A Note from Director Wilcox

This year, more than ever before, the Honors Program relied on building relationships including instruction, mentorship, and friendships made in and outside of the classroom. Many students make friends at their Honors Program orientation, beginning relationships that last beyond graduation. The established relationships are just as important. As we noticed this year, many students rely on a support system that includes their siblings for guidance and support. We celebrate the Honors Program as a space for collaboration and community and look forward to watching our relationships continue to grow.

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”
-Mahatma Gandhi

Community service is a vital part of the Honors experience at GTC. The above quote characterizes the attitude with which our students engage their community through various community service projects throughout the year.

Though the pandemic has made volunteering more challenging, students have continued to offer their service at organizations like Meals on Wheels, Harvest Hope Food Bank, and Miracle Hill.

Honors Program students also worked with the GTC Foundation and the GTC Truist Culinary and Hospitality Innovation Center (CHI). Above, Autumn Channer, Johanna Vita, Elizabeth Mira, and Mame Ndiaye help make spice packets over Spring Break.
**Lasting Friendships**

Kaitlyn Bartus and Za’Cairiah Hoke did not know each other before attending Greenville Tech and joining the Honors Program. Little did they know they would form a lasting bond and friendship all because they were in the Honors Program together. Kaitlyn said that making new friends helped encourage and push her past her academic limits. “Working together in the Resource Room keeps me motivated to get my work done and stay on top of things,” she says.

For Za’Cairiah, meeting Kaitlyn and being in the same Biology class helped her immensely. She had a friend going through the same struggles, a friend who would help hold her accountable. Studying even became fun.

They both know that the friendships made in the Honors Program will stay with them forever. Though they are transferring to different schools this fall, they plan to keep in touch and remain friends.

Above: Za’cairiah Hoke and Kaitlyn Bartus study together in the Honors Program Resource Room. Students enjoy hanging out in this dedicated space just for Honor Students.

**Alumni Check-in: Kaitlyn Coons**

After graduating from Greenville Technical College in 2018 with a 4.0, Honors Program graduate Kaitlyn Coons completed her education at Converse College obtaining a Bachelors of Fine Arts Degree in Professional and Creative Writing. She now works at BringFido—the world’s largest pet travel and lifestyle brand.

Her best memories of being in the Honors Program included her time spent hanging out in the Resource Room between classes. Studying together, practicing speeches, and sharing meals gave her a wonderful network of like-minded students and lifelong friends. The program fine tuned and cultivated skills in critical thinking, work ethic, and adaptability. Kaitlyn received the President’s Award from GTC in 2018, among other awards and honors.

**What our Honors graduates have to say**

“Joining the Honors Program was one of the best decisions that I made.”

“Being in the program opened my mind to a different way of thinking.”

“I wished I had joined earlier!”

“Stick with it—extremely rewarding and enriching.”

“This allows community with fellow Honor students and great friendships!”

“The program pushed me outside of my comfort zone and I became a much more savvy student.”

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A strong support system benefits all students, especially in the Honors Program. Many students this year are fortunate that their support system also includes siblings.

Current students Jeanay and Jonathan Luines have enjoyed taking classes together, sharing notes, studying together, and motivating each other throughout the year. Taking advantage of having an older sister already in the program, Jonathan reaps the benefits by knowing which classes to take and what to expect. Having an experienced study partner and someone to bounce ideas off of has given Jonathan the support needed when the going gets tough.

Other siblings, like Angelina and Johanna Vita, share common friends in the program, even though they did not start and finish the program at the same time. In other cases, students encourage their siblings to join the Honors Program. After experiencing the benefits of diverse teaching in the smaller classes and the encouraging support from her professors, Danielle Dechant knew her sister, Danae, would enjoy the Honors Program as much as she did. Danae agrees and thanks her sister for her advice to learn from her experiences and peers.

Ariba and Wasif Johar have had similar experiences. After graduating from GTC almost two years ago, Ariba knew the Honors Program was the way to go, and so she encouraged her brother to join. The opportunities, great friendships and personal growth made it all worthwhile, said Ariba.

According to Wasif, who is currently in the program, “My sister helped pave the way for me throughout the whole application process and knew I, too, would have exciting experiences by being involved.”

Congrats to Anusha Ghosh, who is completing her Associate in Arts degree and her Associate in Science degree this spring while also graduating from high school. Anusha entered the Honors Program in 2019 and is headed to the University of South Carolina, Columbia with a major in Biomedical Engineering and Health, where she was accepted as a Top Scholar and Stamps Scholar.

According to Anusha, “GTC’s Honors Program supported me as I began my pre-med experience. I never would have expected to be where I am now without this amazing program.”

We are so proud of Anusha’s accomplishments. She is fiercely determined and never gives up. There is no doubt that she is going to be a superstar at USC and beyond.
This year the Honors Program is proud to begin a new tradition, awarding a faculty member with the Excellence in Teaching for Honors award, as voted by the students. Professor Liz Wilfong, congratulations!

Professor Wilfong has been teaching Honors English for several years. She is known for being personable, clear, organized, and fair. Most notably, when her face-to-face class had to switch to an online environment last spring, she handled the transition with ease and clarity, adapting to a stressful situation and making the students feel comforted and supported. We’re so proud and lucky that Professor Wilfong is part of the Honors family.

Welcome New Honor Program Students!

Mackenzie Arrowood
Marion Benson
Autumn Channer
Neelah Clough
Evelyn Conran
Abby DeStefani
Brooke Egan
Jazmin Garcia
Madison Goforth
Luis Hernandez
Brittney Huynh
Corey Jones
Esa Kahn
Alice Manera
Rebecca O’Shea
Elizabeth Parton
Harshil Patel
Deena Pierce
Manon Renaud
Ava Singh
Abigail Stefanacci
Jeremiah Tobin

Congrats Graduates!

Kaylee Adrien
Kaitlyn Bartus
Gabriel Clark
Elise Cotuna
Evelyn Conran
Justin Dogan
Anna Galloway
Za’cairiah Hoke
Jeanay Luines
Itzel Pavon
Zachary Pendergrace
Cherry Pritchett
Kaeia San Pedro
Dallas Shuman
Bryce Sippel
Evelyn Conran
Daniel Woodruff

Special Thanks!

Thank you to the following instructors for teaching Honors in Spring 2021: Mark Roper, Susan Hall, Kathy Maples, Liz Wilfong, Brian Easler, Jamie Roughton, Matt Cazessus, and Lori Trumbo.

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