesis, Holly was able to combine her love of fitness and programming to create a health tracking application for student athletes here at GSU.



"From game days at Paulson to picnics in Sweetheart Circle, I have made memories here that will last a lifetime. The Honors College challenged and pushed me to become the best that I can be, even when I was not sure of it myself. Both Georgia Southern and the Honors College believed in me when I did not believe in myself, and I am forever grateful for their support and kindness throughout my time here at GSU."

Alexander Raymond

Psychology

Traits of Religious Leadership Mentored by Dr. Michael Nielsen

Alex Raymond is still waiting to hear from various graduate programs to attend in fall 2020. When accepted, he plans to work toward achieving a master's degree in clinical psychology or a PsyD. During his four years at Georgia Southern University, he became a member of the Phi Eta Sigma, Psi Chi, and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies. He will continue his studies with the goal of receiving a license to operate a psychological clinic.



"The Honors College has offered many opportunities to me that I would have otherwise missed. The opportunity to grow beyond what can be found in a text is invaluable. I had the chance to hear from people of numerous worldviews and backgrounds, which allowed me to develop and expand as a person."

Chelsea Riley

International Studies, Political Science, and Spanish The Culture Gap: The Role of Culture in Successful Refugee Settlement Mentored by Dr. Srobana Bhattacharya

Chelsea Riley will attend Emory University in fall 2021 where she will be pursuing the Master of Development Practice. Chelsea received Honors Scholarships, including a scholarship to live at the Honors Living Learning Community as a freshman. She presented at several research symposiums, and she was awarded the Roger N Pajari Award for best undergraduate research paper at the Georgia Political Science Association 2020 Annual Conference. Chelsea studied abroad in Barranquilla, Colombia in 2019, worked at the Office of Inclusive Excellence where she led development of the Allyship Program, and was a member and later Assistant Advisor to the nationally-recognized Georgia Southern Model United Nations team.



“The Honors undergraduate thesis experience gave me not only research experience I will take to my graduate studies, but also mentorship and the inspiration to seek a non-profit career helping refugees.”

Rachel Rubio

Philosophy Wealth and Poverty within the Prosperity Gospel and the Gospel of Luke Mentored by Dr. Daniel Pioske

Rachel Rubio will be serving as an intern for Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at New Mexico State University for two years and plans to pursue a master's degree in Social Work thereafter. As a student at Georgia Southern, Rachel was awarded scholarships from the Honors College, the TRIO program, and other generous donors. Her dedication to research led to her acceptance into the fall 2019 Cohort of the McNair Scholars Program and allowed her to work as a research assistant studying philosophy and religious studies during their summer Research Institute. Outside of research, Rachel was heavily involved with student organizations on campus, serving on leadership with RUF and co-founding and presiding over Eagles Against Sex Trafficking (EAST). Off campus, she had the privilege to serve as an intern at Inspiritus within their refugee services department and, later, at Statesboro's City Hall under the direction of Mayor Jonathan McCollar.



“My involvement with the Honors College heavily influenced my undergraduate experience in countless ways. Not only did I grow academically and professionally, but I made lifelong friendships along the way. I was challenged to venture outside of my comfort zone and seize every opportunity. I will be forever grateful for the experience of being a part of the Honors College at Georgia Southern.”

Jacob Sapp

Mechanical Engineering Multi-axial Measurement of Casting Wall Movement During SGI Solidification and Cooling in the Mold Mentored by Dr. Mingzhi Xu

Jacob enjoyed meeting new people in the Honors Program and working with them on class projects. The Honors Program allowed him to grow as a student and person. The Honors Program gave Jacob the opportunity to give back to the Statesboro local community by tutoring and mentoring young kids.



“The Honors Program has provided me with a challenge in my coursework while at Georgia Southern and has challenged my way of thinking.”

Holly Sawyer

Nursing Heart Health: Lifestyle Factors that Influence Cardiovascular Well-being Mentored by Professor Marie Graf

Holly Kathryn Sawyer will begin working at East Georgia Regional Medical Center as a Registered Nurse after graduation. She hopes to continue learning the art and science of nursing for healing and helping the community. In the future, Holly hopes to influence policy development for sustainable resources. Among many classes and endeavors while at Georgia Southern, she discovered her passion for health & wellness that will benefit all she encounters.



“It was a privilege to be a part of challenging and interesting classes, especially with Dr. David Dudley’s literature course. The memories and friends I have made in this university will stay with me forever.”

Natalie Schaut

Biology

Difference in Heartworm Susceptibility and Vector Competency for *Dirofilaria Immitis* of the Five Sibling Species in the *Anopheles Quadrimaculatus* Species Complex

Mentored by Dr. William Irby

Natalie Schaut is currently working at a veterinary hospital and is still searching for a job for the long term. She is seeking a job that will mix her interest in biology and psychology. During her time as an undergraduate, she participated in the Honors community in the dorms and made many relationships with likeminded individuals. Natalie also made the President's List for seven semesters, and she participated in many clubs during her first years and then focused on her research with her mentor.



"The Honors College greatly changed my undergraduate experience, and I could not be happier about it. The small size of honors courses allowed me to gain a stronger relationship with my professors and a better grasp of the material than I had in larger classes, and the research I worked on with my mentor gave me experience in research that I probably would not have ever gained otherwise."

Micayla Shirley

Biology

Effects of Synthetic Estrogen (17 α -Ethinyl Estradiol) on Male Fiddler Crab Aggression

Mentored by Dr. Risa Cohen

Micayla Shirley will continue her wildlife rehabilitation internship at the Savannah Wildlife Rescue Center throughout the summer. She will apply to several graduate programs at various universities for fall 2022. After acceptance, she will begin her journey to achieving a master's degree in environmental science/marine biology.

During her two years at Georgia Southern University, Micayla was a recipient of the University Honors Program Scholarship and the President's Scholarship. Additionally, she received highly competitive grant funding to conduct her honors thesis research from the College Office of Undergraduate Research. Finally, Micayla served her student community as a peer tutor and a teaching assistant.



"For me, the Honors College meant a chance to explore my career interests through undergraduate research. Under the guidance of my amazing mentor, Dr. Risa Cohen, I was able to achieve academic success and seek out fulfilling opportunities. The Honors Program allowed me to gain confidence in myself and my career choices. It was a no-judgement zone where everyone supported one another. I am grateful for the relationships that I was able to make with professors and other students throughout my time at Georgia Southern."

Katey Smith

Radiologic Sciences - Cardiovascular Interventional Science
Acute Intervention for Intracranial Atherosclerosis Disease
Mentored by Esmá Campbell

Katey Smith is applying to work in the Cardiac Cath Lab at hospitals in the North Georgia area. As a student at Georgia Southern, Katey was awarded the Lettie Pate Whitehead Scholarship for women in Allied Health programs. She is a member of Lambda Nu National Honor Society for Radiologic and Imaging Sciences and Golden Key International Honor Society. She was an active member of Armstrong's BCM and volunteered during her junior year at St. Mary's Health Center.

Jordan Spires

Child & Family Development
Post-Reunification Services: Resources to Improve Family Unity
Mentored by Dr. Nikki DiGregorio

The Georgia Southern Honors College helped me find family and friends and continued to further my love of learning. The opportunities and experiences I have had through this program are something I will cherish forever.



"The Honors College provided me with many academic benefits and leadership opportunities. I will cherish the memories of being apart of the Honors College for the last four years!"



"I am honored to have been a part of the Georgia Southern Honors College. I was able to build friendships and professional connections while pursuing my love of learning. I wish that this was something everyone could experience!"

Megan Tanner

Art History and French *Écorché* figures in Mannerism as Influenced by the Reemergence of Systematic Human Dissection Mentored by Dr. Tiffanie Townsend

Megan Tanner is graduating *summa cum laude*, having dedicated her undergraduate experience to her academics and involvement on campus. During her time at Georgia Southern, Megan worked as a Resident Advisor for three years, with two of those years devoted to the Honors LLC. In her free time, Megan served as president of the French Club as well as a member of Arabic Club, Model Arab League, Phi Eta Sigma National Honors Society, and Pi Delta Phi National French Honors Society. Megan also had the opportunity to attend three study abroad trips, two to France and one to Morocco, and received several scholarships to support her travels, including the Honors Study Abroad Scholarship.



“The Honors College has provided me with much needed stability during a time that was constantly filled with change and uncertainties. It has pushed me to be successful in ways that I could not have imagined when I first started out my undergraduate career, and throughout any challenges I have faced, I always knew that I had the support of the Honors faculty, staff, and students.”

Jacey Thomas

History and English Irish Rock Music amid a Time of Troubles: Thin Lizzy and U2 as a Bridge During a Time of Division Mentored by Dr. Alan Downs

Jacey Thomas will begin her master’s degree in the field of public history at Georgia Southern University in August 2021. As a student at Georgia Southern, Jacey was awarded the Jack and Addie Averitt Foundation Scholarship and the GSU Foundation Scholars Scholarship. During her time as a student in the Honors College, Jacey served as an Honors Ambassador for four years and attended the Honors Alternative Break Trip in Costa Rica twice. Jacey was a member of Phi Eta Sigma, Phi Kappa Phi, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, the Spanish Club, and served as the Secretary of the GSU Latin Rhythm Dance Group for two years. Jacey also presented her research on music as a form of therapy at the GSU Honors Symposium, as well as presented research on the resurgence of 1980s culture at the Popular Culture/American Culture Association in the South in New Orleans, Louisiana.



“Georgia Southern and the Honors College provided me with opportunities that not only encouraged me to challenge myself and step out of my comfort zone, but also made me realize my passion for Irish-related history and literature. Because of the Honors College, I have flourished personally, academically, and professionally. I am truly grateful for the support from the Honors College faculty, staff, and professors that I have received throughout my time at Georgia Southern.”

Gracie Thompson

Recreation

A Needs Assessment of Butts County After School Programs and their Inclusivity Mentored by Dr. Thomas Sweeney

Gracie Thompson, will continue to work at the Georgia Southern Center for Wildlife Education in summer 2021. During her time at Georgia Southern, she volunteered with Best Buddies International, and at the Georgia Southern Center for Wildlife Education. She plans to use her research experience from Georgia Southern to help in her future pursuit of graduate school to study Natural Resources and Environmental Education. She is hopeful that the knowledge from her thesis will assist her in giving children a more inclusive learning experience in nature and their environment.



“The Honors College has allowed me to experience things that I could not have any other way. I felt that the research I did was meaningful, and the staff and my peers who helped me along the way were irreplaceable. I will be forever grateful to the professors and peers that the Honors College introduced me to.”

Mak Trujillo

Fashion Merchandising & Apparel Design/Design Emphasis Synesthetic Perception: Exploring the Senses of a Synesthete Through Theatrical Art-Wear Mentored by Dr. Addie Martindale

Mak Trujillo is graduating *cum laude* from Georgia Southern with a Degree in Fashion Merchandising & Apparel Design as well as a minor in Psychology. Over the course of their enrollment, they costumed over 10 different shows for the Averitt Center and local theatre troupes. They were also a member of the local *Rocky Horror Picture Show* shadow cast for three years, taking on the role of actor, promoter, board member, and costume coordinator. Mak has been in three of their major’s fashion shows, volunteered for multiple Center for Sustainability Workshops, helped revitalize the Gender Minority Closet, and assisted in founding the first community Pride Event in Statesboro. In the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mak and their family also sewed and donated over 2,000 masks to the local military post, essential workers, medical associates, and immunocompromised locals. This summer they will be focusing on interning with a professional dancewear designer and learning the art of dancewear design and tutu creation. Mak plans on continuing their education after leaving Georgia Southern and pursuing a master’s degree in costuming.



“The Honors College has been such an amazing experience for me. Expressing my Synesthesia in my thesis has taught me to analyze my own experiences with the world around me and discover how to convey my message to those who quite literally could not see what I did. My mentor Dr. Martindale and my professor Dr. Maurer were both fantastic in dealing with my unusual circumstances and always made sure to remind me that while education is important, so is my own health. I’ve always done my best to be kind to everyone around me, but the Honors College taught me a skill I didn’t know I needed: Be kind to yourself.”

Allison Tucker

Exercise Science The Relationship between Optimism and BMI in Generation Z – An Exploratory Investigation Mentored by Dr. Daniel Czech

Allison Tucker will attend Augusta University for the Master of Science in Nursing Program beginning in the fall. While at Georgia Southern, Allison had the opportunity to present her research at the Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference in Gainesville, Ga. She was the president and treasurer of her sorority as well as the event coordinator and vice president of the SESC. As a freshman, she was a SGA senator for the Waters College of Health Professions.



“The Honors College gave me opportunities to further my education and challenge myself. I was given chances to work with other students who share the same passions as I do. Georgia Southern surrounded me with friends and professors who believed in my abilities to succeed. I can’t thank this school enough for getting me where I am today!”

Meghan Turner

Biology Degradation of Plastics in the Environment: A Review on Ecotoxicological Effects Mentored by Dr. Aaron Schrey

Meghan Marie Turner will complete her term as a team leader at Savannah Wildlife Rescue Center in the fall and plans on pursuing graduate studies involving conservation management the following year. In addition to leading tours around Statesboro campus as a Southern Ambassador and piloting the first Russell Union Show as Campus Engagement Editor for the *George Anne Studio*, Meghan was heavily involved with student-led organizations. She served on executive boards for the Future Veterinarian’s Society, Service Dog Training and Education Program, and TriBeta National Biological Honors Society as well as chartered a new student organization named PAWSibility to educate the student body about the benefits of fostering adoptable pets. She received the Honors Study Abroad Scholarship in 2019, allowing her to spread her wings during a biological field experience in Ecuador. As a COUR grant recipient, she completed undergraduate research as well as her Honors Thesis.



“The Honors College challenged my limits by giving me a leadership mentality from day zero. As a part of the Honors Living and Learning Community freshman year, we were literally helping other freshmen move in on their move-in day--and enjoying it! The Honors College administration places their students ahead of the curve, which set me on the right track to have as much impact as possible during my three years at Georgia Southern University.”

Pascal Wagemaker

Mechanical Engineering

Analysis of Data to Evaluate the Performance of Air Filters Used for Filtering Nanoscale Particles Generated by Smoke
Mentored by Dr. Aniruddha Mitra

Pascal Wagemaker will begin a master's degree in business analytics & information management at the University of Delaware in fall 2021. As a student at Georgia Southern, Pascal was awarded a University Honors Program Scholarship. He was a member of the varsity men's tennis team and the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. Pascal served as treasurer for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and made it to Phase II of the NASA Micro-g NExT as a co-leader.

Jessica Ware

Geology

Groundwater Flushing Time and Vegetation Health in a Georgia Salt Marsh
Mentored by Dr. Jacque Kelly

Jessica Ware will earn her last required credit hours at Geology Field Camp this summer then celebrate with a hiking trip to Iceland. As a Georgia Southern student, Jessica swam for the Georgia Southern Women's Swim and Dive team for four years, led the Geology and Geography Club with her peers, and volunteered at the local church. She earned several scholarships and was awarded funding for her thesis research from Georgia Sea Grant.



"Being in the Honors College has challenged me academically and introduced me to undergraduate research which ultimately accumulated in the thesis project. Being surrounded with peers with the same motivation as myself has helped me stay on track to graduate with honors. I would like to thank everyone in the Honors College that has helped me along the way."




"The Honors College at Georgia Southern has pushed me to challenge myself academically, dedicate time to the community, and engage in professional research. GSU has been a home for me the past four years."

Zachary Weiner

Management Influence Tactics as a Function of Supervisor Age Mentored by Dr. David Sikora

Zachary Weiner will attend the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in the fall. As a student at Georgia Southern, he was involved in Southern Ambassadors and Golden Key Honor Society. During his senior year he served as training coordinator and professional development director for each organization respectively. During the summer of his sophomore, he participated in a study abroad trip to Barranquilla, Colombia. He utilized his experience as training coordinator and professional development director to aid his research into influence tactics.


A portrait of Zachary Weiner, a young man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is smiling and standing in front of a blue wall.

“The Honors College has helped me grow as a student and an individual by encouraging me always to do more and be more. Through the friendships and mentorships I’ve had in this college, I have gained knowledge I never thought that I would have had.”

Allison Williams

Philosophy Childhood, Moral Obligation, and the Law in the Trials of Gabriel Fernandez Mentored by Dr. William Eaton

Allison Williams will begin law school in August of 2021 at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. During her time at Georgia Southern University, she was an active member of Southern Ambassadors, Circle K International, Habitat for Humanity, and the Honors College. During her involvement and community engagement, she developed skills in leadership, communication, and problem-solving all of which will contribute to her success in law school.

A portrait of Allison Williams, a young woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue top. She is smiling and standing in front of a brick building with windows.

“The Honors College provided me with many opportunities and challenges to develop into the person I am today. During my time in the Honors College, I was able to explore my passions which motivated me to pursue a career in law. Furthermore, I developed a strong bond with my fellow peers, professors, and community, which further enriched my education and experience at Georgia Southern University.”

Deshauna Williams

Criminal Justice & Criminology **Restoration of a Nation: Public Perspectives of the** **Foundations of Restorative Justice Practices** **Mentored by Dr. Laurie Gould**

Deshauna Williams will begin a master's degree in social science, with a focus in political science in spring 2022. As a student at Georgia Southern, Deshauna was awarded the 1906 Scholarship. Deshauna was able to join an alternative break to Hohenwald, TN, where they volunteered at the elephant sanctuary and made lasting memories. They were also able to participate in an 'Inside Out' course, in which they gained a better understanding of the unique opinions and struggles of individuals in the criminal justice system.



"I've grown up at Georgia Southern, and been presented opportunities I could never dream of due to my participation in the Honors College. Excuse the pun, but it has truly been an honor to work with the staff of this college over the past four years."

Samantha Wingate

Communication Sciences & Disorders **Exploring the Impact of Animal-Assisted Therapy on** **Children's Literacy Skills in Speech-Language Interventions** **Mentored by Dr. Janet Bradshaw**

Samantha Wingate will begin her Master's of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology at Auburn University in fall 2021. While attending Auburn University, she will be a Graduate Assistant in the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences assisting with research in the areas of hearing, language, and speech science across the lifespan. She participated in the Honors Alternative Break Trip to Camp Blue Skies both her freshman and junior years. She also served as president of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association while conducting research on the impact of animal-assisted therapy on children's literacy in speech-language interventions.

Samantha presented her research at the Georgia Speech Language Hearing Association's Virtual Conference in 2021 and will also present her research at the Virtual Honors Symposium this spring. In addition to being a member of the Honors College, she was also a Southern Leader, founding member of Eagles Against Sex Trafficking, and involved with the President's Student Advisory Council.



"Being a part of the Honors College has exposed me to a community of like-minded individuals who are all motivated to pursue their passions with tenacity and curiosity, always striving to learn more. Georgia Southern gave me unique opportunities to network with other professionals and participate in specialized research that will undoubtedly serve as an asset to me in my future career as a clinician."

Natalie Woodward

Exercise Science

The Relationship Between Optimism and Perceived Health in Generation-Z An Explanatory Investigation Mentored by Dr. Daniel Czech

Natalie Woodward will enter the workforce as an exercise physiologist and begin applying to PA school in 2022. During her time at Georgia Southern, Natalie has been involved with CRI as a Group Fitness Instructor and a Group Fitness Program Assistant. She was involved with the Peer Body Project as a Peer Leader, studied abroad to Ireland, and traveled to Costa Rica on the Honors Alternative Break Trip. Natalie was also actively involved in Omega Phi Alpha National Service Sorority, serving as the insignia chair and co-vice president. She has also had the opportunity to present her research twice, once at the Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference and then at the National Collegiate Research Conference at Harvard University.



“More than anything, the Honors College has provided me with a support system that I am eternally thankful for. In the past four years, I have met some of the best friends that I would have never met if not for things like the LLC or research conferences. The Honors College has also provided me with faculty and financial support that I am grateful for.”

Yearim Yang

Mechanical Engineering

NZE Residential Test Facility Analysis Throughout Summer/ Winter Peak Months for Thermal Comfort Prediction Mentored by Dr. Marcel Maghiar

Yearim Yang will continue expanding her knowledge in the engineering field by pursuing a master's degree in civil, environmental, and sustainable engineering at Arizona State University. She decided to contribute her knowledge on sustainability through the secretary position in Green Ambassadors Organization and a research project in the Net-Zero Energy house. While on the Statesboro campus, she worked as a student assistant for the construction safety course and as a member of the NASA Micro-G Next competition team, and on the Armstrong campus, she worked as a SOAR leader, a tutor at the engineering learning center, and a student coach for a local high school Go-Kart competition. She received the O'Brien & Gere Scholarship and the International Community Building Awards due to her contributions to the expansion of diversity on both Armstrong and Statesboro campuses. Additionally, she presented the Korean youth culture pertaining to the dynamic change of the Korean economy at the Symposium on Korea in 2017.



“The Georgia Southern Honors Program has immensely influenced my undergraduate experiences. The honors research project encouraged me to find my passion through improving my strength and weaknesses. Additionally, the experimental learning programs broadened my horizons by allowing me to make amazing connections with peers and faculty members. I want to maintain this engaging mindset that I learned from the Honors College for a long time after graduation.”

Additional Graduates



Ashley Avila

Biology
Investigating the Roles of Human Genes in *Drosophila Melanogaster*
Mentored by Dr. Dongyu Jia



Sierra Bartlett

Biology
Characterization of the bacterial and fungal cloacal microbiome in nesting loggerhead sea turtles using a PCR-based, non-culturing method
Mentored by Dr. Jennifer Brofft-Bailey



Ramsey Reynolds

Biology/Marine Track
A Comparative Analysis of Nitrogen Absorption in *Vallisneria spiralis* and *Eichhornia crassipes*
Mentored by Dr. Aaron Schrey



Angel Shumake

Biology
A Comparative Analysis of Nitrogen Absorption in *Vallisneria spiralis* and *Eichhornia crassipes*
Mentored by Dr. Aaron Schrey

About Honors

The Honors College is an inclusive community of scholars that fosters intellectual and professional development through undergraduate research and creative scholarship, experiential learning, global engagement, and personalized mentorship.

The Honors College rests on a foundation of the following ideals that are inspired by the institution's emphasis on engaged learning.

Critical Sense of Inquiry

Honors students will explore a variety of approaches to research designed to foster the pursuit of knowledge. Students will develop the ability to question with a healthy skepticism toward accepted opinion. The culmination of the undergraduate experience is an independent research or creative project designed to exemplify a critical approach to inquiry.

Spirit of Creativity

Honors students will embrace the idea that creativity is a virtue that should be experienced by all students, regardless of discipline. This spirit involves a respect for different ways of knowing and an openness to intellectual discussion and challenge.

Civic Responsibility

Honors students will demonstrate an ethic of civic responsibility and exemplify the motto of the program, "Humility before Honor." Students will be challenged to use their abilities and talents for the advancement of humanity and the pursuit of a greater good. The primary vehicle for the expression of civic responsibility is through service both to the university and the community.

Global Perspective

Honors students will develop a perspective which allows them to approach their chosen discipline from an international point of view. This outlook involves the critical exploration of global concerns and generation of proposed solutions to international problems. Honors education provides this worldwide perspective through academic courses, study abroad opportunities and co-curricular experiences.

