



JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

HONORS PROGRAM

Fall September 2020 Newsletter

Greetings, Honors Students!

I hope that your fall semester is going well. I know these are difficult circumstances for all of us, but the good news is we are one day closer to a solution for the current challenge. I realize a number of your classes are structured in a completely different manner than usual. Please reach out to us if there are issues that need to be addressed.... sooner is better than later if you have issues or concerns.

We apologize that we cannot offer our usual social and service opportunities for Fall 2020, but your Honors Officers have worked diligently to provide you with meaningful experiences under these circumstances. We anticipate things will be much better in the spring, and we should have some sort of normalcy again.

We want you to benefit from the UH courses and the weekly meetings so please respond to the survey from Miss Tomlinson, so we can better serve you. We are already preparing our speaker's list for the Spring 2021 semester and will begin drafting the Fall 2021 UH course offerings later this fall.

The year 2021 should give us the opportunity to begin our day trip or team building excursions in the Honors Program, so be thinking of in-state destinations or regional destinations (2 hours or so away from JSU) that you have an interest in exploring.

As some of you know, I am on professional development leave in the Fall 2020 semester as I am working on a manuscript, so Dr. Benjie Blair is serving as our Acting Honors Director in my absence. Dr. Blair is a key component of our Honors leadership as he has served on our Honors Board for several years. Please feel free to reach out to him if you have questions or issues.

Please remember that YOUR Honors Office is open for business as usual under social distancing guidelines, so be certain to take advantage of this. I wish you all a safe and productive semester and I look forward to seeing you in 2021!



Dr. Lori Owens
Director, Honors Program



Honors Program



Dear Honors Students and Alumni,

Welcome back to the Fall 2020 school term! We are all so proud of how you have been adapting to the changes that pandemic planning is causing. Please note that the Honors Program is working diligently to offer alternatives to service hours, local travel, and honors specific courses. Even though we are meeting virtually this term we have been busy scheduling some excellent speakers for your meetings. We hope that you will feel free to contact any of the administrative team with questions, offer ideas, or just to have someone to vent your frustrations to.

Alumni, you are critical to the success of our program. I would like to ask for your continued participation and support. You can do so by recommending our program to young intellectuals that may be considering JSU. We are always interested in Alumni from our program volunteering to serve as speakers, serving as mentors, and informing us about internship and job opportunities in their field of study. Also, please send us updates and announcements about events in your lives, so we can share them in future newsletters.

After being involved in the Honors Program for several years, I am excited to be asked to serve as the acting director. We truly are here to create a legacy of honors students and alumni that will make us all proud. Don't worry, Dr. Owens is only taking a short sabbatical to write a book and will take back over the running of the program next semester.

**Sincerely,
Dr. Benjie Blair,
Acting Director of Honors Program
Chair Pre-Health Advisory Board**



**50 New
First-Year
Members!**



Honors Program



Congrats to our Spring 2020 Grads!

*SUMER AL-SAAADI *JACOB DALLEN ATCHLEY *KALEIGH FERGUSON BARKLEY *JENNA BENNETT *SAVANNAH BOHLMANN *ALLIE CANTRELL *DEVIN DOBBINS *ZOEY ERBY *MEGAN GANGL *TRISTIN GILMORE *TAYLOR GORE *LACI GURGANUS *SHELBY HARRIS *ZACHARY KNIGHTON *ALYSON MATTHEWS *HANNAH MERRITT *MICHEAL MYRICK *BETHANY RANDALL *JESSICA RAY *ABIGAIL READ *AMBER SMITH *WILLIAM STARNES *ALEXANDRA TEMPLIN *KYRA WATRAL *OLIVIA WILLOUGHBY *EMILY YEEND

You can view the graduate recognition ceremony by clicking [here!](#)

They now join our alumni group!

Adjustments We've Made



Keeping our members safe during this pandemic is very important, so we have taken many advisory precautions. Measures such as requiring face masks, use of hand sanitizer, practicing social distancing and limiting the Honors room capacity is just a few ways.



Welcome Our Great Officers

President: Lauren Usrey

Vice President: Hollie Thweatt

Secretary: Catherine Jenkins

Member At-Large: Alexis Petty

Service Project Coordinator: Julia Newton

Fundraising Coordinator: Katie Smith

Social Events Coordinator: Makenzie Hill

Public Relations Specialist: Lauren McCarver

Members Enjoying Their New Shirts

