

Welcome to a new year in Honors! There are many obvious and well-known reasons to celebrate the start of this year, but one you may not know is this year marks the 26th year of the Sweet Briar College Honors Program. We begin our second quarter century with robust numbers of returning Honors students in the classes of 2016, 2017 and 2018, a testament to both the strength of the program and its vital role in retaining our best students.

## HONORS PROGRAM STUDENT COUNCIL

Among those who returned to the Honors Program this year were all of the students serving on the Honors Program Student Council: **Emily Dallas** and **Savanna Klein**, class of 2016, **Hannah Beall** and **Jessie Schuster**, class of 2017 and **Claire Zak** and **Paige Chamblin**, class of 2018. They have worked hard this fall to re-connect our community of Honors students and to introduce our newest Honors students to the many academic opportunities available in the Honors Program.



left to right:

Jessie Schuster, Claire Zak,  
Emily Dallas, Hannah Beall,  
Savanna Klein,  
Paige Chamblin

## SENIOR HONORS THESIS RESEARCH

Four seniors in the class of 2016 began the year pursuing a Senior Honors Thesis 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.

Class of 2016 thesis candidates:

**Madeline Artibee**, majoring in anthropology: "Abandoned Resorts and Foreign Investors: Croatia's Tourist Economy"

**Kiersten Garcia**, majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology: “3(2H) Furanone Synthesis and Investigation of Possible Ultraviolet Light Transformation”

**Shannon McCarthy**, majoring in musical theater: Developing, Casting and Directing “She Kills Monsters”

**Alexis Smith**, majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology): Synthesis and Photochemical Study of Inotilone”

### CLASS OF 2018 PANNELL SCHOLARS

Four Honors students in the class of 2018 were awarded an Anne Gary Pannell Honors Scholarship for sophomore year. The Pannell Honors Scholars program recognizes and rewards students of exceptional initiative and ability, and provides them with a unique opportunity to explore an area of interest more fully during their sophomore year. The selected scholars receive a merit award applied to their Sweet Briar College tuition for sophomore year, which is typically in the range of \$1000 - \$3000. In addition, the award includes funds of up to \$3000 to support the student’s proposed project. Projects can be broadly imagined – in a specific academic discipline, or interdisciplinary, possibly service-oriented. They can be related to a course, to future career interests, or to explore a new or ongoing intellectual interest.

This year’s Pannell Scholars are

- **Paige Chamblin**, who plans to use her engineering skills to design and develop an inexpensive LED-based otoscope, an instrument used for visual examination of the eardrum and the outer ear.
- **Lauren (Velocity) Haigh**, who plans to investigate Korea’s role in global affairs and the historical role it played in the development of the West, as well as gain a fundamental understanding of the language. As part of her project, she will travel to Seoul, South Korea.
- **Daniela Ramirez**, who is undertaking a comparative, historical study of archery styles and their development over time in three distinct geographical areas: Western Europe, Mongolia, and Japan. As part of her project, she is collecting a series of reproductions of period bows and arrows and will use them at a local archery range, to support her research.
- **Melissa Wert**, whose project is a combination of her interests in animal rescue and rehabilitation, and managing a non-profit organization. As part of her project, she will spend a week during the winter break, living and working onsite at a wild horse rescue center in Florida.

Next semester, each of the Pannell Scholars will give a presentation on her project to the campus community at the Pannell Scholars Fair, on April 20, 2016. Also in the spring, the selection process begins for the Class of 2019 Pannell Scholars.