A NOTE FROM DIRECTOR DOVE

The Greenville Tech Foundation

The GTC Foundation is a non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of the college to help provide financial support for college initiatives, programs, and most importantly, students. The Honors Program, like many other programs at GTC, has a great working relationship with the Foundation that has proven beneficial to our mission: to provide enhanced academic, service learning, cultural engagement, and leadership development opportunities to our students.

Not only does the Foundation connect us with local individual and corporate donors, but it also provides our students the opportunity to engage in exciting cultural events and to give back to the college and the local community through important service learning opportunities.

This year, through the Jake Jacobs Honors Program Fund at the dialogue dinner event is an excellent primer for leadership class: it quite literally sets the table for students to become better scholars, problem solvers, communicators, and leaders. Similarly, the Leadership course lays a solid foundation for students to gain knowledge and skills crucial to their lives and work, both academically and professionally, here at Greenville Technical College and beyond.

Fostering Leadership in and out of the classroom

Dr. Kathryn Hix, Faculty Fellow, Associate Professor of English, and professor of the Honors Leadership Seminar reflects on the promotion and cultivation of leadership.

Recently I joined a group of Honors students at the 2018 Atlantic Institute Future Leaders Dialogue Dinner at Greer City Hall. This annual event offers students, faculty, and community stakeholders from across the Upstate the opportunity to partake in meaningful dialogue over dinner. Intentional conversation combined with the intimacy of a shared meal sets forth an atmosphere conducive to honesty, exploration, growth, and mutual understanding. Students enjoy a safe environment in which to share stories, traditions, insights, and experiences. The theme for this year’s event was “Be a Change Maker,” and Dr. J. Aaron Simmons from Furman University was the speaker; he gave an engaging talk about the dangers of dichotomies, the refusal to accept the status quo, and the importance of changing the playing field in order to bring about a kinder, better, more inclusive and thoughtful world. At the dinner, students were able to network with one another and with professors from various institutions as well as leaders from Atlantic Institute. It was an excellent way to learn more about ourselves and our diverse community.

As I reflect on this evening and the benefits of such an experience (for the students and for myself!), it brings to mind the goals of the Honors Program’s capstone course, Leadership Through the Humanities. The objectives of this course can be difficult for students to grasp initially because there are few, if any, right and wrong answers; we grapple with topics and discuss issues that do not necessarily have a set solution but instead require reading, research, and critical thinking and that ideally lead to an acknowledgement of differing viewpoints and an ability to appreciate various perspectives. In this way, the ...

...to bring about a kinder, better, more inclusive and thoughtful world.
A Note from Director Dove, cont.

Foundation, we’ve been able to send students to two Peace Center events: an evening with legendary singer and civil rights activist Mavis Staples and the Ballet Folklórico de Mexico.

Thanks to donor funding, our students also had opportunities to travel, including GTC-sponsored regional trips to explore history and culture in Atlanta, Georgia and Charleston, South Carolina, and a trip to the Southern Regional Honors Council (SRHC) annual conference in Washington, DC where Honors students from colleges and universities around the region gather to present research and scholarship from Honors courses in a professional atmosphere.

Honors Program students also volunteer with the Foundation for two important donor events each year in April and October, providing them with wonderful leadership opportunities to represent both the Program and the broader GTC community.

I am very thankful to Ann Wright, Vice President of Advancement, Judy Wilson, Director of Development, and all of the other wonderful Foundation employees for sharing our mission with community members so that we’re able to provide these valuable opportunities to our students!

Workforce Development Salute

The Greenville Tech Foundation’s Workforce Development Salute honors corporate and community partners for their contributions to and continued support of workforce development. At this year’s event, on October 9, three honorees were recognized: Bosch-Rexroth, Greenville Health System, and Michelin North America.

Spirits were high and smiles bright as Honors Program student volunteers greeted guests, scanned tickets, directed traffic, parked cars, and escorted guests from the parking lot to the venue at GTC’s Aircraft Maintenance Technology facility at SCTAC.

Thank-a-thon: Appreciating Donors

On November 27, Honors Program students gathered at the GTC Foundation office to spend an evening calling donors and offering a simple, heartfelt “thank you.”

Letting our donor community know they are appreciated and communicating the profound impact donor gifts have on the lives of GTC students is a happy task for our student volunteers.

Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it. —William Arthur Ward

“The Thank-a-Thon was an amazing opportunity to connect with the people who help to keep this school growing and able to serve an amazing student body,” said student Will Asbury. “Calling strangers is always slightly terrifying, but if you never step out of your comfort zone you’ll never get anywhere other than where you’ve already been. It was really cool to let donors know that they are appreciated—10/10 would do again.”

Pictured below, left to right: Will Asbury, Ashton Little, James Brinley, Director of Development Judy Wilson, Angelina Vita, Andrew Miller, Justin Kristensen, Savannah Bagwell, and Grace Clements.

I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought, and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder. —Gilbert K. Chesterton

Pictured above, center: Judy Wilson, GTC Foundation Director of Development. Left to right: Honors students Estefania Cano, Christian Reyes, Harry Jarrett, Blake Roth, Zach Romanick, Lindsay Cole, Will Asbury, and James Brinley.

Ballet Folklórico de Mexico

On the evening of November 15, Dir. Dove and Asst. Dir. Rosenau accompanied students Victoria Christie, Joelle Zima, Ariba Jobar, Lindsay Cole, and Morgan Gates to the Ballet Folklórico de Mexico at the Peace Center downtown Greenville.
Student Contributors:

Estefania Cano & Zachary Romanick reflect on their Honors Program experiences as they enter their fourth and last semester.

What are three of your favorite things about the Honors Program?

Estefania: My favorite things are the students, the directors, and the classes. The Honors Program is an active community of students who exemplify strong leadership skills. All are unique and talented individuals who use their talents to assist others, whether it be with advice, tutoring sessions, or words of encouragement. The directors, Professor Dove and Professor Rosenau, go above and beyond to assist us in every way possible. Whether we need academic or personal advice, they are always there to help and are the most attentive and caring people I have ever met. Lastly, the classes are one of my favorite parts about the Program. Most of the honors courses are discussion-based, and because I am a kinesthetic learner, this has benefited me immensely. I am able to store more information and have interesting debates during class. The instructors are amazing, and the students show interest and care about succeeding in each course. Overall, my experience at GTC would not have been the same if I had not joined the Honors Program. The students, directors, and classes provide a positive and energetic atmosphere that motivates me to come to school every morning.

Zach: The Program offers so much which makes it hard for me to pick my favorite things, but the three most important to me are the class sizes, the Resource Room, and the opportunities we get as Honors students. The Honors courses have a smaller class size which gives us the opportunity to engage more in discussions. There is less lecture time and more open debate which allows us to use our knowledge and gain new insights from classmates all while learning about the topic; as a student, I find this more interesting and engaging. The second thing I enjoy most about the Honors Program is the Resource Room which is a wonderful place to relax with friends or to crunch in some last-minute studying for an exam. Another thing I like most about the Honors Program is that it opens new doors for me. I have volunteered a number of times with the Greenville Tech Foundation because they specifically asked for Honors Program students. This was a wonderful experience that I was able to take advantage of thanks to the Honors Program. There are many other opportunities that I am presented with as an Honors Program student and these all work to prepare me for the real world.

What has surprised you most about the Honors Program?

Estefania: What surprised me the most is the strong support system. The students in the Program play a significant role in my success at GTC. Without them, I would have had a completely different experience.

Zach: One of the things that surprised me the most was how fast everyone in the Program became friends with one another. You can see a huge difference between people in an honors course verses a non-honors course just by the way we get along with each other. We treat each other like family and it is very helpful to have people you can turn to and trust when you are in the stressful part of the semester. I am not afraid to ask anyone in the Honors Program for help, and at the same time I am very willing to return the favor to anyone who needs my help. I heard many college stories from my high school teachers, and none of them described such an inviting atmosphere like the Honors Program. That is why I am most surprised about the people I have met and the family I have become a part of.

What have you learned about yourself through your Honors Program experience?

Estefania: The Honors Program has taught me so much about myself and others. One of the main attributes I was able to learn about myself is how quickly I can make new friends. Because of this, I try to coordinate restaurant outings or activities outside the Program to help other Honors students who might have difficulty making friends. As a result of these outings, I have seen friendships flourish and have received lots of positive feedback. It feels great knowing that I can use something I am good at to improve the lives of others.

Zach: Through my Honors Program experience I have learned that there is more to school than just earning a degree. I could have taken the easy road by flying through college and getting a degree, but I decided to challenge myself. In the Honors Program I have not only been challenged with course work, but I have also been challenged with things one doesn’t normally think about every day. People do not realize the number of volunteers needed within a community. Through my experiences volunteering at different local organizations I have met incredible people as well as given back to those in the community. Volunteering is not only a feel-good activity, but it also gives me the opportunity to grow as a person. This is not something that can be learned in the classroom. The Honors Program has taught me there is so much more than just going to class and being average, but rather you can be doing great things.

FALL FEAST
Game Night

Our Annual Fall Feast, held the Monday before Thanksgiving, is a time for the Honors Program family to unwind, take a break (albeit short) from academics, and spend some time having fun together. This year’s event was a night of games which culminated in a fast and furious round of Catch Phrase.
Congratulations to Our Graduates!

We are so proud of you, and we applaud all of your hard work!

Kevin Burgess  Alysha Heaston  Jack Markowitz  Anna Schlappinger
Jacob Coons    Emma Hodges    Hope Matherly   Samantha Sivilay
Kaitlyn Coons  Emilio Isaac   Charlotte Matherly  Aidan Toomey
Avery DeGennaro Kwon Jang     Thien Nguyen    Savannah Tranter
Sophie Finnell Anna Kemp      Audrey Pelicano  Audrey Zerance

If you are the smartest person in the room, I suggest you invite smarter people, or find a different room.

— Michael Dell to Univ. of Texas, 2003

Welcome Our New Cohort!

William Asbury  Justin Kristensen
Savannah Bagwell Mckenna La Pierre
Austin Baxley  Brittney McCarson
Jadin Beek     Melissa McIntee
James Brinley  Nathan Mejia
Grace Clements Momoko Pfaff
Jacob Coffee  Blake Roth
Justin Dogan  Haley Schmidt
Sarah Eberhardt Angelina Vita
Daniel Fortson Stefan Wagner
Harry Jarrett  Sophia Young
Kathryn Kolarik

Winning team of the infamous Marshmallow Challenge team-building contest conducted at each Honors Program Orientation: (left to right) Blake Roth, Will Asbury, and Mckenna LaPierre.