A Time of Transitions:

Professor April Dove

Effective August 9, 2019, I’ll be transitioning out of the role of Honors Program director and back into the role of full-time instructor at GTC.

I am excited to have the opportunity to return to the classroom to teach sociology, and I am grateful that the time I have served as Honors Program director has been so incredibly rewarding. I am thankful for the wonderful support I’ve received from college administration, faculty, and staff during my tenure. I’m proud of the work we’ve accomplished together to strengthen the Program and to better serve the Honors Program student body at GTC.

Julie Rosenau, the assistant director, and I have worked diligently to strengthen the structure and rigor of the Program, to build the Program’s reputation both on and off campus, and to cultivate professional relationships with various stakeholders across the college and in the broader community.

The students we serve are, and have always been, my priority as director. I have had the pleasure of working with extraordinary students over the past several years, and their successes will always remain some of my proudest professional accomplishments. Witnessing the growth of Honors Program students during the past five years has been a remarkable experience for which I am eternally grateful. I will cherish the memories of my time working in the Program for the rest of my career, and I look forward to supporting the Program from the sidelines starting this fall.

The role of honors education at GTC is vital to the college’s mission, and the individual leading the Program is equally vital. I have no doubt that the newly selected director, Professor Rebecca Clark, will successfully build upon the good work that has already been completed to solidify the Program’s value to the college. She is a talented instructor, has administrative experience, and was even an honors program student while she attended Coastal Carolina University for her undergraduate work. She believes wholeheartedly in the mission of the Program and the value of honors education at two-year institutions. She’s an excellent choice for this position and will no doubt take honors education at GTC to the next level!
First and foremost, please join me in thanking April Dove for an outstanding tenure as director. This Program would not be at the level of excellence it is today without the hard work of a dedicated and enthusiastic leader like Professor Dove.

As I’ve talked with Professor Dove and Ms. Rosenau, it’s evident the hard work that students put not only into their education, but also their lives outside of the school when enrolled in this Program. We are lucky at GTC to be surrounded by a diverse student body with many responsibilities to themselves, their families, and their communities. It’s important to me that those students are in turn given the support they need to succeed at a high level of excellence in the Honors Program. That being said, I cannot emphasize enough my openness and willingness to help honors students succeed. Students: my door is open to you! I am excited to meet you.

The support I have already received from administration and faculty has been overwhelming, and I thank you all. I also look forward to collaborating with our remarkable community network as I step into the directorship officially.

I am enormously grateful for April Dove and Julie Rosenau’s mentorship and support as I transition into this role. I look forward to meeting new students, faculty, administration, and community members as the fall semester gets underway!

—at this year’s convocation ceremony, the President’s Award was bestowed upon Honors Program student Zachary Romanick. This distinction is awarded to students who demonstrate exceptional leadership, character, and service to Greenville Technical College and the community, all while maintaining a high academic rating. Zack is well-deserving of this award, and we are proud of his commitment to excellence, his positive attitude, and his willingness to help and support those around him. Way to go, Zack!

The Atlantic Institute hosts a Future Leaders of Dialogue Dinner each year, and while in attendance with fellow Honors Program students, Tristan Whitby was selected to participate in a trip to our state capitol. While there, he had the opportunity to observe state house functions and meet with state leaders, such as Secretary of State Mark Hammond (pictured at right).
Honors and Creative Inquiry:

By Professor Rachel Cobb

“If only . . .” These words had been on the tip of my tongue for years. As I’m sure many in my profession can attest, we all have a “perfect” class setting in mind.

When teaching speech communication classes, my ideal class setting consisted of a smaller class size, roughly 12-15 students. I dreamed of what I could do with only 12-15 students. I dreamed of how we could truly dig into, explore, and practice the concepts we were studying. However, I tucked those dreams and creative thoughts away in order to accommodate the 20-25 students who sat in each of my classrooms each semester. With that many students, the restrictions on what I could do were tight.

Then came the incredible opportunity to teach an Honors Public Speaking course with, yes, just 12-15 students. Suddenly, I was allowed to revisit those dreams and creativity infuse them into an activity-based learning approach. This was what I had always desired to try, and this was just the beginning. In my first Honors speech class, I met a student who has a passion for communication and wanted to go even deeper than our class study allowed. Another opportunity was surfacing.

After taking my Intercultural Communication class the following semester, this same student approached me about Creative Inquiry. She wanted to study culture and advance her public speaking abilities. After further discussion, it was evident that this was a true opportunity to teach in a brand new way that completely encompasses my desire to “dig in, explore, and practice” what was learned. We completed our agreement and got to work.

She worked hard. She dug deep. She did her research beyond what I expected. The project challenged me as well, and I embraced the ability to push her further to develop the potential she had. She flourished.

I could not be more proud to say that I had the privilege to teach not only the first Speech Communication Creative Inquiry, but also the first Honors Speech Communication Creative Inquiry. However, the pride I feel has everything to do with the accomplishments of the student. I feel privileged to have had an exciting front row seat to witness her transformation.

To see a student dig in with eager anticipation and humble spirit...is beyond rewarding.

I could not be more proud to say that I had the privilege to teach not only the first Speech Communication Creative Inquiry, but also the first Honors Speech Communication Creative Inquiry. However, the pride I feel has everything to do with the accomplishments of the student. I feel privileged to have had an exciting front row seat to witness her transformation.

To see a student dig in with eager anticipation and a humble spirit desirous to learn and watch her grow leaps and bounds to be a polished educator herself is beyond rewarding.

That is why we do what we do. That is what Honors education can create. That is not only how our students grow, but also, and just as important, how we as educators and guides grow as well.
WYFF 4: DOES IT WORK?

For a WYFF4 “Does it Work?” segment, Honors Program student Rossa Phet worked with biology professor Poonam Shores to conduct a lab experiment to determine if the product PhoneSoap works as advertised. The product claims to eliminate germs on cell phones by using a UV light mechanism. The results? It works!

GRENVILLE TECH FOUNDATION
Donor Event at CMI

The Greenville Tech Foundation works tirelessly to support the college and its students, and Honors Program students volunteer their time to give back whenever opportunity presents itself. At this year’s Foundation donor event, on April 23 at the Center for Manufacturing Innovation (CMI), students Harry Jarrett, Zachary Romanick, and Dallas Shuman (pictured at left with Ms. Judy Wilson, Director of Development) assisted with parking, directions, and welcoming guests as they arrived.

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

Class of May 2019

Savanna Bagwell
Jadin Beek
Kate Berzins
Sara Berzins
James Brinley
Shanecia Buchanan
Estefania Cano
Lindsay Cole
Virgil Davila-Denizard
Morgan Ford
Gillian Kaufman
James Little
Sarah Claire Mullis
Rossa Phet
Zack Romanick
Blake Roth
Camila Rueda-Torres
Haley Schmidt
Tyler Ternes

Class of Dec. 2018

Brooke Bolding
Morgan Gates
Ariba Johar
Danielle McConaghy
Judith Owuor
Maddie Williams

Congratulations to Our New Students!

On January 9, we welcomed ten new Honors Program students at orientation, complete with the infamous marshmallow challenge!

Ruth Abayneh
Elipheil Miezan
Effie Geynghy
Morgan Mills
Anahyra Fernandez
Shrina Shah
Anusha Ghosh
Dallas Shuman
Efren Hernandez Valdes
Andrew Sippel

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Greenville Technical College
Honors Program