

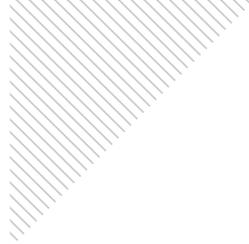


ILLUMINATIONS

EMBRY-RIDDLE HONORS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

This spring semester is perhaps best characterized as “changes in the air.” Everyone affiliated with the Honors Program is pleased to have our associate director, Ms. Michelle Howell, back in the Honors Center and as engaged with and supportive of our students as ever, following time away this fall on maternity leave. Well...almost everyone is pleased; we may need to exclude her infant son, Mason, but I’ve seen him smiling, so I believe he is adapting.

Also, our Honors Center is expanding, as we have regained the adjacent classroom space and have begun converting this to what will become a beautiful computer lab/group work area. Six new computers with dual monitors are now in place, and the great wave of renovation will occur during the summer months, in order to minimize impact on the students. When our students return (or enter) in fall term, the space will be (beautifully) unrecognizable. That’s the plan.

Our plan to transition to Honors College has been formally proposed and is currently under review by the university administration. When there is anything to announce to students regarding the outcome of this proposal, be assured that I will let you know.

We have continued our trend of increasing student involvement in the national and regional Honors conferences. This November, I traveled to Seattle for the National Collegiate Honors Council conference, together with Josh Pevitz and Daniel Brunson, who did us proud via their conference presentation on increasing meaningful student involvement in an Honors Student Association. Our HSA can and does

stand as a model for others, at various colleges and universities, who have been less successful. Kudos to the HSA leadership and ALL involved students for building a winning Honors student organization. It has become a cornerstone of our Honors Program! In late March, I will travel with a group of students to Asheville, NC, for the Southern Regional Honors conference...which will provide further opportunity for student presentation (Chris Hays, HSA research chair, presenting on the Archimedes Initiative) and general interaction with many Honors Program/Honors College students, faculty, and administrators from across the southern US. This idea-sharing forum serves as a catalyst for grassroots involvement with Honors Program development.

The list of activities and service opportunities within Honors is too long to fully delineate, but it is obvious that our impact on campus and community is growing, along with our numbers (currently at 350 students and inching upwards). Our Honors courses, Honors Series events (packing the house), broad range of Honors contract experiences, and general commitment to collectively “raising the bar” on our campus has situated us very close to where I imagined we could be...some fourteen years ago, as we were just starting out.

It takes the positive energy of many people to get to this point: faculty committed to their Honors teaching, our energetically involved and conscientious students, and of course supportive staff and administration across the campus.

Thank you to everyone involved in the Honors adventure... because of you, we are on the rise.

DR. GEOFFREY KAIN

VISITING BUSCH GARDENS



VOLUNTEERING AT PUPPIES AND PLANES



WAFFLE WEDNESDAY FUNDRAISING EVENT

HONORS STUDENT ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

The Fall Semester of 2016 was a busy time for the Honors Student Association. HSA is a growing organization, and nothing shows that better than the large variety of events that HSA put on for its members, campus, and the larger community. HSA puts on a wide variety of activities for its students, including fundraising, service, and social gatherings.

Social events were put on to boost interaction and friendship between members. Events that have become tradition, such as the Game Night and the Beach Trip, returned last semester. However, the organization was not stagnant, as they explored new ideas as well. HSA participated in its first season of intramural football and also went paintballing for the first time. Some students even organized a swing dance trip near Orlando. Venturing to a new location for the annual big trip, many students traveled to Busch Gardens in Tampa for a day of roller coasters and exotic animals.

One of the core pillars of HSA is a commitment to service. Several HSA students organized a water bottle rocket competition for a local elementary school, where Tomoka Elementary students would build compressed air rockets out of a 2-liter bottle and see which one went the farthest. At the New Smyrna airfield, a nonprofit organization needed the help of the honors students to host an airshow and animal shelter adoption event. HSA students also were found volunteering during Family Days, which is held on campus.

Several of these events would not be possible without funding. To finance these activities, HSA hosted multiple fundraising events. Every two weeks students put on Waffle Wednesday, where delectable and simple breakfast foods were sold outside the Student Center. The Honors Students also transformed the Honors Center into a haunted house on Halloween weekend and sold tickets to generate income.

One of the key focuses of HSA is allowing members to choose how the organization benefits them. This wide variety of events allows members to tailor HSA to fit their wants and goals. For some students it can act as a great social experience to form friendship and comradery. For others, HSA acts as a great way to give back to the community. Whatever a student wishes to achieve, The Honors Student Association is able to deliver.



HSA PLAYS PAINTBALL

ANDY KURILI

ALUMNI TODAY

THE HONORS PROGRAM AT EMBRY-RIDDLE STRIVES TO PREPARE THE UNIVERSITY'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS AS THEY PURSUE THEIR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GOALS.

COUNTLESS HONORS ALUMNI ARE ALREADY OUT DOING WHAT THEY LOVE AND MAKING AN IMPACT ON THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS. TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT SOME OF YOUR PEERS HAVE BEEN DOING ALREADY, SHOWING NUMEROUS POSSIBILITIES OF WHAT YOU CAN ACHIEVE AFTER EMBRY-RIDDLE.



CASEY TROXLER



Clare Jenkins graduated with an Aerospace Engineering bachelor's degree with a focus in Astronautics in May 2016. During her Junior and Seniors year in the Honors Program, she served as the president of the Honors Student Association, leading the organization to numerous achievements. Clare is currently working at Lockheed Martin Space Systems in Colorado as a System Integration and Test Engineer on the Orion Program. As a Test Engineer, she sends commands to control the spacecraft, such as powering up and down and running test scripts.

"Overall, the Honors Program gave me an outlet to hone my leadership skills through HSA, but it also gave me a strong support system of people who could be my study partners, my mentors, my mentees, and my friends. I absolutely loved being in the Honors Program, and I can't imagine having gone through college without it."



Erin Siltman graduated May of 2016 with a bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering and a minor in Mathematics. She is employed by the Federal Aviation Administration in the Office of Commercial Space Transportation as an Aerospace Engineer, within the Operations Integration Division. Erin describes her job as the "front door" to licensing commercial space operations, so she gets to work with established and upcoming aerospace companies. Her engineering background helps with understanding a company's concept of operations and with working through public safety issues. The office is located in D.C., but she primarily operates from the field office at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, FL.

"The Honors Program helped me to be a more well-rounded engineering student. I thoroughly enjoyed the Honors seminar classes as well as the Honors engineering classes. Dr. Kain and Michelle were great advisors, and I appreciated all of their help in figuring out my way through college. The other great part of the Honors Program is the relationships I built in it. Living on the same Honors floor, working in the Honors center, and having classes with Honors students made it easy to develop friendships. I made some of my best friends in the Honors Program, and I would not be where I am today without the support from those friends."

HONORS RESEARCH

One of the greatest strengths of the Honors Program is its dedication to researching exciting new topics on the forefront of technology. Many of the ongoing projects found around campus are related to the Honors Program at Embry-Riddle in a number of ways. This engagement in development offers a great opportunity to students, propels the Honors Program into the spotlight on campus, and helps create new advancements in a multitude of industries.

Over the past three years, the Honors Student Association's Research Project has been the most visible research undertaking within the Honors Program. This year it is known as the Archimedes Initiative, with a mission to greatly minimize/eliminate the difficulty of accessing water sources in Sub-Saharan Africa. They plan to accomplish this by creating a water pump that operates with minimal to no assistance of humans. The Archimedes Initiative consists entirely of students from the Honors Student Association and is headed by a veteran of HSA research, Chris Hays. Throughout the Fall of 2016, The group made a fantastic amount of progress by finalizing their designs, ordering the necessary parts and tools required, and beginning preliminary construction plans.

There are plenty of research opportunities that exist beyond The Archimedes Initiative and within the scope of Honors. Take Project Courier, an Ignite-backed Research Project led by two Honors program students, Greg Diehl and Andy Kurili. Together they lead a team of primarily Honors students to create a fully autonomous UAV delivery system to operate on college campuses. During

the autumn months, Project Courier completed many of its objectives, including gaining access to an S1000 UAV, beginning airframe modifications, and finalizing the overall design.

The Honors Program's involvement in research demonstrates just one of the many resources that are offered to students. These projects serve as great opportunities for those involved to advance a diverse set of skills and to engage with difficult real-world challenges. Being active in an endeavor more closely emulates a workplace environment than any classroom could hope. By conducting these tasks, students gain project experience that

demonstrates ability and ambition to potential employers. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, these projects foster teamwork and leadership abilities for all involved; all of which are vital skills in life.

This is an exciting time for research within the Honors Program. Such a wide variety of projects spanning multiple fields ensures there are

opportunities for every student to focus on their specific interests. The Honors Program's focus on research is just another example of its focus on creating well-rounded and goal-oriented students who will one day be the leaders of industry.

GREG DIEHL

“...THESE PROJECTS FOSTER TEAMWORK AND LEADERSHIP ABILITIES FOR ALL INVOLVED; ALL OF WHICH ARE VITAL SKILLS IN LIFE.”

HONORS PERKS

PERKS OF THE HONORS PROGRAM

The Honors Program is home to the best and the brightest of Embry-Riddle. From The Honors Series to the peer mentor program, it provides a plethora of marvelous opportunities for its members.

The Honors Student Association (HSA) is just one example of the many incredible opportunities the Honors Program presents to its constituents. Club members are encouraged to take initiative and develop leadership skills through the different committees within the organization. The Research, Social, Service, Personal and Professional Development (PPD), Fundraising, and Public Relations (PR) committees provide opportunities to be involved for a wide array of interests. PPD is aimed at helping students become better prepared for the job market and life after Riddle. The Social committee connects members of HSA to other organizations on campus. Fundraising is essential to provide a source of income for the organization to reduce costs for its members, as well as aiding members in the development of important financial skills. One of the most important things an organization can do is give back to the community, and this is the focus of the service committee. Public Relations keeps the public informed about the activities of the association and upcoming events. This year, the research project is the Archimedes Initiative project aimed at creating a wind-powered pump able to draw water from wells and transport it across several



miles to provide clean water to underdeveloped villages.

The Honors Series, yet another astounding opportunity, is an array of entertaining speakers and performers brought to Embry-Riddle by the Honors Program that is open to the public.

The Honors Center is a casual, stress-free environment for students to do school work or just socialize between classes.

The ability to network and make connections is one of the biggest advantages a person can have in the real world. The Honors Program does an excellent job providing its members with opportunities to meet and interact with new people. The peer mentor program pairs first-year students with an experienced Honors student and makes the transition into college smoother. It offers younger members an easy way to seek school advice - from peers close in age - as well as being a great way to get to know other students and make new friends.

The people in the ERAU Honors Program are special. They are kind, passionate, and hard-working individuals, who strive for personal success as well as the success of the others. I am proud to be a part of this extraordinary program.

ELSA INGWERSEN

PROFESSOR HIGHLIGHT



DR. JEFF BROWN

Dr. Brown is an associate professor at Embry-Riddle in the Civil Engineering Department of the College of Engineering. Dr. Brown graduated with his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from the University of Central Florida and his Ph.D. from the University of Florida, where his research focused on the rehabilitation of existing civil infrastructure with composite materials. After college he spent multiple years with Engineers Without Borders, teaching children in Africa.

Dr. Brown teaches both Statics and Solid Mechanics, Reinforced Concrete Design, and the Honors course: Ethics and Sustainability. He is an exceptional professor who teaches these courses with enthusiasm. By teaching Statics and Solid Mechanics, Dr. Brown creates the foundation for engineering courses to come. His teaching style

incorporates hands-on problems, using softwares like NASTRAN, with conceptual problems, SCD and SD problems which strengthen the student's knowledge of how to answer problems, step-by-step. The workload may be larger than other courses, but it prepares you well for the exams and final by encouraging you to practice the concepts thoroughly. Dr. Brown has an open door policy which is extremely helpful when having trouble with a topic or homework question; he is always willing to explain the idea until you understand and excel. Within the Honors Program, Dr. Brown's involvement spans from teaching courses and giving open forum talks, to helping with this year's research project, the Archimedes Initiative. His honors course is an intensive look into the ethics of sustainability and how societal and professional ethics have evolved. The course delves deep into complex issues facing the modern world and encourages discussion and debates on how to solve them, touching on everything from environmental to philosophical. Concerning the Archimedes Initiative, which is a wind powered water pump, he serves as the faculty advisor. He helps to mentor the students leading this project by reviewing designs, giving recommendations, and helping to focus the research topic and its progress within the Honors Program.

Current and past students can agree that Dr. Brown is an exceptional professor who cares for the education the students receive and the overall understanding of his courses.

SKY WHITE

DR. BROWN HAS AN OPEN DOOR POLICY WHICH IS EXTREMELY HELPFUL WHEN HAVING TROUBLE WITH A TOPIC OR HOMEWORK QUESTION; HE IS ALWAYS WILLING TO EXPLAIN THE IDEA UNTIL YOU UNDERSTAND AND EXCEL.

ILLUMINATIONS



EMBRY-RIDDLE
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HONORS PROGRAM