A Note from Director Dove: Why SRHC?

The GTC Honors Program has long held membership with the Southern Regional Honors Council, an organization that advocates for honors education in the southeast.

Each year, the Program selects students to attend the SRHC conference where they have the opportunity to present their honors research in a professional, academic setting. The conference is primarily student-centered, placing its emphasis on student presentations, workshops, networking events, and social outings. Students are able to take ownership of their scholarship in a way that extends beyond the traditional classroom by employing the critical thinking and public speaking skills acquired in their courses to discuss their work to a group of their honors peers from around the region. They also network with students from other institutions, share stories, develop friendships, and celebrate a sense of collegiate community. Attending the conference is not only beneficial to their academic and professional development, but it also fosters a sense of confidence that is truly inspiring to witness.

This spring Ms. Rosenau and I were fortunate to take four Honors Program students to the 2018 SRHC conference in Washington, D.C. Jackson Tumlin, Savannah Trantner, Hope Matherly, and Emma Hodges presented research from Dr. McAbee’s Honors World History class. Their work focused on the historical figure Robespierre, women’s roles in the French and Russian Revolutions, Berlin’s preparation for the 1936 Olympic Games, and women’s rights movements in Britain and France during the 19th and 20th centuries. Each presented their scholarship with professionalism and poise. We even had time to explore the D.C. area, walking the tidal basin to see the cherry blossoms and visiting the National Mall, the Washington Monument, the Air and Space Museum, the American History Museum, and the MLK, Jr. National Monument. We are so proud of these students and their accomplishments!

Director Dove was selected as Greenville Tech’s 2018 Professor of the Year, a prestigious award given to those who represent the best of the best. The fact that Dir. Dove is the cream of the crop is old news to Honors faculty, staff, and students. Her dedication to her work as an instructor and as director of the Honors Program, her unmitting devotion to individual student success and to the college’s success as a whole, and the competence and generosity she brings to any task are more than worthy of this recognition. (Above: Dir. Dove with Patty Amick, former Dean of Public Service, Arts & Sciences Division)
SRHC: Representing GTC in DC!

The GTC Honors Program is an active member of both the National Collegiate Honors Council and the Southern Regional Honors Council, a regional extension of NCHC.

Each year, the SRHC holds a conference in one of its eleven member states. A traditionally student-focused platform, this conference affords honors students the opportunity to present their scholarly papers and research in a professional, academic setting. This year, Director Dove and Asst. Dir. Ms. Rosenau accompanied Honors Program students Emma Hodges, Savannah Tranter, Hope Matherly, and Jackson Tumlin to Washington, DC where the students presented work from their Honors Program courses.

Upstate Research Symposium

The 14th Annual SC Upstate Research Symposium was held at USC Upstate on April 13. Presenters representing over 20 colleges and universities were present, including our own Kaitlyn Coons (pictured above with Honors Prof. Chuck Baker) and Savannah Tranter—who won an award for best oral presentation—Audrey Pelicano, and Jackson Tumlin (pictured right with Honors Prof. Dr. Lee McAbee).

The symposium aims to provide a forum where faculty and students from Upstate undergrad institutions can discuss and share their research and scholarly and/or creative endeavors. The goal is to stimulate research, grant writing, and multidisciplinary collaborations while exposing students to varied aspects of research dissemination.

Student Scholar Showcase!

The 3rd Annual Student Scholar Showcase, held April 11, was a celebration and recognition of academic achievement at GTC. The event was a great success thanks to the many hours of hard work by the showcase committee. The Honors Program is pleased to be a part of the Showcase and proud of our students who represented themselves and us so well.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:
Kaitlyn Coons & Hope Matherly

Kaitlyn and Hope were both awarded the coveted President’s Award at the 2018 May Commencement Ceremony and are a credit to GTC and to the Honors Program.

Kaitlyn completed an Associate in Arts degree. In 2017, she presented scholarly work from her honors courses at the Southern Regional Honors Council conference in Asheville, NC, the USC Upstate Research Symposium, and the GTC Student Scholar Showcase. In 2018, Kaitlyn completed a Creative Inquiry research project under the guidance of Honors Literature Professor Chuck Baker and presented at the USC Upstate Research Symposium and the GTC Student Scholar Showcase.

Hope completed both an Associate in Arts and an Associate in Science degree. In 2017, she presented scholarly work from an Honors Public Speaking course at the GTC Student Scholar Showcase, and in 2018, she presented work from an Honors World History course at the Southern Regional Honors Council conference in Washington, DC.

Both Kaitlyn and Hope have developed superior academic skills as well as service leadership skills that will carry them far into their professional careers beyond the walls of GTC. We couldn’t be prouder!

Liz Anderson
Honors Advisory Council Member

The Honors Program provides qualified students with a truly unique experience—one that offers special classes, small class sizes, rigorous standards, and a close-knit, supportive community within the larger college. As an advisor, I encounter academically superior students who are seeking a challenge, and I also meet students who may meet the qualifications for the Program, but are uncertain of their goals or unaware of their potential. Referring these students to the Honors Program can be like opening a door for them, one they didn’t know they could walk through or one they didn’t even realize existed. Not only will they receive specialized courses, taught seminar-style by specially designated Honors faculty, but they will also have opportunities for service and fellowship, career exploration, award and scholarship opportunities, and academic recognition. It is a privilege and a pleasure to attend the Honors graduation and to hear Prof. Dove introduce each student, detailing his or her many accomplishments to assembled faculty, staff, friends, and family. When I see the pride and accomplishment on their faces, I know that we are sending them into the world transformed, grown beyond their own expectations, and ready for the new challenges ahead. I am very proud to work for an institution that recognizes and supports the value of our outstanding Honors Program.

Q & A with Randy Bartlett
Honors Program Alumnus

What is the value of the Honors Program at GTC?
I think Greenville Tech does a great job of surrounding people with other demographics than they may be used to. The Honors Program takes that environment and makes students more comfortable with it by fostering closer relationships, particularly in the resource room, but for me, it all starts in the discussion-based classrooms. Being encompassed by such diversity in a mature and professional environment was invaluable.

What was your biggest challenge and your biggest success in the Program?
My biggest challenge was realizing and accepting that I can’t do everything as well as I would like. BIO 102 was a difficult class for me; despite all my hours of hard work and commitment, a C was the best grade I could earn. I learned that it wasn’t the end of the world when I didn’t do particularly well. As for success, I can’t think of a biggest success right now, but actually graduating from the Program seems like a win.

What is your fondest memory from being in the Program?
My fondest memories come from the Honors Resource Room, and I honestly can’t pick any particular one. From the serious conversations we had to the times I couldn’t breathe from all the laughter, there were a lot of good times had in that room.

How did the Program help prepare you for academic work at *USC?
Greenville Tech helped me take care of nearly all my core classes so that when I got to USC I could focus on politics. The Honors Program specifically brought me in contact with many different people and ideas and helped me to listen. When I got to USC and political science, I was much more aware of other perspectives than many of my peers were. I still had opinions, but I realized that others can have very legitimate reasons for their opinions too.

*Randy will begin at the USC School of Law this fall.
Congratulations Graduates!

At the Honors Program Graduation Ceremony on December 14, we celebrated the hard work and achievements of seven of our Honors Superstars.

It is a bittersweet event as we look forward with them, cheering them on to bright futures ahead and wishing them well as we say goodbye. We will miss you all!

Eugene Bishop
Danielle Dechant
Thomas Flottemesch
Diana May
Katrina McMindes
Laura Playa-Pariente
Ben Taylor

Welcome New Students!

At the Honors Program Orientation on January 4, we welcomed a cohort of twelve new students into the Honors Program family.

Congratulations on the hard work and achievement it took to get here! We look forward to helping you through the next few years and to celebrating your accomplishments at the end!

Brock Anders
Lindsay Cole
Virgil Davila-Denizard
Joseph Fernandez
Trudy Flottemesch
Morgan Gates
Ariba Johar
Emilee McKinsey
Andrew Miller
Rossa Phet
Christian Reyes
My Tran

CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

As part of their Honors Program requirements, students attend a minimum of one cultural engagement event per semester. On Feb. 21, a group of students and faculty attended the Mavis Staples concert at the Peace Center in downtown Greenville, one of many events, both on and off campus, attended by students this year.

SPRING PICNIC

Our annual Spring Picnic was held on Saturday, April 14, at Cleveland Park in downtown Greenville, where Honors faculty and staff, along with students and their families, gathered for Bucky’s BBQ, badminton, and a rollicking good time.