

Honors Update

Southeastern Louisiana University

Spring 2017



Dr. Craig Saucier, Honors Senior Christine Tarride and Dr. Samantha Perez.



Kinesiology major Jamie Hewitt.



Music major Ryan Lafleur.

Honors Seniors Kickoff Defense Season

This spring Honors seniors are at it again – impressing peers and faculty alike as they present their research.

Honors **History major Christine**

Tarride launched defense week with a detailed tracing of the Basque independence movement in Spain. Under

I always enjoy Honors defenses. I learn so much.

-Dean Karen Fontenot

the direction of newly minted Ph.D., **Dr. Samantha**

Perez (a 2010 Southeastern Honors graduate herself).

Tarride's presentation was informative and confidently delivered,

in part because she had the opportunity to present an earlier draft at the **University of Louisiana System's**

Academic Summit in March. Her defense was followed later in the week by Music major **Ryan Lafleur's** fascinating history of the evolution of the clarinet. Under the direction of Music professor **Victor Drescher**, Lafleur took time off from his student teaching to come share his study on campus. Marketing and Fashion Merchandising double-major **Rebecca Miller** entertained a packed house at her defense explaining the way costume designers choose fashion to

enhance comedic and tragic effect in live theatre. Her interdisciplinary study was directed by **Dr. Carol Hall** from Fashion Merchandising and **Nicole Watt** from Theatre. **Jamie Hewitt**, under the direction of **Dr. Charlotte Humphries**, rounded out defense week studying the effect of visual observation in dyadic practice having test subjects engage in cup stacking activities after careful observation of a partner.

Honors wins Phi Kappa Phi Quiz Bowl



Alumni Center's Julie Perise awards 1st Place Student Team, 'Correct Answer', a \$100 check at Phi Kappa Phi's annual Homecoming Quiz Bowl tournament. Pictured from left are Perise, Ashley Woodfield, Janvier Morris, Erin Fernandez, Kaisey Seegmiller, Michael Sewell, and Honors Director Claire Procopio.

Honors Students Join in Election 2016

Students watched and Tweeted about the first presidential debate between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump live in the Student Union on September 26, 2016. The Presidential



Debate viewing party was sponsored by the university's Honors Program and the Department of Languages and Communication. "We had far more students show up than expected," said Honors Director Dr. Claire Procopio of the **100+ students and faculty who attended**. Early in the event communication professor

Dr. Joseph Burns asked students who they felt would win the debate. They picked Donald Trump. The post-debate straw poll showed most felt Hillary Clinton had performed best.

Continuing their efforts to be campus leaders on civic engagement, the Honors Public Speaking class hosted a **mock town hall debate** on November 7, the day before the 2016 presidential election. Pictured above left is Honors Biology major **Bradley Seidel Freeman** speaking at the event on behalf of Hillary



Clinton's candidacy. Above right is Honors Communication major **Hayden Boudreaux** speaking on behalf of Donald Trump's candidacy. Both speakers delivered brief opening statements and then fielded questions from audience members regarding candidates' policy positions in an answer-rebuttal format.

Chick-fil-A Vice-President Discusses Transition to Workforce



Honors and Communication seniors pose with Chick-fil-a Vice President Rob Dugas center.

In October, Southeastern Arts, Humanities, and Social Science **Alumnus** of the Year, **Rob Dugas**, came to campus to talk to Honors and Communication majors about how to prepare themselves for the transition from college to work. Dugas serves **Chick-fil-**

A as a vice-president and Chief Procurement Officer.

In 1986, Dugas earned a Communications Degree

from Southeastern Louisiana University and in 2011 he completed the Advanced Management Program at **Harvard University.**

Change your mindset of college from 'I *have* to get my degree' to 'I *get* to get my degree.' ~Surah Moss-Muhammad

A consistent theme throughout Dugas' career has been his passion for developing the next generation of leaders. In his talk

with Honors and Communication seniors he stressed the importance of diving into work and taking the hard assignments to

make themselves indispensable. He offered practical advice on how to marry talent with market-needs. He is energized by creating opportunities for others to achieve whatever their aspirations may be and Honors students noticed.

Surah Moss-Muhammad, Honors freshman, said of Mr. Dugas' presentation,

“One prominent point he mentioned was to change your mindset of college from ‘I have to get my degree’ to ‘I get to get my degree.’ I admired this point because when you look at a task as an opportunity, you tend to have a more serious and goal-oriented approach to ensure that you do not squander the opportunity.”

Comparative Terrorism offered in fall

University **President's Award** for Excellence in Research winner **Dr. Peggy Gonzalez-Perez** will be teaching **HONR 401 – Comparative Terrorism** this fall for the Honors program. The class will examine how terrorism has manifested itself in different regions and cultures. Students will explore various types of terrorism and why they have developed over time in diverse environments

through case studies of a variety of major terrorist groups around the globe in the post-World War II era. Special attention will be paid to the **role of women in terrorist organizations**, examining why women are active in some groups and not others.



A Message from the New Honors Director



Since joining the Honors program June 1, 2016, I have been inspired by the many talented professors and students associated with

this fine program. I **thank the Honors supporters** before me for establishing a space at Southeastern for dedicated students to work closely with each other and their faculty mentors. That space lets us dive deeper into subjects, sparks intellectual curiosity, and reminds us to **take seriously the enterprise of seeking knowledge**. It's what college is all about!

This first year I have focused on the **academic side of Honors**. Honors this fall sponsored academic events in connection with the 2016 elections, hosted guest speakers, and built a quiz bowl team to play the "varsity sport of the mind."

The Honors office has also been working to make sure Honors students have the information they need to

Honors Faculty
2016-17

Keith Costa, Art

Joan Faust, English

Keith Finley, History

Kimberly Finley, Dance

George Gibson, English

Rebecca Hensley,
Sociology

Rebecca Hite, English

Martin Kearney, English

Tino Ladogana,
Chemistry

Richard Louth, English

Terry Miller-Drufner,
Communication

Lisa Moody, English

Murray Pendarvis,
Biology

Claire Procopio,
Communication

Craig Saucier, History

Volker Stiller, Biology

Stephen Suber, Music

Mary White, Biology

James Winter, Theatre

register for Honors courses and complete the Honors degree. I conducted sessions in the fall and spring with rising juniors to begin to think about the thesis project early. Stop by my office (103 Meade Hall) if you'd like to talk thesis with me. Or, if you would just like to read a few, starting this fall we began including **Honors theses in the Sims Memorial Library** electronic reserves. Look one up! You'll be as amazed as I am at the high quality research undergraduate students do.

Academic year 2017-18 looks to be another exciting one for Honors.

We'll be reporting on where this year's crop of graduates landed.

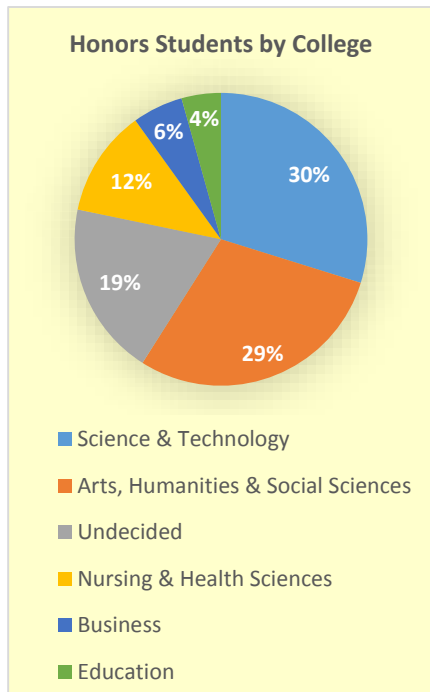
Katie McReynolds is **publishing her thesis** in a Health Studies journal. **Kaylee Collier** has received a **scholarship** to LSU's Manship School of Mass Communication to work on her master's degree in public relations. Several more are off to **medical school**. Honors is going to track you and brag on you!

We'll also be re-inaugurating the **Honors club** to increase opportunities for Honors students to socialize together and attend Honors conferences. The addition of three special **sections of SE 101 for Honors students** will help freshmen find their Honors family.

This is a great time to be in Honors. Help us build that Lion Pride.

Yours sincerely,

Claire H. Procopio, PhD
Honors Director



Seniors Receive Graduation Cords at fall Honors Recognition Ceremony

On November 29, 2016 four students earning the Honors diploma were recognized for their successful completion of the Honors degree. Thesis directors then ceremonially placed silver Honors cords on each Honors senior to be worn at graduation.



Katie McReynolds, Health Education major with thesis committee member Dr. Mildred Naquin.



Rebekah Linder, Biology major with thesis director Dr. Gary Childers.



Katelyn Clements, Art major with Honors Director Dr. Claire Procopio.



Emily Treloar, Education major with thesis director Dr. Stacy Garcia.