

JOHN E. SALLSTROM HONORS COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

2021-2022



2021-22 *in review*

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The John E. Sallstrom Honors College

Fall 2021 - Spring 2022

Dean

Dr. Brian Newsome

Assistant Director and National Scholarships Coordinator

Anna Whiteside

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Honors Faculty Council

Bella Angell

Eta Sigma Alpha (Ex Officio)

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English

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Kinesiology

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Dr. Christopher Clark

Economics

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Liberal Studies

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Physics

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Teacher Education

Dr. Bruce Snyder

Biology

Dr. Ashley Taylor

Psychology

Honors Student Assistants

Bella Angell, '23

Rosalie Bodkin, '22

Jacob Carter, '23

Jared Reese, '25

Milligan Williams, '22



letter from the DEAN



This year, the John E. Sallstrom Honors College has resumed traditions suspended the previous year, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and pioneered new initiatives. Among the former are the face-to-face orientation, convocation, lunch/dinner seminars, state/regional honors conferences, semiformal/formal and graduation banquets that generations of Honors students have found so meaningful. Among the latter are the anatomical models study lab (which the donations of our alumni and friends made feasible), a new teambuilding exercise coordinated by the GCSU Outdoor Center, an alumni mentoring program, an alumni awards program and our first face-to-face Saladin Scholars Awards Ceremony (featuring reports from last year's Saladin Scholars and recognition of new scholarship recipients). Students are also taking full advantage of Honors Transformative Experience funding to support undergraduate research, study abroad, internships and community-based learning.

Great things are on the horizon, too. Thanks to the generous support of donors and funding from the Provost's Office, the Honors College will take a robust delegation to the National Collegiate Honors Council's 2022 annual meeting, which will be held in Dallas, TX, this November. Students will present their research, connect with students and faculty from other institutions and explore Dallas through NCHC's city-as-text program. Closer to home, the Honors College will launch our own explorations of Milledgeville and Macon, to help incoming students get to know their environment, understand its history, recognize its challenges and see how they can make a difference in the community. In line with these objectives, the Honors College is renewing its ties with

the Milledgeville-Baldwin Habitat for Humanity affiliate, which is planning to begin construction of a new house soon.

As the foregoing initiatives indicate, Honors is a community, one that benefits from the ongoing support of so many individuals: President Cathy Cox and Provost Costas Spirou; Honors Assistant Director and National Scholarships Coordinator Anna Whiteside; Honors Admissions Coordinator Jillian Bolak; the dozens of faculty colleagues who teach Honors courses, supervise Honors options and lead lunch/dinner seminars; the members of the Honors Faculty Council, the Honors Selection Committee, the Honors Advisory Board, the Eta Sigma Alpha Executive Board and the Wise Council; Assistant Director of Legacy Giving Dan Lavery; Development Officer Caroline Attaway; Registrar Kay Anderson; Advising Director Dr. Michelle Johnson and her team; the Honors College's student assistants; and our wide network of alumni and friends. You each have my heartfelt gratitude for making the John E. Sallstrom Honors College the special place — the welcoming environment — that it is.

In closing, please allow me to take a metaphorical moment of silence to commemorate the victims of COVID-19, climate change and the conflicts that are ravaging so many corners of the world, from Mali to Ethiopia to Yemen to Ukraine — to name but a few. The future depends on each of us, and my quotidian interactions with the members of the Honors community leave me optimistic that our world can rise to the challenges that we face. *Vouloir, c'est pouvoir.*

Dr. Brian Newsome
Dean, John E. Sallstrom Honors College

from the PRESIDENT

At the heart of my Honors experience is curiosity. My favorite thing about extracurricular Honors events is walking into the room with questions and walking out with some answers but even more questions. When the presenter starts to get excited about what they're talking about and students ask thought-provoking questions, it's as if the room just lights up with a storm of electric, passionate energy, and it feels like you're exactly where you're supposed to be. That feeling is precisely what I feel when I think of Honors.

Support from the Honors College has allowed me to pursue many academic undertakings including a five-week study abroad program in Strasbourg, France, where, with support from a Saladin Scholarship, I studied intercultural leadership. Also, thanks to an Honors giving campaign, I will be going to the National Collegiate Honors Council's annual conference in Dallas, TX, where I'll be co-presenting about escape rooms as a community-building tool for honors colleges and programs.

The academic opportunities that come with being an Honors student coupled with the leadership experience I've gained from serving on Eta Sigma Alpha's Executive Board have strongly prepared me for my post-graduation career. Overall, my involvement in the Honors College has pushed me to be a better student, a better leader and a better person.



Jacob Carter
President, Eta Sigma Alpha
Class of 2023

from the EDITOR



If you are reading this, I have finished this year-long project as well as my undergraduate degree from Georgia College! I am so thankful for the opportunity to complete both. It has been an honor to gather and share the stories of our incredible students, faculty, alumni and supporters with you all. Since I became a member of what was then the Honors Program in my first year of college, I have been inspired by the determination, passion and achievement of my Honors peers. Georgia College's Honors students ask good questions, share vast and varied knowledge, work hard to achieve their goals and enjoy going deep and wide in diverse interests and conversations. Being a part of such a community has encouraged me to do the same in college and beyond.

Thank you to Dr. Brian Newsome for giving me creative freedom, helpful feedback and kind support to complete this project to the best of my ability and expand that ability in the process. Thank you to those who give so generously to make the Honors College what it is and who have provided funds for the Transformative Experience Scholarship I was awarded to support my summer internship. Thank you to Georgia College for welcoming me, supporting me and providing me with experiences that have pushed me to grow and prepared me to succeed. And thank you for reading! It has been my joy to invest here at Georgia College and in the Honors community. I hope reading the stories of this year in Honors will inspire you to invest your time, talents, energy, resources and life into something meaningful, wherever you are.

Milligan Williams
Honors Student Assistant
Class of 2022



Ellen Yeudall named GC's Academic Recognition Day Representative

Since 1988, the University System of Georgia has honored outstanding seniors at each of its member institutions on Academic Recognition Day. According to the USG website, "these students have a high GPA, strive for excellence and have the ability to share knowledge in various areas of expertise." Honors student **Ellen Yeudall (2022)** was selected as Georgia College's 2022 Academic Recognition Day representative. Yeudall and the other 25 honorees received a resolution from the Georgia House of Representatives and a letter of commendation from USG Acting Chancellor Teresa MacCartney. "Being selected meant a lot. It made me feel like everything I achieved on campus meant something," said Yeudall.

Yeudall will graduate in May 2022 with a major in English literature and a minor in theatre. She is also a May 2022 valedictorian, having maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her undergraduate career. In addition to her studies, Yeudall is the non-fiction editor of Georgia

College's literary magazine, *The Peacock's Feet*, and a Spanish tutor for the Language Resource Center on campus. However, she is proudest of completing her undergraduate thesis, in which she applied feminist and affect theory to analyze the British crime show *Broadchurch*. "It was very challenging — a lot of reading and writing and rewriting. But it helped me secure that feeling that I have learned and grown within my major.

From freshman year to now, I would never have been able to say I could do this," said Yeudall.

Along with all these accomplishments, Yeudall has also been a member of the Honors College since her first year at Georgia College, and she has served as secretary for the Eta Sigma Alpha Executive Board. These experiences have been valuable for Yeudall both intellectually and personally. "I've been able to take challenging but rewarding classes as an Honors student, which has been really exciting. And I don't think I would have the friendships and the relationships with professors I have if I weren't in the Honors College," she said. After graduation, Yeudall hopes to work in television or theatre as she considers applying for graduate school.

Hollings Scholar Nadya Gutierrez Gets Creative with Ecological Research

In 2020, senior environmental sciences student **Nadya Gutierrez (2022)** was awarded the Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Along with a financial award toward two years of undergraduate study, the scholarship sponsored Gutierrez's 10-week summer internship at North Inlet-Winyah Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. There, she studied how marsh crab communities vary across spatial gradients and temporal scales. "This internship helped me realize my passion for marine ecology," said Gutierrez. "I hope to continue researching marine invertebrates in graduate school." Gutierrez incorporated another surprising interest into her scientific study: she wrote a rap about her experience.

"In high school, I wrote a song about the 12 soil orders for a project. People really enjoyed that song, and I realized that I enjoy scientific outreach through music. When the Hollings team announced the competition, I knew a rap would be a fun way to engage the public in the research I had done," she said. Gutierrez presented her work at the 2022 Ocean Sciences Meeting in Waco, TX, and her rap is available for listening by scanning the QR code at right.



Honors Valedictorians

GCSU valedictorians maintain a 4.0 GPA throughout their undergraduate career.

May 2021

Natalie Miller
Haley Strassburger

August 2021

Juniper Guthrie

Molly Bullington Conducts Research with University of Saskatchewan through Fulbright-MITACS Globalink Program

Senior biology major **Molly Bullington (2022)** was selected to participate in the summer 2021 Fulbright-MITACS Globalink program, through which she conducted research with the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, Canada. Bullington gathered, organized and analyzed insights from data on how fruit flies perceive their environments. This was not Bullington's first research experience; she has worked on biology research with Dr. Ellen France at Georgia College throughout her undergraduate career. "I gained confidence in myself and my abilities to become a researcher," said Bullington. "The combination of all my undergraduate experiences in research and with the Honors College created a background of experiences that helped me blossom into the researcher and student I am today." Bullington plans to pursue a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia after graduation.



Max Harley Investigates Buyer Behavior in the Video Game Industry



Like many others, economics major **Max Harley (2023)** decided to purchase an Xbox Series X only to find the consoles were sold out. However, unlike most, Harley decided to turn this quandary into undergraduate research. "My research is on the secondary market price determinants for the PlayStation 5. In other words, I wanted to empirically measure why the price for the PS5 is so high on secondary markets like eBay," said Harley. Working with Assistant Professor of Economics Dr. Alexandre Ribeiro Scarcioffolo, Harley found that retail prices for the PlayStation 5 do not match consumer desire for physical media and that consumers heavily value seller feedback measures when conducting online transactions. "I gained a lot of very valuable skills from this project," he said. "Most notably, I learned to code in both Python and R. I also learned academic writing, data collection and cleaning techniques, econometric techniques and applied microeconomics." Harley has presented his research at numerous conferences, including

the 2022 Academy of Economics and Finance Conference, where he won the Top Undergraduate Research Paper Award. He is torn between pursuing a PhD in economics or becoming a pilot or intelligence officer in the U.S. military after graduation.

Julia Hufford Explores Medical Music Therapy at UAB Hospital

Senior **Julia Hufford (2022)** completed her undergraduate degree in music therapy with an internship at University of Alabama-Birmingham Hospital. She works with inpatients in general medical stepdown units, hematology and oncology specialty units, bone marrow transplant and palliative care. "In the medical setting, music therapy is often used to decrease symptoms of anxiety, depression and acute pain, as well as to help normalize the environment, create new coping skills and promote rehabilitative or cognitive goals," said Hufford. "We never know exactly how a day is going to look, but that is half the fun!" Along with gaining experience in the variety of medical areas listed, Hufford will also receive training to be a NICU-certified music therapist. Working with so many different types of people and patients has been her favorite aspect of the experience. "Each patient has a story of their own. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting them as well as their families through our interactions. It reminds me how human healthcare is," said Hufford. She is considering attending graduate school or staying and working in Birmingham after graduation.



Anne Elise Beals Named Truman Scholarship Finalist

Psychology major **Anne Elise Beals's (2022)** interest in public service began at the age of three or four, as a Girl Scout, and has only grown since then. When philosophy professor Dr. Jim Winchester learned about Beals's interest in prison reform and rights for transgender and gender nonconforming (TGNC) people, he nominated Beals for the Truman Scholarship, a national program that funds graduate school for students pursuing a career in public service. "Being selected as a finalist has served as recognition not only of the work I've done so far on campus, but also of the importance of my goals of working toward changing the way trans prisoners and unhoused people are treated," said Beals. "It's also been an affirmation to me that if I want something, I have the skills and support to go out and get it. The support of everyone has been so overwhelming and incredible." At Georgia College, Beals plans and hosts programming for students with the Women's Center & LGBTQ+ Programs, including the Amplified Art Exhibit and the second annual Bi+ Community Week in spring 2022. After graduation, Beals hopes to find work that provides basic needs, community support and mental healthcare to at-risk LGBTQ+ populations. Eventually she plans to attend graduate school to earn master's degrees in social work and women's & gender studies to further equip her to reach her service goals. "My queer identity and my chosen family have given me so much — hope, joy and belonging — and I want to give back to the LGBTQ+ community as much as I can," said Beals.



Annabelle Erb Selected as Fulbright Scholarship Alternate

Senior early childhood education major **Annabelle Erb (2022)** was selected as an alternate for the Fulbright Scholarship English Teaching Assistantship in South Korea. In her own



words, Erb overcame feelings of imposter syndrome even to apply for the program. "I fully expected a 'no' right away, so being selected as a semifinalist and alternate is a nice boost of confidence and commemorates my hard work as an education major," said Erb. If awarded this scholarship, Erb will teach English to elementary school students in a local Korean classroom for the upcoming year. "The experience of teaching English abroad is incomparable to something in the United States, even if I were to teach or tutor English here. Being in a different country or culture is a lot more challenging, and I'm really fascinated by that," said Erb. She hopes to one day teach in or near her hometown of Johns Creek, GA, and believes that teaching in South Korea and being immersed in its culture would help her relate to first-generation students and their parents in her own classroom. She was inspired to pursue a career in education by her mother, who is also an elementary school teacher. "I've seen how hard it is and how much it takes. But it really is the most fast-paced, ever-changing, meaningful environment you can be in, because little successes happen every second. It's incredible to feel like I'm holding someone's hand in that process," said Erb. After graduation, she plans to begin working toward a master's in teaching with a concentration in English as a second language at Georgia Southern University.

Criminal justice major **Cameron Alee (2022)** has always dreamed of traveling to South Korea, and those dreams became a reality during her semester abroad in spring 2022. Alee studied Korean language, history and culture in Seoul, South Korea for her international studies minor. "My favorite part was exploring and trying new things I never would have back in the States," said Alee. "Studying abroad really puts you out of your comfort zone while also providing new and exciting experiences." Along with her courses, Alee has been immersed in South Korean life, experiencing the food, practicing the language, utilizing public transportation and walking to cafes, convenience stores and other shopping from campus. Alee is considering returning to South Korea to teach English, and she aspires to one day join the CIA.

Cameron Alee Studies Korean Culture at University of Seoul



from the

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS COORDINATOR



The 2021-2022 academic year was a particularly exciting one for the National Scholarships Office! In January, three of our students were named semi-finalists for the Fulbright Scholarship, with one, Honors student Annabelle Erb, selected to be an alternate for the English Teaching Assistantship in South Korea. In February, Honors student Anne Elise Beals was named as a finalist for the Truman Scholarship. The

Truman, which is awarded to college juniors who show great promise as leaders in public service, is very competitive, and making it to the finalist level is a really big deal.

Anne Elise interviewed for this award alongside students from UGA, Princeton and MIT. To prepare for this, she did several rounds of challenging mock interviews. While Anne Elise was not ultimately awarded the Truman, she learned a lot from the process.

In March, Wesley DeMontigny learned that he had been selected as a Goldwater Scholar — a first for Georgia College. The Goldwater Scholarship recognizes STEM students who have shown excellence in academics and research. Wesley, a biology major, has worked on three different research projects during his time at GC, and intends to pursue a PhD in biology. If you're interested in learning more about applying for nationally competitive scholarships, I am happy to work with you! As a reminder, I also work with alumni — once a Bobcat, always a Bobcat.

Anna Whiteside
Assistant Director, John E. Sallstrom Honors College
National Scholarships Coordinator

Vivian Cassaniti Selected as Newman Civic Fellow

Political science and philosophy student **Vivian Cassaniti (2024)** was named Georgia College's 2022 Newman Civic Fellow. The Newman Civic Fellowship recognizes students who are committed to solving problems and initiating change at their institutions and in their communities. "I'm passionate about civic engagement and civic health," said Cassaniti. "For me, to have been selected as the Newman Civic Fellow is an opportunity to empower local communities and equip them with the knowledge they need to succeed." Cassaniti has volunteered with voter registration campaigns, and she encourages peers to be knowledgeable about candidates and policies and to participate civically. Currently she is researching the effects of limited broadband internet access in the rural South, and she presented some of her findings at the inaugural Leadership Ideas Festival on campus in April.

Cassaniti worked closely with Honors Assistant Director and National Scholarships Coordinator Anna Whiteside and was nominated for the fellowship by Georgia College President Cathy Cox. "Vivian embodies the best of our hopes for Georgia College students," said Cox. "She combines her studies in theory and philosophy with an active commitment to improving her community and world." As Newman Civic Fellow, Cassaniti will receive training from sponsoring organization Campus Compact on developing strategies for social change. She will also help shape the focus of Georgia College Leadership Programs' efforts and events throughout the year, including hosting the biannual Usery Forum on Leadership and Inspire! Forums. "In the future, I hope to continue my passion for civic engagement by working with non-profit organizations dedicated to protecting voting and civil rights like the American Civil Liberties Union," said Cassaniti.



Honors Undergraduate Research Presentations

Each year dozens of Honors students present research projects and creative works at undergraduate and professional conferences. Several of those forums, such as the Georgia College Student Research Conference and the Georgia College Women's and Gender Studies Symposium, are held on campus. Others, such as the annual meetings of the Georgia Collegiate Honors Council and the Southern Regional Honors Council, convene in cities across the state, the region and the nation. All of these venues give students an opportunity to hone their communication skills and to network with peers and faculty from other institutions. The mentorship of Georgia College faculty is key to the success of Honors students as they craft their projects and develop their presentations. Thank you to our dedicated faculty, and congratulations to the Honors students who delivered conference presentations during the 2021-22 academic year!

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Reese Barron..... | Georgia College Student Research Conference |
| Caitlin Banks..... | Georgia College Women's and Gender Studies Symposium |
| Mattie Berry..... | Georgia Undergraduate Research Collective Conference |
| Jessica Berry..... | Georgia College Student Research Conference |
| Jacob Carter..... | Association of Colleges for Tutoring & Learning Conference |
| Caroline Cole..... | Georgia Collegiate Honors Council Conference |
| Ella Cooper..... | Georgia College Women's and Gender Studies Symposium |
| Cece Crumbley..... | Association of Colleges for Tutoring & Learning Conference, Southeastern Psychological Association Conference |
| Travis Cunningham..... | Georgia College Student Research Conference |
| Kaitlin Donovan..... | Georgia College Women's and Gender Studies Symposium |
| Evan Dunnam..... | Georgia College Student Research Conference, Georgia Undergraduate Research Collective Conference, Southeast Regional Undergraduate Research COPLAC Conference |
| Molly Dyer..... | Georgia Undergraduate Research Collective Conference |
| Caroline Fettes..... | Southern Regional Honors Council Conference |
| Madison Floyd..... | Association of Global South Studies Conference |
| Victoriyah Friend..... | Georgia College Women's and Gender Studies Symposium |
| Kae Gilliam..... | Georgia College Student Research Conference, Georgia College Women's and Gender Studies Symposium |
| Jadalynn Ginn..... | Georgia Academy of Sciences |
| Nadya Gutierrez..... | Association of Colleges for Tutoring & Learning Conference, Georgia Academy of Sciences, Ocean Sciences Meeting |
| Maryellen Hagberg..... | Popular Culture Association National Conference |
| Max Harley..... | Academy of Economics & Finance Conference, Georgia Collegiate Honors Council Conference, Georgia Undergraduate Research Collective Conference, Southern Regional Honors Council Conference |
| Shiderica Hiers..... | Georgia College Student Research Conference |
| Gavin Holloway..... | Southeastern Academy of Legal Studies and Business Conference |
| Hayley Johnson..... | Georgia College Student Research Conference, Georgia Undergraduate Research Collective Conference |
| Brittany Jones..... | Georgia Undergraduate Research Collective Conference |
| Caroline Jones..... | Georgia Undergraduate Research Collective Conference |
| Lillian McGalliard..... | Georgia College Student Research Conference |
| Ellie Munson..... | Southeastern Psychological Association Conference |
| Courtney Owen..... | Georgia College Student Research Conference |
| Caroline Phillips..... | Georgia College Student Research Conference |
| Sienna Slater..... | Georgia College Student Research Conference |
| Colton Smith..... | Georgia Collegiate Honors Council Conference |
| Charleigh Stepp..... | Georgia Academy of Sciences |
| Wesley Sutton..... | Georgia College Student Research Conference, Southeast Regional Undergraduate Research COPLAC Conference |
| Jocelyn Taylor..... | Georgia College Student Research Conference |
| Shani Thompson..... | Southern Regional Honors Council Conference |
| Jillian Truchan..... | Georgia College Women's and Gender Studies Symposium |
| Sage Viohl..... | Georgia College Women's and Gender Studies Symposium |
| Rachel Wolverton..... | Georgia College Student Research Conference |



Honors student Gavin Holloway presented research at the Southeastern Academy of Legal Studies Business Conference in Savannah, GA, and toured the Savannah River and Georgia Ports.



Honors students Shani Thompson, Caroline Fettes and Max Harley presented at the Southern Regional Honors Council Conference in Birmingham, AL.



Honors students Max Harley, Caroline Cole and Colton Smith presented at the Georgia Collegiate Honors Council Conference at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

2021-22 Transformative Experience Award Winners

Thanks to Dr. Kenneth Saladin's generous gift to the Honors College, Georgia College Honors students who have maintained an institutional GPA of 3.3 or higher may apply for funds up to a cumulative total of \$500 in a given academic year to support undergraduate research, internships, community-based learning or study abroad through the Transformative Experience Grant/Scholarship Program.

- Vivian Cassaniti (2024)** will study intercultural leadership in Strasbourg, France, during the summer 2022 term.
- Cece Crumbley (2023)** and **Ellie Munson (2024)** presented undergraduate research on the impact of adventure therapy at the 2022 Southeastern Psychological Association Conference at Hilton Head Island, SC.
- Gavin Holloway (2023)** presented undergraduate research on space-based technology and climate change disclosures at the 2021 Southeastern Academy of Legal Studies Business Conference in Savannah, GA.
- Milligan Williams (2022)** will complete an internship in social media marketing and search engine optimization at UP Market Media in Statesboro, GA, during the summer 2022 term.

SALADIN SCHOLARS

In 2021, the Honors College launched the Saladin Scholarship program, named for Honors supporter and Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Biology Dr. Kenneth Saladin. Georgia College Honors students who have completed 12 credit hours of Honors coursework and who have maintained an institutional GPA of 3.3 or higher may apply for a Saladin Scholarship (up to \$2,000) to support undergraduate research, internships, community-based learning and/or study abroad undertaken to serve as a springboard for application to graduate school and/or a national scholarships program.



Jacob Carter
Mathematics | 2023

Many Honors students, including mathematics major **Jacob Carter**, are involved with GC Leadership Programs. In summer 2021, Carter studied intercultural communication and leadership in Strasbourg, France with funds from the 2021 Saladin Scholarship. Along with taking courses required for GC's Leadership Certificate Program, he was immersed in European culture and made connections with other students, faculty and French leaders. "One of the great things I learned from my study abroad is the value of different perspectives," said Carter. "That two people can look at the same idea and come to two diametrically opposed conclusions is at the heart of why engaging in the creative process with others can be so magical and is so crucial to solving the world's greatest challenges." After graduation, Carter plans to pursue a master's in teaching.



Kae Gilliam
Exercise Science | 2022

Exercise science major **Kae Gilliam** was awarded a 2021 Saladin Scholarship to study healthcare perspectives in Belize. Due to COVID restrictions, the program was cancelled, but Gilliam has taken full advantage of opportunities at Georgia College. She served as Eta Sigma Alpha parliamentarian for the 2021-22 academic year and has been one of the first students to participate in the new Honors Alumni Mentoring Program. "Joining the Honors College as a freshman has expanded my connections and opportunities further than I could have ever expected!" said Gilliam. After graduation, Gilliam plans to pursue a Doctorate of Occupational Therapy.



Alyssa Taliaferro
Biology | 2022

With her sights set on veterinary school, biology major **Alyssa Taliaferro** applied for the 2021 Saladin Scholarship to support a summer study abroad in Costa Rica for pre-veterinarian students. "I chose to attend this program so that I could have unique veterinary experience with wildlife. It was a wonderful experience being immersed in a different culture, language and way of life," said Taliaferro. During the program, Taliaferro not only took courses on wildlife veterinary medicine and conservation but also gained hands-on experience with wildlife, performing physical examinations on Costa Rican monkeys, parrots and sloths. In addition, she conducted research to improve the quality of life of wild marmosets in animal sanctuaries. Taliaferro will be pursuing a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia.



L to R: Michael Marcinko, Caroline Cole, Isabella Banich, Isabella Oetting

congratulations to the

2022 SALADIN SCHOLARS



Isabella Banich
Environmental Sciences | 2022

Banich will study intercultural communication and leadership this summer in Strasbourg, France to complete a Leadership Certificate.

Caroline Cole
History | 2024

Cole will attend Regent's Park College at Oxford University in Oxford, England for the spring 2023 semester, where she will take courses and conduct research in history and English literature.

Michael Marcinko
Mass Communication | 2023

Marcinko will study international media and communication in Denmark this summer.

Isabella Oetting
Exercise Science | 2024

Oetting will study healthcare perspectives and complete service-learning projects next summer in San Ignacio, Belize.

For more information about Honors scholarships and grants, please visit <https://www.gcsu.edu/honors/grants>.



Remembering our roots:

In honor of
**Dr. Rose Baugh Bacon
and Dr. Ralph Hemphill**

In August 2021, the Humber-White House grounds got a little greener. The Georgia College community gathered at Humber-White to plant two trees, each in honor of previous faculty members, Dr. Rose Baugh Bacon and Dr. Ralph Hemphill. During their many years at Georgia College, both Dr. Baugh Bacon and Dr. Hemphill provided invaluable service to the university and to what was then the Honors Program.

Dr. Baugh Bacon served as a professor and coordinator of graduate programs in the Education Department. She was nationally recognized as a pioneer in the development of first-year experience curricula, and she was well-known for her role in childhood teacher education throughout the state of Georgia. After a distinguished career of 27 years as an educator, Dr. Baugh Bacon retired as professor emeritus in 1996. She remained active in teacher education until she passed away in 2007.

"She was a self-made woman who overcame a humble, poverty-stricken upbringing through higher education and commitment to both academic rigor and community," said Frank Baugh, one of Dr. Baugh Bacon's four children and assistant vice president for Facilities Management at Georgia College. "She retired the year Georgia College acquired university status, and I think she would be particularly proud of the elevated stature the university has acquired over the intervening 25 years."

Dr. Baugh Bacon (pictured at right) was also a strong supporter of Honors education. "Dr. Rose Baugh Bacon was for many years the faculty marshal for the annual Honors Day program when participants were recognized," said colleague, friend and founding Honors Director Dr. John Sallstrom. "I think she recognized the value of cultivating relationships and community among students pursuing an Honors curriculum and was supportive of Dr. Sallstrom's efforts to that end," said Frank Baugh.

Not one but two of Dr. Baugh Bacon's four children carry on her legacy of service to Georgia College and the Milledgeville community. Frank Baugh now serves as assistant vice president for Facilities Management at Georgia College, and Dr. James Baugh is lecturer of mathematics. "It was my mother's great love and enthusiasm of education which inspired me to take that as a profession. She was a staunch and passionate advocate for her students and advisees. She cut a wide path," said Dr. James Baugh.

The tree planted in Dr. Baugh Bacon's honor joins the Mary Rose Turner Baugh Bacon Scholarship to celebrate Dr. Baugh Bacon's legacy at Georgia College. This scholarship is awarded through the John H. Lounsbury College of Education to students who have been out of high school for at least five years and are undergraduate or graduate education students.

During his many years at Georgia College, Dr. Ralph Hemphill (pictured below) taught political science courses, served as vice president and dean of Faculties and eventually filled the role of acting president in 1997. Like Dr. Baugh Bacon, Dr. Hemphill advanced Honors education at Georgia College beyond his teaching and administrative duties. "Dr. Ralph Hemphill supported the Honors Program by participating in some of the Honors seminars," said Dr. Sallstrom. "As acting president, he supported a large budget to enable Dr. Doris Moody, then the director, greatly to improve the program." Dr. Hemphill passed away earlier this year.



Why honor Dr. Baugh Bacon and Dr. Hemphill with a tree planting? "While he was acting president, Dr. Hemphill approved the idea of recognizing outstanding retired faculty and staff with the planting of trees," said Dr. Sallstrom. Now retired faculty and staff are celebrated through annual awards funded by the Hemphill/Sallstrom Faculty/Staff Honors Endowment.

Dr. Sallstrom has further honored Dr. Hemphill's service to Georgia College by creating the GC in DC Endowed Fund, which will aid Georgia College students selected for semester internships in Washington, D.C. This program is sponsored by the Department of Government and Sociology, for which Dr. Hemphill served as the first chair. Dr. Hemphill himself wrote the proposal for a political science major at GCSU, and after stepping away from administrative duties, he returned to teaching political science until he retired. "Since he started and ended his career in what is now the Government and Sociology Department, it was felt most appropriate to recognize him there with an endowment that would support students in a way that would be of great benefit to them," said Dr. Sallstrom. Honors students majoring in political science will be given preference for the GC in DC Endowed Fund award. For more information about the GC in DC Internship Program, please visit <https://www.gcsu.edu/artsandsciences/gcdc>.

For more than 50 years, Honors education at Georgia College has provided intellectual, professional and social enrichment opportunities for students and faculty alike. The success of the Honors College today and in the future is due in no small part to individuals like Dr. Rose Baugh Bacon and Dr. Ralph Hemphill, who supported Honors at Georgia College. "I was a longtime friend with both of these good colleagues. I am very pleased they have been remembered with trees at a place which bears my name," said Dr. Sallstrom.



ALUMNI of the YEAR

The College Alumni Awards are a new initiative to recognize accomplished alumni from each of GCSU's five colleges, including the John E. Sallstrom Honors College. "Georgia College has produced generations of Honors alumni who've made a powerful impact at local, national and global levels. We are now privileged to recognize the accomplishments of Honors alumni alongside the other colleges at GC," said Dr. Brian Newsome. This year, the Honors Advisory Board selected **Dr. Roger Best (1989)** as Alum of the Year and **Dr. Ashlyn Burch (2015)** as Young Alum of the Year.



Dr. Roger Best graduated from Georgia College in 1989 with a Bachelor of Business Administration. He has worked at the University of Central Missouri since 1995, and he finished his PhD in finance at Florida State University in 1996. During his time at Central Missouri, Dr. Best earned tenure and promotion first to

associate professor and then to full professor in the Harmon College of Business and Professional Studies. Since 2003, he has served in administrative roles: as chair of the Department of Economics, executive vice president and chief operating officer, interim president, and since 2018, president. Throughout his professional career, Best has published 21 refereed journal articles, and he currently serves on the boards of several non-profit organizations.

"As a first-generation college student, I did not fully realize or appreciate the profound impact that my experience would have on me," said Best. "Access to higher education transformed both my opportunity set and me as an individual, and that encouraged me to do my part to provide a similar experience and outcome for students." Best credits his relationships with professors such as Dr. John Sallstrom, Dr. Joe Samprone and Dr. Julian Diaz, who inspired his decision to pursue a career in academia. "Throughout my career, I have never forgotten the lessons my Georgia College faculty provided, have never forgotten their kindness and willingness to make a difference for me, for it was really their efforts that made possible my current circumstance and my desire to emulate them," said Best. Dr. Best and his wife Robin have two children and six grandchildren.

Dr. Ashlyn Burch graduated from Georgia College in 2015 with a Bachelor of Science in physics. During her undergraduate studies, she worked with Dr. Ralph France's nuclear physics research group, with Duke University and with the European Organization for Nuclear Research. In 2020, she completed her PhD

in physics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and during graduate school, she worked at three national laboratories, including Los Alamos. Burch is the recipient of a GAANN Fellowship and a DOE Office of Science Graduate Student Research Award, among others. She has co-authored four journal articles and has four more in progress.

Today Dr. Burch conducts postdoctoral research on quantum information at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, NM. She and her team are currently developing one of the top open user projects at Sandia, which allows users to interact directly with the laboratory's quantum hardware for their own applications. Burch also volunteers at local schools to discuss the value of scientific education. "My dreams now are to share what I have learned with others and to make an impact on the next generation for science," said Burch. "Whether I am talking about black holes to a group of second graders or talking with high schoolers about the way science can impact their very understanding of the universe, my goal is to create an excitement that drives them forward. I finished my dream; now, I am dreaming theirs." Burch and her husband Mark Grinevich live in Albuquerque with their two German Shepherd dogs, Valik and Tik.



FACULTY AWARDS 2021

At the end of each academic year, the Eta Sigma Alpha Executive Board selects outstanding faculty to be honored at the Honors Graduation Banquet. In 2021, the board awarded **Dr. Dominic DeSantis** the Distinguished Faculty Award and **Dr. Jennifer Flaherty** and **Professor Jeffrey MacLachlan** honorary membership in the Honors College.



The Distinguished Faculty Award recognizes the efforts of a Georgia College faculty member who exemplifies the mission of the university through achievement as a scholar and teacher, service to Georgia College and evidence of caring involvement with students. Dr. Dominic DeSantis is assistant professor of biological and environmental sciences at Georgia College. He has taught numerous classes in biology, including Herpetology, Vertebrate Field Biology and Wildlife Management. Dr. DeSantis is also a member of the Mesoamerican Research Group, and he conducts research locally on the behavioral ecology of timber rattlesnakes in Middle Georgia. "As a field biologist, I take advantage of every opportunity to get students out in the field to observe and study organisms in nature," said DeSantis. "In my short time at Georgia College, the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences has given me a great platform for which to accomplish this through my combination of diverse course offerings and eager students."

Honorary membership in the Honors College is reserved for individuals who have shown dedicated service to Honors education at Georgia College through innovative excellence in teaching and guidance to Honors students.

Dr. Jennifer Flaherty is associate professor of English at Georgia College. She has taught an Honors GC2Y (Underworlds and Afterlives) and Honors Shakespeare, as well as Renaissance Poetry and Prose, Modern Drama and Jane Austen on Film. Dr. Flaherty often hosts Honors book discussions; in October, she led one on *The Ten Best Days of My Life* by Adena Halpern. "Dr. Flaherty is an excellent teacher because she deeply cares about every student in her class," said Jacob Carter, president of Eta Sigma Alpha. "One of the things I love about teaching Honors courses," said Flaherty, "is the level of engagement in the discussions, especially the combination of depth of interest and the breadth of knowledge and experiences from different subjects that students bring with them to the topic. I really love being part of a community of faculty and students who are so passionate about learning and exploring new topics and ideas."



Professor Jeffrey MacLachlan is senior lecturer of English at Georgia College. He has taught Honors English Composition II as well as World Literature, American Literature and GC1Y: War Literature. "Professor MacLachlan is extremely approachable and friendly, which is very important for first-year students taking their first college classes. His courses are discussion-based and he does a masterful job of facilitating these discussions, which to me are what an Honors course should be all about," said Max Harley, Eta Sigma Alpha Director of Academic Affairs.



Professor MacLachlan has also originated a series of Honors discussions "debunking" Disney portrayals of classic literature, fairytales and folktales. In September, he hosted a seminar titled, "Joel Chandler Harris: From Eatonton Plantation to Disneyworld." "I know from experience that the things you are most likely to remember from your college experience are the 'after school' events that make you feel like a learning community, rather than just someone who completes individual class assignments," said MacLachlan.

get to know new faces on the
HONORS ADVISORY BOARD



Bob Daneke serves as Key Account Manager for General Wholesale Beer Company in Atlanta, GA. He lives in Peachtree Corners, GA, with his wife Amy and their children, Andie and Will. He graduated from Georgia College in 2001 with a B.B.A. in marketing and participated in what was then the Honors & Scholars Program under the leadership of Dr. Doris Moody. "I am honored to join the Honors Advisory Board, as the Honors Program at Georgia College has always held a special place in my heart. The program is where I learned how to be a leader, and it helped shape my college experience," said Daneke. "An Honors education means, to me, that a student learns much more than just the basics, but also starts to see how everything is connected and why it is important to never stop learning or questioning why things are the way they are."

Dorianna Dobson is in her third year at Mercer University School of Medicine in Savannah, GA. She graduated from Georgia College with a B.S. in biology in 2018. After graduation, Dobson worked as a clinical research coordinator at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, which led her to pursue a career in neonatology. Dobson was a member of the Honors Program under the leadership of Dr. Steve Elliott-Gower, and she served as Eta Sigma Alpha president for three of those four years. "I loved being able to bring people together and enhance the Honors culture where everyone would come together over a passion for learning and bettering the community around them. When I was approached about joining the Honors Advisory Board, there was no hesitation. I really wanted to give back to students," said Dobson.



Susan Presley teaches and serves as chair of the Special Education Department at Windsor Forest High School in Savannah, GA. She graduated from Georgia College in 1990 with a B.A. in history and later completed an M.A. in English, an M.A. in history and an EdS. Throughout her time at Georgia College, Presley participated in the Honors Program under the leadership of Dr. John Sallstrom and served as an Eta Sigma Alpha officer. "Attending the Saladin Scholars Awards Ceremony in 2021 was an inspirational experience for me as we learned about the studies and plans of the recipients of Dr. Saladin's generous gift," said Presley. "Although the program has grown tremendously since I was an undergrad, I hope to serve as a sounding board along with the other board members as we discuss plans and opportunities for current and future students in the Honors College."



The Honors Advisory Board supports and promotes the John E. Sallstrom Honors College, helping it provide exceptional and enhanced undergraduate experiences for academically talented students from around the state, the country and the world. The board is made up of Georgia College alumni and friends who share a commitment to honors education and its transformative effects. Honors Advisory Board members attend two board meetings per year, advise on the Honors College's strategic initiatives and associated fundraising goals, promote the mission of the Honors College among peers and support the Honors College financially.

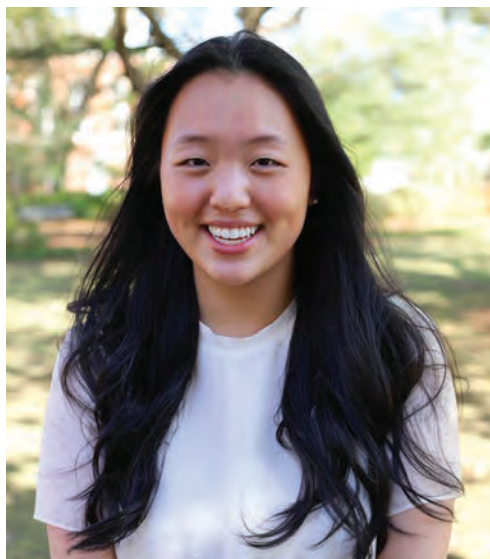
Thank you to each member of the 2021-22 Honors Advisory Board:

The Hon. Stephen Bradley, Esq.
Devlin Cooper, Esq.
Bob Daneke
Dorianna Dobson
Dr. Doris Moody
Susan Presley
Alaina Totten
The Hon. Peggy Walker, Esq.

And thank you to former board members Mark Morris, Martha Morris, Sam Rauschenberg and Dr. Lynne Wilcox, who have served the Honors College and our students well.

ALUMNI MENTORING PROGRAM

This year, the Honors College launched a new Alumni Mentoring Program to facilitate mentoring relationships between Georgia College Honors alumni and current Honors students. Mentors and mentees outline objectives for the relationship and meet at least three times over the course of the semester. The program was designed to prepare students for graduate school, national scholarship applications and other academic or professional endeavors for which experienced counsel might be helpful. In fall 2021, for example, alumna Dorianna Dobson helped Honors student Jin Yeong Kim pursue her dream of one day practicing medicine.



Jin Yeong Kim is a first-year biology major and plans to attend medical school after finishing undergraduate study. "I hope to practice medicine in rural Georgia to join other medical professionals helping combat the healthcare crisis in both the state and the country," said Kim. To achieve that goal, Kim must first be accepted to medical school, for which the selection process is increasingly competitive. She also felt she needed more guidance. "With my mom being the only college graduate in our family and zero family members in the medical field, I knew how helpful it would be to have a Georgia College alum who has already gone through this entire process to guide me. I also believed interacting with a successful individual in my prospective field could help motivate me," said Kim.

Through the Honors Alumni Mentoring Program, Kim was introduced to Honors alumna and medical student Dorianna Dobson. Dobson graduated from Georgia College in 2018 with a degree in biology. Immediately following graduation, she worked as a clinical research coordinator at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, where she discovered a passion for neonatology. She is now in her third year of study at Mercer University School of Medicine.

Dobson has been a valuable resource to Kim as she navigates pre-medical study, from recommending professors and classes, to connecting her with contacts for volunteering opportunities, to providing simple words of encouragement. "I think the most surprising thing about this experience has been how perfect of a match I was given, as we are quite similar!" said Kim. "I also can't believe how genuinely beneficial I have found it to be throughout this semester. Even with my current mentor's busy schedule, she is still able to make time as needed, even if it's a quick phone call while she's at the hospital."

During her time as Eta Sigma Alpha president at Georgia College, Dobson started a peer mentorship program to pair Honors students with similar interests and majors. The success of that program inspired Dobson to volunteer as an alumni mentor. "When you have someone who came before you to tell you what they did well and the mistakes they made, it allows you to bypass making mistakes and to maximize your time and efficiency," said Dobson. She also believes mentoring can help students slow down, enjoy the process and avoid imposter syndrome as they work toward achieving their goals.



"Getting to know Jin Yeong, seeing her excitement for learning and her future career and seeing her so passionate about what she wants to do are super refreshing," said Dobson. "She has the maturity to succeed in whatever she chooses, and she has a true empathy for other people that will make a difference in a lot of people's lives."

GIVING

SCHOLARSHIPS

Thank you to each of the generous individuals listed below for supporting the future of the Honors College through scholarships and endowments.

| | |
|--|--|
| Baker Family Endowed Honors Scholarship | Dr. Carol Dean Baker |
| Devlin and Ashley Cooper Endowed Honors Scholarship..... | Devlin & Ashley Cooper |
| Doris C. Moody Endowed Honors Scholarship..... | Dr. Kenneth Saladin & Dr. John Sallstrom |
| Steve Elliott-Gower Annual Honors Scholarship* | Dr. Steve Elliott-Gower |
| Karen D. Green Endowed Honors Scholarship | Dr. Dana Gorzelany-Mostak and Jennifer Gorzelany |
| JoAn and Nicholas Schields Endowed Honors Scholarship | Elizabeth Hines |
| JoAn and Nicholas Schields Annual Honors Scholarship* | Elizabeth Hines |
| Lori M. and William A. Westbrook Endowed Honors Scholarship..... | Dr. Harold & Brandie Mock, Dr. Doris Moody & Dr. John Sallstrom |
| Steve Elliott-Gower Endowed Honors Scholarship | Dr. Doris Moody |
| Mark and Martha Morris Family Endowed Scholarship | Mark and Martha Morris |
| Elaine Brown Riley Endowed Honors Scholarship | Mike Riley |
| Harold Edward Riley Endowed Honors Scholarship | Mike Riley |
| Margaret Samprone Endowed Honors Scholarship | Dr. Joe & Patti Samprone |
| Lee & Holly Snelling First Generation Endowed Honors Scholarship | Lee & Holly Snelling |
| Plutarch-Stelios Spirou Endowed Honors Scholarship | Dr. Costas Spirou |

*This award is a mirror scholarship for its respective endowed scholarship.



Congratulations to 2022 Steve Elliott-Gower Annual Honors Scholarship recipient Mary Morgan Collier (2024), pictured here with Dr. Elliott-Gower, who remains a vital part of the Honors community through teaching and service.

FUNDRAISING

In February, the Honors College joined the Georgia College-wide GC Giving Challenge with the goal of raising \$3,000 to send a delegation of Honors students to the 2022 National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in November. Over the course of 48 hours, we exceeded that goal to raise a total of \$3,310, which, combined with gifts from other donors and funds from the Provost's Office, will cover student registration, travel and accommodations. At the conference in Dallas, TX, students will have opportunities to present their research, interact with other honors students from across the nation and learn about the latest innovations in honors education. Thank you to all the generous donors who contributed to make this exciting experience a reality for Georgia College Honors students!

To give to the John E. Sallstrom Honors College, please visit alumni.gcsu.edu/supporthonors.

DECEMBER 2021

Mary Katherine Adcox
Biology

Daria Brown
Criminal Justice

Ariel Ebaugh
English

Hannah Hair
Management

Isobel Harris
Accounting

Julianna Perritt
Nursing

McKenzie Weekley
Psychology

MAY 2022

Caitlin Banks
Philosophy & Liberal Studies

Mattie Berry
Physics

Rosalie Bodkin
English

Rosalyn Bosarge
Middle Grades Education

Molly Bullington
Biology

Sullivan Conner
Middle Grades Education

Annabelle Erb
Early Childhood Education

Conor Evans
Biology

Jessica Exley
Biology

Nadya Gutierrez
Environmental Science

Caroline Jones
Exercise Science

Hailey Judge
Management Information
Systems

Keila Kolden
Nursing

Hannah Nobles
Biology

Carson Piper
Psychology

James Robertson
Political Science & Economics

Samantha Ross
Criminal Justice

Alyssa Taliaferro
Biology

Sage Viohl
Psychology

Brooke Weeks
Biology

Rachel Wolverton
Biology

Ellen Yeudall
English

AUGUST 2022

Avery Garrett-Wilson
Liberal Studies

Dia Gault
Psychology


Katie Anne Graves
Psychology

Julia Hufford
Music Therapy

Brittany Williams
Biology

Milligan Williams
Mass Communication

Congratulations
GRADUATES



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John E. Sallstrom Honors College

424 W. Hancock St.



Thanks for reading!



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