

The Honors Program at Sweet Briar College

Fall 2014 • Alumni and Parent Newsletter

Welcome to a New Academic Year in Honors!



We are thrilled to welcome 51 new first-year Honors students in the Class of 2018! As always, we welcome this opportunity to share a few highlights of the program with Honors friends, alumni, and the parents of current Honors students.



- *Jill Nelson Granger (left), Director of The Honors Program and Julie Hemstreet (right), The Honors Program Associate Administrator*

Senior Honors Thesis Research

Eight seniors in the class of 2015 are pursuing a Senior Honors Thesis Research project in their major. Students who successfully complete the challenging, year-long thesis project are awarded Departmental Honors in their major and are recognized at commencement.

Kiera Cavalleri (Engineering): Water Treatment in Context: Resources and African Religions

Emily Diamond (Biology): Characterizing Promoter Activity of an O-Antigen Chain Length Regulator in Mucoic and Non-Mucoic *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

Lydia Ethridge (History): Tolerance in a Time of Intolerance: Louis XVI's Edict of Versailles

Kathryn Fanta (Engineering): Characterization of Myoelectric Nerve Signals to Relieve Phantom Limb Pain

DJ Gallagher (Classics): Elucidating Ennius: The Influences of the *Annales* on Virgil and Ovid

Verena Joerger (Environmental Science): Environmental Controls on New Particle Formation in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia

Olivia Muchmore (English): How Meaning is Made: The Theory of Meaning in Literature and Art

Ashley Tucker (English and Creative Writing): "Sing a Black Girl's Song": A Collection of Choreo-poetic Poems

Fall Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference on Undergraduate Scholarship

The 16th annual MARCUS Conference was held on campus Saturday, October 11. Approximately 100 students from 18 colleges, including Sweet Briar, participated in the presentation sessions throughout the day. The conference provides a forum for our students to showcase their research and to gain first-hand experience in hosting an academic conference. It also provides a wonderful opportunity for visiting families to see and experience academic engagement in action!



- *Environmental Science major Verena Joerger '15, presenting her research during the poster session at the MARCUS Conference*



- *Engineering and Religion double major Kiera Cavalleri '15, presenting her research during an oral presentation session at the MARCUS Conference*

2014 Honors Summer Research Program

It was a lively and eventful eight weeks of hard work for students and their faculty sponsor-mentors, bookended by dinners celebrating the start of the program and its successful conclusion! English and Creative Writing Professor John Gregory Brown (faculty sponsor) and his wife Carrie Brown, hosted a dinner in their garden on the first day of the summer program. As the program got underway the group enjoyed an early morning berry picking outing, dinner with Dean Cheryl Steele, a 4th of July picnic, a trip to the Lexington, VA drive-in to see the "Wizard of Oz," a hike to the oldest tree on campus, and a final dinner hosted by two other faculty participants, Professor Lynn Laufenberg (history) and Professor Jessica Salvatore (psychology). And of course, throughout the summer, students and faculty sponsors were engaged in research. Some of the research done by students and their faculty sponsors was collaborative, including the work of environmental science Professor Tom O'Halloran and Verena Joerger '15, whose summer "laboratory" was a 120-foot tower in a small pine forest on the edge of campus. Many of the students were engaged in research that will form the basis of their Senior Honors Thesis work and all of the students agreed the experience, although at times challenging and frustrating, was invaluable!

2014 Summer Research Projects

Kiera Cavalleri '15: Water Treatment in Context: Resources and African Religion

Khirsten Cook '15: Ekphrastic Writing Using the Sweet Briar Collection

Kathryn Drews '16: Developing and Investigating Layer-by-Layer Technique to Fabricate Three Dimensional Polymer Structures

Lydia Ethridge '15: The Beloved Body of the King: The Politics of Louis XV's Sacred Body

Kathryn Fanta '15: Extracting Information from Myoelectric Signals

Savanna Klein '16: Into the Gaps: Connecting Science and Creative Writing Through Sweet Briar's Nature Sanctuaries

Amy Kvien '15: Modeling Potential Implications of Basel III

Verena Joerger: Measuring Nanoparticle Formation in the Blue Ridge Haze

Marta Saul '15: Sexually Submissive Feminists in the Wake of the Sex Wars

First Year Honors KIVA Project

Last year, with a generous grant from the President's Office, the Honors Program set up an initiative that introduces students to the KIVA organization, to the idea of micro-lending, and to the geography and culture of people who are served by the KIVA micro-lending organization. This fall, first year Honors students again participated in this hands-on, minds-on, experience that connects them to the world and to each other. Each student made a micro-loan of \$25, through KIVA.org, to a woman in a developing country, to help achieve her goal of educating herself or her children, starting or expanding a small business, or helping to improve her village or community. Through this experience students have the opportunity to think reflectively about their own personal priorities and missions, and, in sharing these values-based decisions, to learn more about their new Sweet Briar friends and classmates. It also connects the Honors Program students to one of the most important goals of a Sweet Briar education: "Sweet Briar College prepares women to be productive, responsible members of a world community." The Honors Program also recognizes the best online "e-portfolios" created by students about their KIVA experience. This year's award winners were announced at the December Honors Colloquium: first prize went to Daniela Ramirez, second prize was awarded to Baylee Worth.

Class of 2017 Pannell Honors Scholars

The sophomore Anne Gary Pannell Merit Scholarship awardees have embarked on their projects of research, writing, personal and intellectual inquiry, and career exploration. A record 16 students in the class of 2017 received a Pannell Scholarship that includes a merit award applied to their sophomore year tuition and funds to carry out a project designed by the student during the academic year. The application process for the Class of 2018 begins early in the spring semester.

Class of 2017 Projects

Hannah Beall: The Dutch Masters, Uncovering the Arts of Delft

Marcelle Coronel: Publishing a Picture Book: My Journey as a Freelance Artist

Kiley Jolicoeur: An Exploration of Borgesian Time

Madalyn Lee: Virtual Explorations with Second Life, Open Simulator, and Autodesk Inventor

Camille Leeds: Introducing Classics Students to the Little Known, Modern Classical World

Jessica Lusby: Exploring Culture Through Food

Brea Marshall: Psychophysics: Understanding the Relationship Between Music and Our Perception of it, and How Autism is Treated in the 21st Century

Briana McCall: Vocal and Instrumental Digital Recording of Original Works

Allison McLamb: The Only Disability in Life is a Bad Attitude

Holly Rueger: Study of the effectiveness of NGOs and of Dance/Movement in Burkina Faso

Rebecca Salustri and Jessie Schuster (team project): The Sweet Briar Woman: A Standard in Excellence

Mariah Smith: Bursting the Pink and Green Bubble

Honors on Facebook!

The Honors Program supports a Facebook page and a Facebook group! “Like” our Page to keep in touch with news of interest. “Join” our Group to get announcements about upcoming events and news bits! Who do you think is the biggest Fan of the Honors Program? Share your ideas with us on Facebook!

