Honors College Communiqué

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YEARS OF THE HONORS COLLEGE 2003 - 2023

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THINK CRITICALLY REFLECT DEEPLY ASK QUESTIONS FIND SOLUTIONS

Celebrating 20 years of campus-wide academic achievement

| HONORS COLLEGE

Welcome from the Dean

Welcome to our award-winning annual Honors College Communiqué!

The big news this year is that we celebrated the Honors College's 20th anniversary with two events: a casual one in the spring at Legion Brewing Taproom & Fermentory, and a more "official celebration" this fall with the Chancellor and Provost, featuring selected honors students at the Harris Alumni Center. It was great to be with so many alumni and supporters to celebrate this incredible milestone!

2023 really has been a "coming of age" year for the Honors College. We have a record incoming class this fall, totaling 225; this is due to an almost 20% increase in the University Honors Program first-year cohort. This year also saw the inauguration of the Dean's Prize for best honors capstones. Three outstanding capstone projects – out of 20 excellent nominations – were awarded during a virtual ceremony in June. This is an important first for the college, signaling the robustness of honors education at Charlotte.



Another sign of Honors College maturation is how we are putting Charlotte on the national honors map, so to speak, this year. We co-hosted the Southern Regional Honors Association Conference with Catawba College this spring at The Westin Charlotte, attracting one of our largest groups (600+ attendees) and ending in the black for the association. I published a co-authored chapter in a landmark monograph, *Honors Colleges in the 21st Century*, discussing the disproportionate representation of white males among honors college deans, why it happens, and what to do about it. And we are making a big splash at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Chicago this fall, with four staff/faculty attending to present workshops and—for the first time ever—three honors students accepting Davy Awards (out of only four national awards, a near full sweep!).



It's been a really fulfilling year, as you will see while you browse our *Communiqué*. But we're only getting started: As I said at the 20th Anniversary Celebration, like any 20-year-old, our future is bright, and we've got plans. I can hardly wait for next year!

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Malin Pereira, Ph.D. Dean and Professor of English

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Martin Scholars Program

The Martin Scholars Program is one of UNC Charlotte's leading merit scholarship programs. It was established in 2016 to support academically motivated students with the highest level of financial need. Recipients pursue academic excellence and personal development, as well as receive funding equal to their unmet financial need. They also have access to study abroad and internship support.

All Martin Scholars are members of an honors program, allowing them to benefit from small classes with dedicated faculty, priority registration, and honors programming.

The following students are the current Martin Scholars:



Bryan Lopez Villanueva Class of 2024



Jason Medina Class of 2024



Hunter Ball Class of 2026



Ajah Harris Class of 2027



Anthony Saraco Class of 2024



CJ Brown Class of 2026



Breonna Tuitt Class of 2027



Carsen Schaefer Class of 2024



Gabriella Nascimento Class of 2026



Maya Umozurike Class of 2027



Jalen London Class of 2025



Kentasia Taylor Class of 2026

Albert Engineering Leadership Scholars Program

The Albert Engineering Leadership Scholars Program supports students in achieving success in three pillars: scholarship and applied learning; campus involvement and leadership; and professional development. Students are provided with an annual renewable full-ride merit scholarship. They also have access to study abroad and internship funding.

This scholars program affords students with membership in the University Honors Program as well as a guaranteed acceptance into the Engineering Leadership Academy.

The following students are the current Albert Scholars:



Aiden Lamar Class of 2024



Summer Prentice Class of 2024

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Abigail Rose Class of 2024



Sierra Clark Class of 2025



Kyle VanHorn Class of 2025



Benjamin Demosthene Class of 2026



Yoshiharu Ono Class of 2027



Ada Kersh Class of 2026



Anastasia Kolesnikov Class of 2027

City as Text[™] International: Croatia ~ Sidney Nesbitt

Class of 2024 - Major in Computer Science Minor in Earth and Environmental Science



I chose to participate in City as Text[™] International because I have been wanting to study abroad or to go out of the country for awhile, but hadn't had the opportunity yet. I capitalized on the Honors College having a scholarship for students to attend, and in doing so, I was able to learn more about Croatia and how world wars have impacted the residents there more than in other places.

City as Text[™] International is a National Collegiate Honors Council trademarked activity that challenges students to broaden and deepen their understanding of the world in which global cities become their classrooms. The Honors College trip for 2023 was to Croatia (cities of Zagreb and Split) during spring break and led by Honors Faculty member Abby Moore.

My favorite part of studying abroad in Croatia was visiting Marjan Hills, a mountain in Split that was in a national park. I also really enjoyed learning about Southeastern culture and history as well as studying the lifestyles of individuals within the hostels. This experience consisted of Australian, Polish, and other European individuals who were able to share their perspectives of the world. Being in Croatia, I simply felt in awe of everything.

The Honors College played a large role in connecting me with this opportunity as they provided the funding necessary that allowed me to study abroad. In doing so, this experience has greatly contributed to my academic journey by opening my perspective to an unknown culture and informing me about the lifestyles of people from other countries. I now have the memories and would encourage my peers to take the chance, try new experiences, and study abroad.



Study Abroad

MaKena Jordan

Class of 2025: Major in Marketing with a concentration in Marketing Analytics Minor in Communication Studies; Martin Scholar

Last spring, I was able to study abroad with the global marketing practicum in Paris, France, and Dubrovnik, Croatia. I chose to study abroad because I wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about my profession!

During my trip, I was able to learn about developed markets in comparison to developing markets in Paris and Croatia.

My favorite part of studying abroad was connecting with my peers and forming new memories. Thanks to the Honors College stipend and Martin Scholarship, my wildest dreams came true.



Juliusz Wieckowski

Class of 2025: Major in Chemistry Minor in Spanish



Last spring, I was able to study abroad in Madrid, Spain. I chose to study abroad for the opportunity to experience being in another county while advancing my academic and professional career as I wanted to fully immerse in a Spanish-speaking country to further study the language.

During my trip, I was able to learn about Spain's diverse geography, literature, art, and other cultural decisions.

My favorite part of studying abroad was using my language skills to explore new places and befriend people I otherwise wouldn't have been able to communicate with. The Honors College equipped me with the necessary tools and instilled a desire to understand the city of Madrid. This is one of the most unique and rewarding experiences of my life.

Exciting News from the Honors College

National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) Conference



The Honors College participated in the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) conference November 8-11, 2023. Several faculty/staff members presented during the conference, and three honors students -- Kennedy Brooks, Ava Lee, and Eric Phann -- were awarded the Freddye T. Davy Scholarship, a \$1,000 award to help defray costs of attending the NCHC conference. Four qualified students are selected for this scholarship, and UNC Charlotte won THREE of them! The Davy Scholarship

represents an important step in ensuring that excellent, underserved students get the quality academic experience needed to address and encourage their participation in both their educational communities and in the communities they will be part of long after graduation.

Honors Core Experience (HCE)

One of the new opportunities that the University Honors Program (UHP) has to offer are Honors Core Experiences! HCEs are required for 2nd-4th year students within UHP, and each student must complete a different type of HCE each academic year. These experiences can be from any of the following categories:

- Professional-Based Placements (e.g., internships, co-ops, clinicals, pre-health shadowing, and field placements)
- Faculty Instructional Support (e.g., TA, preceptor, communication consultant, etc.)
- Leadership Development (i.e., significant leadership role on or off campus, with a sustained impact and significant contribution)
- Undergraduate Research
- Study Abroad and Globally Networked Learning
- Service and Community-Based Learning

Rather than the previous UHP "tick the box" system (i.e., participate in 2 socials, 2 enrichments, 2 service opportunities), the HCE empowers students to go deeper with their learning experience (45 hours/calendar year), while at the same time building up their resume, personal statement, and/or graduate school application.







New Honors & Merit Scholars [including the Arts + Architecture Honors Program (AAHP), Business Honors Program (BHP), UHP, & Levine Scholars Program (LSP)]

Merit Scholarships Awarded



Total Honors & Merit Scholars [including LSP]



Martin Scholarships

Albert Engineering

Leadership Scholarships



Freeman Scholarships



Johnson Scholarships







Honors College Scholarships





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Arts + Architecture Honors Program (AAHP): Sydney Carmer

Class of 2024: Major in Art Double Concentration in Digital Media and Illustration



I chose to join AAHP as a freshman because I saw the program as a good opportunity to stand out in my discipline and reach a broader range of opportunities. In doing so, AAHP has pushed me outside my comfort zone of academic involvement and exposed me to other discipline in the arts beyond my visual studio art focus.

Being in AAHP can help connect artists to unique academic opportunities and scholarships, as well as other selfmotivated students.

Another big advantage is the access to early class registration, so being in the honors program ensures that you get into all your needed classes. AAHP has pushed me to take classes that I would have otherwise not considered taking. It has elevated my studies without taking away from my main courses.

AAHP and the Honors College have contributed to my extracurricular achievement, such as connecting me with scholarships and supporting my recent study abroad experience. My favorite memory so far would be connecting with other AAHP students during my freshman year of 2020, as it has allowed me to make new friends in a new environment despite the obstacles of the pandemic.

AAHP awarded me a grant last summer to help support my study abroad program in Ireland. I also accomplished the curation of a group art exhibit in Rowe last year thanks to AAHP.

Editor's Note: Sydney was also an Alumni Scholarship for Merit finalist and named the winner of the Al Maisto Honors College Scholarship in Spring 2023. The Maisto selection criteria includes exhibiting exemplary academic performance, citizenship, and service to the student's honors program and/or the Honors College, and the award amount is \$1,000.



Business Honors Program (BHP): Carsen Schaefer

Class of 2024: Majors in Accounting and French Martin Scholar

I joined BHP as an incoming freshman because when I became a Martin Scholar recipient, I needed to be a member of an honors program and matched with BHP because of my major. I felt that graduating with honors would be a great asset to my resume, and I wanted to be surrounded by like-minded and high-achieving students. As a result, BHP has offered an abundance of resources since I joined the program.

BHP allows students like myself to be in class with extremely driven peers who are often looking for ways to better themselves and utilize each other as resources and a support system.



In our classes, we have professors that know we are there for a reason and hold us to a higher standard. My classes have taught me essential skills such as resume building, networking, and interviewing skills. Zack Lord [previous Assistant Director of Business Honors] pushed me to explore internship opportunities early as well, which have helped me figure out my career path very quickly.



My favorite memory while being in BHP was working on the Alumni Newsletter as the Director of Marketing and Alumni Relations. I presented several aspects of BHP to alumni and worked alongside Savannah Bernston [fellow student] for a month, ensuring every detail fully encapsulated how BHP was active in its honors, campus, and Charlotte communities.

Being in BHP has helped me to accomplish so much through leadership opportunities on campus. BHP has allowed me the opportunity to serve as the Director of Marketing and Alumni Relations, as well as the current External Vice President Class Representative of BHP.

University Honors Program (UHP): Matthew McGrew

Class of 2025: Major in Electrical Engineering Concentration in Power and Energy

I joined UHP as a freshman because I wanted something to put on my resume to stand out among my peers. I chose to stay in UHP, though, because of all the experiences and classes that are offered.

UHP has allowed me to enroll in some of my favorite classes at Charlotte, like the Colloquium course. I am from Raleigh and prior to starting school, I knew almost nothing about the city of Charlotte. This course was great for me to learn about the city with City as Text[™] and to learn about some of the problems within the city of Charlotte, like social mobility.



I really enjoyed Ms. Lynch's Colloquium course and Dr. Keener's Critical Thinking course as they gave me the opportunity to learn how to properly do research. Dr. Keener's course allowed me to do research on the history of Charlotte's transportation as well as examine papers on Charlotte. Ms. Lynch's course introduced me to the Jamil Niner Student Pantry on campus, where I became a regular volunteer. I became a Pantry Ambassador and led our team to a 1st Place victory in a competition that awarded our pantry \$10,000!

My favorite memory while being in UHP would be doing the ropes course. The low ropes course introduced me to a lot of my peers who would be in my classes. The high ropes course was just for fun, yet it allowed me to face my fear of heights. UHP has offered so many other advantages as well. For example, UHP has helped me create lots of memories and great experiences through the honors housing in Levine Hall and the many events like the Pancake Breakfast.

UHP has also allowed me to grow as an individual and offered many great opportunities, like my Honors Core Experiences which led to the Pantry Ambassadors for the Student Pantry, as well as my internship at Black and Veatch, which is an engineering firm. Lastly, UHP has exposed me to study abroad opportunities: I was accepted into an 8-month study abroad and internship in Germany for next semester!

Editor's Note: Matthew was also an Alumni Scholarship for Merit finalist in Spring 2023.



Alumni Spotlight: Marc Moore

Class of 2020: Major in Architecture and minor in Urban Studies Martin Scholar - University's Honors Program (UHP)

I graduated three years ago from UNC Charlotte, and then I received my Masters in City and Regional Planning from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2022. Currently, I work in Kimley-Horn's Charlotte office as a planning analyst where I get to make a plan for the future of towns and cities for land use or transportation. My job is to help with public engagement, creating materials, drafting recommendations based on public feedback, and writing the final documents.



During my time at UNC Charlotte, I was a part of the University Honors Program (UHP), the Crown Scholars Program, and the Martin Scholars Program. Being a part of UHP connected me to opportunities and encouraged me to take them, helped diversify my class set so that I was thinking about things beyond my major, and gave me a lot of practice in research as I needed to know how to do capstone projects going into grad school. UHP helped ensure that I wasn't in a bubble and was making connections.

How did the Martin Scholars Program help you get to where you are today?

Having the Martin Scholarship made it possible for me to go through school focusing on learning and excelling rather than stressing about finances. It also made it possible for me to study abroad in Tokyo, Japan, in the summer of 2018 and a week in Budapest, Hungary and Vienna, Austria during spring break in 2020.

Also, I was able to connect with Mr. and Dr. Martin themselves, who were awesome mentors who genuinely wanted to be involved in our lives, connect us to opportunities, and push us to excel.



Honors Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Christopher Cameron

Professor of History

Educational Background

Following an education at Keene State College for my Bachelor's degree, I attended UNC-Chapel Hill for my M.A. and Ph.D. in History. With those degrees, I began my journey as a History professor. I did not know I would study History, but rather intended to go to law school. I declared the History major my junior year at Keene State, and after completing the McNair Graduate Opportunity Fellowship, decided to pursue a Ph.D. instead of a law degree. I am exactly where I expected to be once I made the decision to get my doctorate, and I am very glad I did because I've been able to publish five books and founded a new scholarly organization: The African American Intellectual History Society.



Career Background

Currently, I am a full-time professor of History and have been for 13.5 years at Charlotte. I have also been a faculty member in the History department since 2010 with a transition between online and in-person. Additionally, during the pandemic, I served as the acting chair of the Africana Studies department, ensuring a smooth transition to online learning.

Honors College

I work with the Honors students in the classroom as the instructor for the Honors College Topics: African American Intellectual History seminar as well as the supervisor for History honors and UHP honors capstones. It has been a wonderful experience working with such bright and dedicated students in the Honors College. My teaching and advising of honors students goes hand-in-hand with my research on African American and American religious and intellectual history. Those fields are very broad and give me the opportunity to work with students with a wide range of interests.

What's Next?

I am currently learning French and have applied to UNC Charlotte as a second-degree student. I plan to attend part-time, taking two to three classes a year, and will complete a B.A. in French within the next five years or so. As for what I've accomplished, I have taught more than 1,000 students in the past 13 years and I like to think they have been enriched by working with me and other faculty in the History department and the Honors College. I've helped dozens of students get into law schools, medical schools, and graduate programs as well. I think my scholarship on African American secularism has been groundbreaking and will pave the way for many more books and articles as well.

Honors Council

The Honors Council is a standing committee of Honors Faculty that serves as the advisory body to the Dean of the Honors College. The Council is responsible for reviewing and evaluating honors curricula. They provide faculty governance of honors, and review program proposals and revisions.

The Honors Council is comprised of twelve elected members, each member having an elected alternate:

- 2 elected Honors Faculty representatives from the College of Humanities & Earth and Social Sciences
- 1 elected Honors Faculty representatives from each of UNC Charlotte's other colleges
- 2 elected At-Large Honors Faculty representatives, one to represent UHP
- 1 appointed undergraduate honors student representative

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA CHARLOTTE COLLEGE

HONORS

Honors Council Members 2023-2024

Dylan Savage , Alternate: Ann Dils
Carol Stivender , Alternate: Karen Ford-Eickhoff
Jake Lee , Alternate: Heather Lipford
Cindy Gilson (Chair), Alternate: Adriana Medina
Cathy Blat , Alternate: Andrew Willis
Deborah Beete , Alternate: Kelly Powers
ences Ashli Stokes , Alternate: Vaughn Schmutz
ences Sandra Clinton , Alternate: Sara Levens
Susan Trammell , Alternate: Andrew Goff
Pilar Zuber , Alternate: Jill Massino
Abby Moore, Alternate: Susan Arthur
Alex Toback, Alternate: Luis Tejada
Ialin Pereira, Jeffrey Leak, and Colette Chenault

Newly Appointed Honors Faculty

College	Name	Title	Department
CHESS	Hania Al-Shamat	Assistant Teaching Professor	Political Science and Public Asministration
CHESS	Elise Berman	Assistant Professor	Anthropology
CHHS	Teresa Cronell	Lecturer	School of Nursing
CHESS	Yaoyao Dai	Assistant Professor	Political Science and Public Administration
CHESS	Oscar de la Torre	Associate Professor	Africana Studies
COAA	Ann Dils	Professor	Dance
CHHS	Luke Donovan	Associate Professor	Applied Physiology, Health, and Clinical Sciences
CHESS	Erin Eldridge	Assistant Teaching Professor	Anthropology
COS	Markus Etzkorn	Associate Professor	Chemistry
cos	Adam Fessler	Assistant Teaching Professor	Chemistry
COS	Jay Foley	Associate Professor	Chemistry
CHESS	Ella Fratantuono	Associate Professor	History
COS	Kristen Funk	Assistant Professor	Biological Sciences
CHESS	Shimon Gibson	Professor of Practice	History
COS	Andrew Goff	Lecturer	Biological Sciences
CHESS	Willie Griffin	Assistant Professor	History
CHESS	Hannah Katherine Hicks	Assistant Teaching Professor	History
CHHS	Carolyn Horne	Associate Professor	School of Nursing
CHESS	Charles Houck	Teaching Professor	Global Studies

Newly Appointed Honors Faculty

College	Name	Title	Department
CHHS	Tiffany Jackson	Clinical Assistant Professor	School of Nursing
CHESS	Sara Juengst	Associate Professor	Anthropology
CHESS	Alexandra Kaloyanides	Associate Professor	Religious Studies
CHESS	Martha Kropf	Professor	Political Science and Public Administration
CHHS	James Montegrico	Assistant Professor	School of Nursing
CHESS	Nicole Peterson	Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator	Anthropology
CHHS	La Tonya Rafe	Lecturer	School of Nursing
CHESS	Victoria Rankin	Associate Teaching Professor	Sociology
COS	Adam Reitzel	Professor	Biological Sciences
CHESS	Steven Sabol	Professor	History
COAA	Kaus Sarkar	Assistant Professor	Dance
COAA	Dylan Savage	Professor	Music
CHESS	Teresa Scheid	Professor	Sociology
CHHS	Jeffrey Shears	Professor	School of Social Work
CHESS	Megan Smith	Assistant Teaching Professor	Sociology
CHESS	Carmen Soliz	Associate Professor	History
cos	Bao-Hua Song	Professor	Biological Sciences
CHESS	Allison Stedman	Professor	Languages and Culture Studies
COS	Jessica White	Assistant Teaching Professor	Chemistry

Re-appointed Honors Faculty

College	Name	Title	Department
CHESS	Pilar Blitvich	Professor	English
CHESS	Christopher Cameron	Professor	History
COED	Misty Cowan-Hathcock	Clinical Professor	Reading and Elementary Education
COS	Didier Dreau	Professor	Biological Sciences
CHESS	Dan Dupre	Professor	History
COAA	Jae Emerling	Professor	Art & Art History
cos	Nathaniel Fried	Professor	Physics and Optical Science
COED	Cindy Gilson	Associate Professor	Special Education and Child Development
CHESS	Concepcion Godev	Professor	Languages and Culture Studies
CHESS	Bill Graves	Professor	Geography and Earth Sciences
CHESS	Oscar Lansen	Teaching Professor	History
CHESS	Lydia Light	Assistant Professor	Anthropology
CHHS	Juliana Marino	Lecturer	Applied Physiology, Health, and Clinical Sciences
COED	Adriana Medina	Associate Professor	Reading and Elementary Education
COS	Adriana Ocejo	Associate Professor	Mathematics and Statistics
COAA	Mark Pizzato	Professor	Theatre
CHESS	Matthew Rowney	Associate Professor	English
CHHS	Monika Sawhney	Associate Professor	Public Health Department
CHESS	Jack Scheff	Assistant Professor	Geography and Earth Sciences
CCI	Jessica Schlueter	Associate Professor	Bioinformatics and Genomics
CHESS	Elizabeth Stearns	Professor and Director of the Public Policy Program	Sociology
CCI	Kalpathi Subramanian	Associate Professor	Computer Science
CHESS	John Szmer	Professor	Political Science and Public Administration
CHESS	David Vinson	Associate Professor	Geography and Earth Sciences
CHESS	Lisa Slattery Walker	Professor and Associate Provost, Undergraduate Education	Sociology

Student Interns

Olivia Parnell

Social Media and Marketing Intern

Class of 2024

Major: Marketing

Hometown: Raleigh, NC

"This position has contributed to my professional career because I am able to apply my marketing knowledge from academia to real world applications. With my experience here at the Honors College, I feel better prepared for future opportunities. Additionally, the staff is very welcoming and supportive of their interns. Thank you for this great opportunity!"



Adira Abdullah

Honors College Communiqué Editor

Class of 2024

Majors: Criminal Justice and Africana Studies

Minor: Women and Gender Studies

Hometown: Mooresville, NC

"During my time as an Intern for the Honors College, I've been able to connect with so many amazing people as well as develop this year's *Honors College Communiqué*! This is one of my greatest accomplishments, and this experience provided me with memories that I will cherish deeply. Thank you to the Honors College for this opportunity, and thank YOU for reading my work!"



Honors College Directory

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