Spring Commencement 2018

On May 5, 2018, Spring Commencement was held on the lawn at Flowerhill. Active Honors students graduating that day included the following:

**Bachelor of Arts**

- Morgan Alford
- Gabrielle Gannon*
- Hannah Mummert*
- Sara Perry*

**Bachelor of Science**

- Mollie Boynton*, Julia Burke*
- Sarah Cooley*, Lily Elmore*
- William Felch, Emily Ferguson*
- Nicolette Fiessinger, Molly Green, Kylie Kerr, Brian Kirkwood, Elizabeth Moore*, Ilyssa Overton, Nicole Stratton, Ryann Taylor, Daisy Wallace*, Joyia Williams*, Amy Wilson*

*Indicates recipient of Honors Diploma
Spring Commencement 2018

Bachelor of Business Administration
Saralyn Campbell*
Colton Williamson*

Bachelor of Fine Arts
Ashlyn Bondurant*
Amanda South*

Bachelor of Music
Logan Anthony

*Indicates recipient of Honors Diploma
Honors Students Published in COPLAC Journal

Three Honors students had their work published in the Spring 2018 issue of the COPLAC (Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges) journal, *Metamorphosis*.

Julia Burke: “CRISPR/dCas9-Mediated Upregulation of Reelin and Neuronal Excitability” - Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jeremy Day

Donovan Cleckley: “Feminizing the Male Persona” - Faculty Mentor: Dr. Cathlena Martin

Rebekah Koen: “Motivation Level and Community Involvement of Military Students” - Faculty Mentor: Dr. Gregory Samuels

http://metamorphosis.coplac.org/index.php/metamorphosis

Congratulations to the Honors Program students serving as 2018 - 2019 Montevallo Masters

Alex Coleman
Olivia Eldridge
William Lowery
Daniel Moore
Bria Owens
Savannah Willard
Honors Travel Grant
ACURIT: Augustana Conference on Undergraduate Research and Innovative Teaching

by Donovan Cleckley

Flying to Edmonton in Alberta, Canada was exciting, first, because it was my first time flying out of the country and, second, because I, alongside my undergraduate research partner Annika Bastian, presented at the Augustana Conference on Undergraduate Research and Innovative Teaching (ACURIT). Our presentation was on a project that we worked on together in a Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) course titled “Making Strange: Constructing Identities and Making Sense of Our Surroundings.” The presented project covered an examination of strangeness in terms of social expectations related to how people construct, communicate, and comprehend gender and sexuality.

Providing student perspectives during the roundtable, Annika and I discussed our experiences in the COPLAC course. Annika and I, alongside other students at other COPLAC institutions, took the course during the spring of 2017. Our professors were Dr. Janet Wesselius, a professor of philosophy at the University of Alberta at Augustana, and Dr. Yvonne Franke, an assistant professor of German at Midwestern State University. The course was, at least from my experience, enjoyable in terms of critical and thoughtful discussions among my peers and the professors. Both Dr. Wesselius and Dr. Franke were supportive of critical discourse and engagement among the students in the class, which promoted insightful, scholarly interactions throughout the semester. Working with Annika was enjoyable because she always seemed so dedicated and engaged, as if she was truly happy researching and writing, which was encouraging for me to see in a fellow student.

Although brief, the adventure to Canada was wonderful for both the conference and the opportunity to network with students and professors. I am deeply thankful for the hospitality of both Dr. Mélanie Méthot and her husband Mark. They were so kind to provide housing and meals for Annika and I as well as for other students and professors who attended ACURIT. Such kindness as they exhibited toward us makes the adventure all the more wonderful in remembrance.

To the University of Montevallo Honors Program, to Dr. Martin, Dr. Wesselius and Dr. Méthot, and to the University of Alberta at Augustana, I am grateful for the opportunity to have attended ACURIT for all of the friends made, all of the knowledge gained, and all of the scholarship and smiles shared!
The opportunity to travel to the ACURIT conference in Alberta, Canada was a unique adventure that has provided me with new viewpoints on topics I felt I already understood. This is far from what I initially thought my takeaway would be, but the late night conversations with our fellow presenters and hosting professor provided ample food for thought and eye opening insights.

The ACURIT conference itself was a wonderful time, with interesting presentations that garnered within me greater interest in travel abroad and information literacy. There were also presentations given that emphasized the importance of self-aware continual self-assessment within their students, which I felt were applicable to my own future academic experiences.

The most enjoyable part of the entire experience was, for me, the networking. Meeting Margaret, our fellow student, and Dr. Wesselius, our professor, led to some of the most enjoyable and fruitful academic conversations I have ever had. Other conversations I had were equally enjoyable. A pair of professors spoke on a study abroad course based in Scotland, and hearing from them and their student about how Scotland handles their national parks and the respect the Scottish people hold for their land was both educating and invigorating.

An unexpected occurrence was the difference in connotations of political rhetoric between the different groups of people we stayed with, which I found very impactful. Throughout the conference Margaret and I held conversations about how the concepts learned in our COPLAC course could be applied to political culture. These conversations were entirely unexpected, but I hope I have a chance to integrate the thoughts we voiced in future academic endeavors, perhaps to even be presented at other conferences.

Overall, the COPLAC conference broadened my horizons in almost entirely unexpected ways. I came away with completely new knowledge, further refined knowledge, and new fervor for future travel and new academic work.
Dr. Beringer’s graphic narrative class was my first chance at actually seeing what an Honors Gen Ed class was like. I’d heard rumors but hadn’t yet had the chance to actually see what one was like. I knew going in that it was bound be very different from the other English classes that I’d taken. And I wasn’t disappointed. He gave us the opportunity to do things that not only had I never thought I would be doing, but also things that I never heard of undergrads doing at all.

On the first day, introductions went by quickly and were followed by a taste of what was to come. We looked at a photo and treated it as poetry. (I know, I was a little shocked at first too.) Both of these activities for the first day though really set the stage for things to come. The brevity of the introductions told of how as an Honors class we were different, and the picture poetry showed Dr. Beringer’s faith in our ability to look past the norm and see the importance of something so unusual.

As the calendar rolled on, we went through the widest variety of literature that I’ve ever had the pleasure of reading. Everyone had a favorite. Mine would had to of been “Krazy Kat” by George Herriman. It was absolute nonsense, but it was great. This selection I think really exemplifies what a typical class day was like so well because at first, the floor was opened to anything regarding the comic strip (and you could never tell where the discussion was going to lead to next). Following the discussion, we held a little theatre of sorts. This rather uncommon activity really helped us dive into the characters. It was a blast! (You really had to be there.) And little did I know, this still paled in comparison to the upcoming project.

Our big project was a library exhibit in conjunction with the Forte Festival. First of all, the fact that we (as undergrads) got to put together a library exhibit still mystifies me. It was a long road, longer than most of us thought. The journey, though, was so much fun. Instead of writing a couple of essays after researching in the library, we set to work as groups on our panels. It was a one of a kind event, and one that I will not forget anytime soon. And if a library exhibit wasn’t enough to make us geek out, we also got to have lunch with Marc Nobleman, a visiting speaker for the Forte Festival. Again, this was another charming experience that I will treasure among my favorite days of college. From the nights in the digital media lab to the fanciest lunch on campus, this class had it all.

Looking back over what now seems as a short period of time that we had together, what made the class so great wasn’t just one thing. What made English 234 such a masterpiece was how the students, the opportunities, and the masterful execution by Dr. Beringer all came together. It was a comical good time.
HONORS PROGRAM NEWS

2018-2019 Peer Mentors

Congratulations to this newest group of Honors student leaders!

Donovan Cleckley
Kendall Criswell
Lily Dickinson
Erica Lewis
Jill Sharpe
Oliver Smith
Brittany Suhy
Abbey Thornton

After a competitive selection process this past spring, ten Honors students were selected as peer mentors for 2018-2019 academic year. These students will help welcome freshman Honors students to Montevallo at the Honors Orientation in August and help new students transition to the Honors community and college life throughout the fall. Incoming Honors students will first meet their peer mentors at the Honors Orientation and continue to work with them throughout the course of the fall semester in HNRS 100, the freshman Honors Introductory Experience class. In addition to working with students in an academic setting, the mentors will also host activities and outings with their mentor groups. Past activities have included holiday cookie baking sessions, restaurants outings and trips to museums and local attractions.

Note: Maggie Sanderson was accepted to be a 2018-2019 peer mentor, but after a tough decision, has decided to transfer to another University. Also, Kayla Baker decided to pursue another career track and will not be attending UM.
Peer Mentor Spotlights: Part 1

Name: Brittany Suhy
Hometown: Cullman
Major: Management

What activities are you involved with at the University of Montevallo? Alpha Delta Pi sorority
What advice do you have for first-year students in the Honors Program? Go to class and do your work. At least try. Trying will go a long way if you have problems during the semester.
What aspect of the Honors Program have you most appreciated? Why? The special topics classes. They’re both fun and educational.

What is your favorite book, movie, and/or band? Favorite band: BTS

What is your favorite spot on the University of Montevallo campus? Why? Main Quad. When we get stressed out, my friends and I go “soul searching” at night and listen to music.

What are your post-graduation plans? I hope to work for a book company and eventually own my own.

What might someone be surprised to know about you? I seem really quiet, especially in class, but I can really be a talker.

Name: Donovan Cleckley
Hometown: Clanton
Major: English/Interdisciplinary Studies

What activities are you involved with at the University of Montevallo? I am involved in University Chorus and with The Alabamian. Both singing and writing are highly pleasing after plenty of reading.
What advice do you have for first-year students in the Honors Program? First-year students in the Honors Program should seek dialogue and learning in our Montevallo community.
What aspect of the Honors Program have you most appreciated? Why? Living and studying among student who share an enhanced interest in their work has been important to me in terms of encouragement and inspiration.

What is your favorite book, movie, and/or band? Isabel Allende’s novel The House of the Spirits is alongside Kate Chopin’s The Awakening and Zora Neale Hurston’s Their Eyes Were Watching God, one of my favorite works of literature about women's lives.

What is your favorite spot on the University of Montevallo campus? Why? Carmichael Library is my favorite place on campus, mainly because being in the library provides access to discoveries between the pages of an ongoing expanse of books.

What are your post-graduation plans? I intend to pursue graduate studies in English and becoming a professor of English.

What might someone be surprised to know about you? Although I work hard, I continue improving myself, reading to expand both my intellect and my compassion. It is assumed that I don’t need to write down the facts of reality, but I’ve learned how documentation and evidence assist in making known the unknown.
Name: Kendall Criswell  
Hometown: Odenville  
Major: Political Science

What activities are you involved with at the University of Montevallo? I am an RA for the 3rd floor of Brooke Hall, the vice president of the Secular Student Alliance, a member of TRIO SSS, and a McNair Scholar.

What advice do you have for first-year students in the Honors Program? Just go for it. If you want to do something, but think you may not do well, just go for it. I did that my first year, and I made so many wonderful experiences.

What aspect of the Honors Program have you most appreciated? Why? The diverse class subjects have been so rewarding. They have also been helpful in my liberal-arts degree experience.

What is your favorite book, movie, and/or band? Book: *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote and *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls; Movie: *Almost Famous*; Band: One Direction and The Beatles

What is your favorite spot on the University of Montevallo campus? Why? The Housing and Residence Life office, because I love everyone that is a part of HRL staff.

What are your post-graduation plans? I plan to go to graduate school to earn a PhD in public policy.

What might someone be surprised to know about you? My sister and I have the same birthday, but are 5 years apart.

Name: Lily Dickinson  
Hometown: Melbourne, FL  
Major: Elementary Education

What activities are you involved with at the University of Montevallo? Since I was a freshman, I have regularly written for *The Alabamian*, which I hope to continue this year. I also will be working in the Child Study Center this year.

What advice do you have for first-year students in the Honors Program? Keeping and organized planner with all the upcoming assignments from your syllabi recorded in it is extremely helpful! And never be afraid to email/talk to your professors if you have a question about class.

What aspect of the Honors Program have you most appreciated? Why? I’ve been very grateful for the 4 year plan I made in HNRS 100 my freshman year. It has really helped me, and has made registration a lot less stressful! Early registration is also a huge plus, as well as small classes and getting to know other Honors students.

What is your favorite book, movie, and/or band? My favorite book is probably *Getting Schooled* by Garrett Keizer.

What is your favorite spot on the University of Montevallo campus? Why? I love going kayaking or canoeing at the lake, especially when the weather cools down second semester. It’s both relaxing and fun.

What are your post-graduation plans? I plan to work at an elementary school and eventually get a master’s degree.

What might someone be surprised to know about you? I keep a signed photo of Goosebumps author R.L. Stine on top of the A/C unit in my dorm room.
Student Accolades

Erica Lewis will serve as the 2018-2019 editor of UM’s yearbook, *Montage*, for a second year. *Montage* was first published in 1907.

Erica is a senior English and art double major from Huntsville, AL.

Laura DeRocher (below) was selected as the 2018-2019 editor of *The Tower*, UM’s literary and arts magazine. *The Tower* has been publishing the creative work of students since 1932.

Laura is a senior English major from Spanish Fort, AL.

Jamie Haas (above) will be the 2018-2019 editor of the campus newspaper, *The Alabamian*. The student newspaper, which started in 1924, features campus, national, and entertainment news, as well as the views of members of the University community.

Jamie is a senior communication studies major from Enterprise, AL.

All photos courtesy of the UM website.
UM Departmental Recognition
2018 Honors Day Departmental Awards

**Art**

**Hannah Dempsey:** Virginia Barnes Emerging Artist

**Erica Lewis:** Madge Taylor Sims Scholarship

**Keller Makemson:** Joan Gregory Scholarship

**Behavioral and Social Sciences**

**Ashley Baker:** Presidential Honors Scholarship

**Sarah Cooley:** John W. Burling Academic Achievement Award

**Mary Haynes Furman:** Sledge Memorial Scholarship

**Mary Light:** Deborah D. and William F. Denson III Scholarship

**Morgan Pennington (Fall ‘17):** Environmental Stewardship Award

**Maggie Sanderson:** Deborah D. and William F. Denson III Scholarship

**Zoe Scott:** Deborah D. and William F. Denson III Scholarship

**Amy Wilson:** John W. Burling Academic Achievement Award

**Biology, Chemistry, and Mathematics**

**Alexis Cortez:** Dr. Jan Eagles Scholarship

**Olivia Eldridge:** Computational Chemistry Award

**Ridley Herron:** Rebecca Suzanne Norrell Garza Scholarship

**Ashton Irvin:** Kappa Mu Epsilon Mathematics Honor Society

**Brian Kirkwood:** Health Sciences Professional Award

**William Lowery:** William Julian Kennerly Scholarship

**Music**

**Daniel Moore:** Pi Kappa Lambda Award

**Justice Allen:** Theodore Presser Foundation Award
**UM Departmental Recognition**

**Business**

Dakota Goff: Montevallo Ambassador Program Scholarship

Ryan Howard: Freshman Leadership Scholarship; Alumni Honors Scholarship

John Janssen: Montevallo Ambassador Program Scholarship

Danielle Lindsay: Freshman Leadership Scholarship

Jeffrey Mills: Freshman Leadership Scholarship

Reanna Pipes: Presidential Honors Scholarship

Danielle Roberts: Presidential Honors Scholarship

Angelina Singleton: Presidential Honors Scholarship; College of Business Scholarship

James Smith: Montevallo Ambassador Program Scholarship

Brittany Suhy: Freshman Leadership Scholarship

Megan Walker: Presidential Honors Scholarship

Colton Williamson: Ann Lowery Bains Student Trustee Scholarship; Montevallo Ambassador Program Scholarship

**Communication Studies/ Mass Communication**

Mollie Boynton: Commitment to the Discipline Award in Communication Studies

Mary Light: Civic Engagement and Community Service Award in Communication Studies

Jonathan Mendoza: Leadership Award in Communication Studies

Elizabeth Rhinehart (Fall ‘17): Mass Communication Senior Elite

**Education (includes all Education, Exercise and Nutrition Science, Family and Consumer Science)**

Kayla Baker: Catherine Bailey Jackson Award; Freshman Leadership Scholarship; Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship; Minority Educator’s Scholarship

Tessa Burns: Catherine Jones Winslett Scholarship; Freshman Leadership Scholarship

Kayla Chambers: Freshman Leadership Scholarship

Alex Coleman: Higdon Burns Pre-Medicine Scholarship; Montevallo Ambassador Program Scholarship

Lily Dickinson: Presidential Honors Scholarship

Rachel Fisher: Presidential Honors Scholarship

Olivia Hardee: Edythe Saylor Scholarship; Freshman Leadership Scholarship

Kylie Kerr: Outstanding Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education Major Award; Presidential Honors Scholarship
UM Departmental Recognition

Education (continued)

India LaPalme: Lulu Rainer Palmer Memorial Scholarship; Presidential Honors Scholarship

Peri McCoy: Montevallo Ambassador Program Scholarship

Mara Miller: Collins Fund for Professional Development in Kinesiology; Presidential Honors Scholarship

Elizabeth Moore: Kappa Delta Pi; Presidential Honors Scholarship

Sarah Murdaugh: James I. Harrison Scholarship; Freshman Leadership Scholarship

Columbia Nave: Academic Recognition Scholarship

Katherine Pearce: Theresa Whitfield Scholarship; Montevallo Ambassador Program Scholarship; Robbie Lee Linch Farrow Memorial Scholarship

Daisy Wallace: Montevallo Ambassador Program Scholarship

Marlee Webb: Kappa Omicron Nu; Montevallo Ambassador Program Scholarship

Joyia Williams: Elsie Archer Jones Scholarship in Education; Outstanding Elementary Collaborative Major Award; Freshman Leadership Scholarship; Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship; Minority Educator’s Scholarship

English and Foreign Language

Ashley Baker: Presidential Honors Scholarship

Annika Bastian: Presidential Honors Scholarship

Donovan Cleckley: Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society; Melba Griffin Scholarship; Academic Recognition Scholarship

Mallory Currie: Montevallo Ambassador Program Scholarship

Laura DeRocher: Montevallo Ambassador Program Scholarship

Meridean Donnelly: Montevallo Ambassador Program Scholarship

William Lindbergh: Freshman Leadership Scholarship

Laura Ling: Montevallo Ambassador Program Scholarship

Hannah Mummert: Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society; Presidential Honors Scholarship

Katherine Owens: Montevallo Ambassador Program Scholarship

Sara Perry: Presidential Honors Scholarship

Kassie Roberts: Freshman Leadership Scholarship

Ryann Taylor: Freshman Leadership Scholarship

Katharine Warren: English Merit Scholarship; Presidential Honors Scholarship
2018 Orientation Leaders

Congratulations to the Honors Program students serving as 2018 Orientation Leaders!

Maggie Jo Benson  
Jamie Haas  
Tori Irvin  
Rebekah Koen  
Peri McCoy  
Jonathan Mendoza  
Reanna Pipes
MHO OFFICER ELECTIONS

Friday, September 7
at 2:30 P.M.
in Ramsay

Elections for:

President
Secretary
Treasurer
Events Chair
CONFLICT MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Emili Alexander from the Falcon Success Center will discuss:

- Is conflict bad?
- 5 conflict resolution styles
- Communicating through conflict (different styles; what you can do; what you may want to avoid)
- Contributing factors to conflict (wants; needs; beliefs; values; interests)
- BATNA (Best Alternative to A Negotiated Agreement)

Learn how conflict arises - What type of resolution style works best with different types of conflict - How communication can affect the resolution of conflict

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 @ 4:30 PM IN MORGAN 203

Questions?
Email: honors@montevallo.edu
Requirements to Stay Active in Honors

- Maintain at least a 3.2 overall GPA
- Take at least one Honors course per academic year

You will be notified via campus e-mail at the end of each semester if your status changes.

Theatre Tickets

We have 10 season tickets for each UM Theatre production reserved for active Honors students. First come, first serve. Call the box office to reserve your tickets. 205-665-6200