



HONORS PROGRAM

Newsletter | Fall 2014

Welcome, Elite Honors Scholars!

Megan Wise
Honors Program Member

Tuesday, September 16 on the 11th floor of the Houston Cole Library the 2014 Elite Honors Scholars were officially introduced into the program and presented before President Meehan.

Here at JSU, the Honors Program helps provide academically gifted students with an enriched educational experience in a diverse range of courses, as well as help students fulfill their potential in their chosen fields.

Every year, eight incoming freshman are selected and awarded the prestigious Elite Honors Scholarship. Spirits were high as each new addition was called forward and presented before family and staff into the program amongst their peers.

Much like the sorority and fraternity systems, the Honors Program Elites have adopted a tradition of "links" to help new members settle into college life and guide them throughout their time settling into JSU. Each new Elite Scholar found out with whom they had been "linked" on Tuesday night.

Before the presentation of the Elites, both President Meehan and Dr. Steven Whitton spoke on what



FROM LEFT: Jennie Tanner, Krista McNutt, John Mackey, Kendall Gullede, Sawyer McKay, Bailey Heflin, Peter Abney, Katie Cline

it means to be an Elite Scholar at Jacksonville State University.

It was evident to see the pride that is associated with this program from the faculty as President Meehan praised the incoming and current members of the Elite Honors for their hard work, long hours and continuation of good habits and practices that had brought them all here.

Although directed at the freshman, his words of advice rang true for all current students at Jacksonville State University. "Education is not

a vitamin we can take, but rather something to be exercised, and should be treated as a lifetime practice," Meehan advised each of the Elites.

"The dream is here," Whitton stated with confidence during his address to the group. Having once been the director over the Honors Program, his love for these students involved shone as he pointed out how the program has flourished over the last year.

See ELITES, page 2

In this Issue...



Welcome Dr. Lori Owens, new Honors Program Director p.3



Meet the Honors Program officers for 2014-2015 p.4



Honors students dance the night away at Meet & Greet p.6

This year, over 300 students are actively involved within the Honors Program, which is 25% more than last year.

When describing the role the Elites play within the Honors Program, Meehan regarded them as the very foundation. "They are actively molding the program for future scholars," Meehan noted.

As well as being academic role models within the school, the



2014-2015 Elite Honors Scholars

program also encourages active volunteer work. From collecting shoes for local charities to raising money for Relay for Life, the Elite Honors members have certainly given back to the community in a way that should not be overlooked.

For more information on enrollment in the Honors Program, go to: <http://www.jsu.edu/cas/honors>

2014-2015 Elite Honors Links

Seniors

Juniors

Sophomores

Freshmen

Emily Smith	→ Alaina Durham	→ Alex McFry	→ John Mackey
Lea Isbell	→ Trent Ford	→ Storm Johnson	→ Katie Cline
Barbara Edwards	→ Allison Bryan	→ Caelan Goss	→ Peter Abney
Noah Trudeau	→ Katie Wood	→ Erin Whetzel	→ Jennie Tanner
Lauren McClendon	→ Amanda Parker	→ Abby Jasowski	→ Kendall Gullledge
Daniel Jackson	→ Lora Corbin	→ Wesley Schultz	→ Sawyer McKay
Micah Burns	→ Katie Loper	→ Dylan Kyser	→ Bailey Heflin
	David Rickless	→ Alyssa Cunningham	→ Krista McNutt

Honors Program Administration

Dr. Lori Owens

Honors Program Director

I am delighted to be serving as the new director for the Honors Program. I was presented this opportunity in late summer 2014 and officially began my duties on September 1. I have enjoyed getting to know this special group of students which faithfully meet twice a month to plan, organize, and delegate the responsibilities for the activities and events for the semester.

My first official function with our Elite Honors Students was on September 16 for the ceremony that is held each fall for the freshmen members of the Elite Honors Program. One of the key components of the program consists of the veteran members of the Elite Honors Program mentoring our freshmen Elite Scholars. I was impressed by the attention and concern that our upperclassmen Elite Scholars displayed for the new members. Indeed, the freshmen members of the Elite Scholars Program are embarking on a journey that will serve them well throughout their lives.

My first impression of the Elite Scholars is that they are not only bright but are highly motivated, "self-starting" individuals with a sense of

duty to the JSU community and the greater community as well. In a world that appears to have lost so much of its drive and initiative, it is refreshing to see this important trait so exemplified in our young people.

We recently held a reception for all of our Honor Students at the Alumni House. We were pleased to see so many of our Elite Scholars and Honors Students in attendance. The students enjoyed a time of food, fellowship, and networking. Moreover, several of our alumni from the Elite Honors Program also attended this event and shared their experiences and insights with our current students. I taught several of these students so it was so rewarding to hear about their progress in graduate or law school and listen to their discussion of future personal and professional plans.

I want to thank my predecessor, Dr. Steve Whitton in English, for his contributions to the Honors Program during the past 5 years. He will be a tough act to follow. Our Program Coordinator, Ms. Janet Whitmore, has been indispensable to this program and I look forward to working with her and Ms. Sherry Cospers as we chart the course for the Honors Program for the next several years.



A university honors program is the heartbeat of a campus. These are the students who will not only do great things with their lives but for their community and their alma mater as well. The students in our Honors Program serve as wonderful ambassadors for our university. Our goal over the next year will be to continue to mesh our Elite Scholars with the Honor Students and develop a common theme for the program. I look forward to working with our students, faculty, and staff to achieve this goal.



Mrs. Janet Whitmore

Honors Program Coordinator

On Monday, August 19, 2014, the JSU Honors Program began what is proving to be a very exciting, busy, and productive fall semester. We welcomed our incoming Freshman Elite Honors Scholars and they have already become a huge part of our great team.

We have also been fortunate to welcome Dr. Lori Owens. She is a very involved and caring Professor, Department Head for Political Science, and now Director of the Honors Program. She is already very involved in the Honors Program and we are looking forward to great leadership and relationships with her.

One of our ongoing projects is the

basement of the Honors House. It has been remodeled and serves as a hangout and study area for Honors Program members. This semester we have been able to get new tables and chairs and will be doing more cosmetic work over the next couple of weeks. We hope to see more students utilizing the area in the weeks to come.

I am excited to be working with Emily Smith, President of the Student Honors Board, Alex McFry, Vice-President and Allison Bryan, Secretary for this year. They are huge assets to the program. With the help of the Honors Board members, Student Honors Board, Elite Honors Scholars and the more than 250 Honors Program members, I anticipate a very successful future for our program.

Honors Program Officers

Emily Smith

Honors Program President

My name is Emily Smith and I am the president of the Honors Program. My major is Pre-Health Professional Biology with a double minor in Chemistry and Psychology. I am a senior here at JSU, and I have been with the Honors Program all 4 years here.

My vision for the Honors Program obviously includes being able to see it grow into a very large organization, which is a trend that has continued since my freshman year here, but I also hope to start projects which allow more of our members to be involved. This semester,

we have already had a meet and greet to allow our members to finally get to know each other and start the foundation for working together as a group. The Honors Program is a service organization, but we have not really given the entire program the opportunity to come and help with our service projects. Instead, a core group of us have had required service and have left out most of the others. Now, we are actively encouraging all members to join us in our service projects, which will be talked about in more detail at our November meeting.

I can't wait for a great semester that we have planned for our program!



Alex McFry

Honors Program Vice President

Hello everybody! My name is Alex McFry and I'm thrilled to be serving as Vice President for the year. I graduated as the Valedictorian of White Plains High School in 2013. I'm majoring in communication with a concentration in broadcasting while minoring in film. It's my dream to one day become a television producer or director after I graduate from JSU.

This year, the Honors Program has grown by leaps and bounds. As an organization focused on volunteer work, we have plans to take part in

as many community service projects as possible to help those in our area. With an all-new set of student officers, the program has many new ideas to help us execute these plans.

Another huge difference in the program this year is the involvement of all of the members of the Honors Program here on campus. As officers, we want as many people to take part in all of our activities as possible. We love working with the Elites, but are ecstatic to get to meet all the other members of the program. I can't wait to see how much of a difference we can all make as a united Honors Program here at JSU. Here's to a fantastic new year!



Allison Bryan

Honors Program Secretary

Hello everyone! My name is Allison Bryan, but most people just call me "Ally." I graduated from Plainview High School in Rainsville, Alabama. I am currently a junior majoring in computer science with a math minor. When I'm not programming, I'm usually out playing with my dog Lumpy or planning my next trip to Disney World. I also love to spend time with my family and help with the children's ministry at my church.

I am honored to serve as Honors Program secretary for the 2014-2015

school year. As secretary, I'm helping organize all the great projects we have going on this year. Over the past two years I've seen this organization do some pretty amazing things through our Relay For Life fundraisers and S.H.O.E. projects, but I know this year will be the best one yet.

I'm especially looking forward to our upcoming Christmas caroling trip around local nursing homes. We as a group can bring so much joy into these people's lives at this special time of year. As Buddy says in the best Christmas movie ever, Elf, "the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear." I hope to see you all there!



Elite Honors Scholars



Freshmen (from left): Jennie Tanner, Peter Abney, Krista McNutt, John Mackey, Bailey Heflin, Sawyer McKay, Katie Cline, Kendall Gulledge

Sophomores (from left): Alex McFry, Erin Whetzel, Caelan Goss, Abby Jasowski, Wesley Schultz, Alyssa Cunningham, Storm Johnson, Dylan Kyser



Juniors (from left): Lora Corbin, Amanda Parker, Alaina Durham, Trent Ford, Katie Wood, Katie Loper, David Rickless, Allison Bryan (not pictured)



Seniors (bottom row, from left): Emily Smith, Lauren McClendon, Lea Isbell, Barbara Edwards; (top row, from left): Noah Trudeau, Daniel Jackson, Miach Burns



Events & Happenings



Megan Wise
Honors Program Member

This past Friday, October 10, under the string-light glow of the Alumni House, Jacksonville State University's Honors Program celebrated their first, and hopefully annual, "Meet and Greet."

Here, graduates, Elites and current members of the JSU Honors Program gathered around for the chance to mingle, dress to the nine's and boogie on the dance floor for the ground-breaking event.

Jacksonville State offers many honors classes for its student body, and while

many students on campus take these honors courses and are members to the honors program, it was soon realized how spread out the ones involved seemed to be.

In order to bring a sense of familiarity and togetherness for those outside of the Elites or those alumni of the Honors Program, the desire to bring the students together for a night of fun was born.

This was also the first event in which alumni of the program and current students have the opportunity to connect and catch up with the goings-on of those who have graduated and have moved into the grad school or working world.

Aside from seeing familiar faces, events such as these allow students to gain new perspectives as to what the honors program has to offer them as students as well as networking with alumni of the association.

The evening began with the formal routine of any social event.

After hunger had been satisfied and everyone was seated, President Emily Smith and Vice President Alex McFry addressed the members and announced the plans in store for the program for the duration of the year, such as service projects and events.

Some events include the program caroling at local nursing homes, a toy drive and future renovation to the Honors House.

Taking advantage of the raised moral, the enthusiasm of the room was met with questioning as everyone was escorted through a series of party meet-and-greet games which soon had the entire facility buzzing with laughter.

Spirits were high as hits from the 2000s began to play, tables were moved aside, and jackets and heels were removed leaving the students to the dance floor.

Rain signified the conclusion of the event, but as the members of the JSU Honors Program, both past and present, proceeded out the door, even the rain was unable to dampen the enjoyment of its members in attendance that evening.

Upcoming Events

- November 8 - Honors House Clean Up Day (Elites only)
- November 22 - Nursing Home Caroling Day
- Christmas Events TBA

Program Wide Meetings:

- Monday, November 17th
2:00p.m.
- Wednesday, November 19th
4:30p.m.