

Study Abroad/Away

Some of our Honors Program members are heading to the emerald isle this May! A list of Irish destinations includes Dublin's Grafton Street, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Blarney Castle, Rock of Cashel, and more. Our study abroad members are preparing right now for this experience learning about the rich culture through study, books, and film.

Ireland Bound

May 2022



D.C. in December

2023

Every other year we travel somewhere domestically, and our nation's capital is the next stop! Students may visit such sites as The Smithsonian Museum, White House, U.S. Capitol, Ford's Theatre, and more.



*Where Will We
Go Next?*





Dr. Jenna Ridlen

Greetings!

My name is Dr. Jenna Ridlen, and **it is my joy and honor to serve on your honors board**. I was part of an honors program during my own undergraduate days. The friendships I gained and the mentorship I received changed the trajectory of my life and career. It is my sincere hope to be of service to you, to pay forward my own experiences while partnering with you to meet your goals at JSU and beyond.



I serve as an assistant professor in JSU's legendary biology department. I'm a human biologist; I actually came to academics after years of clinical work as a family doctor. My passion is to help JSU students transition into their chosen careers, with my specialty, of course, being pre-health. As such I teach senior seminar for all biologists, I serve as the chair of the Pre-Health Advising committee, and I serve as the faculty advisor for several pre-health clubs including AMSA. If you want more information on health careers, assistance with the application process, networking leads, test tips, or just a listening ear as you navigate the process, please reach out to me via email or Teams.

I also collaborate with the Hudson Alpha CODE project to do protein modeling and bioinformatics research on clinically-relevant human gene variants. Please let me know if you are interested in this research and want to get involved!

In my free time I enjoy board games, reading and watching Sci-fi, Wordle, singing Encanto songs on repeat with my toddler Margaux, and walking the Ladiga with my husband Tray, who is an assistant professor in the JSU art department.

Very grateful for this program and all of you and looking forward to getting to know you better!



When I graduated from Jacksonville State University

in May of 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, I immediately took off my cap and gown and went off to law school at the William & Mary School of Law in Williamsburg, Virginia. When I left JSU, I knew not what awaited me in a professional program that is best described as a harrowing experience, to say the least; however, I felt I was well prepared for the journey. Four years later, I again found myself walking across a graduation stage accepting a Juris Doctorate along with a Master's in Business Administration for my troubles. Now I see myself studying long hours for the Georgia Bar Exam and looking forward to a career in Securities Law and Mergers & Acquisitions.



Alec Young



As I look back at all the things that have led me to this point in my life, I cannot help but think about my time in the JSU Honors Program and how the program has helped me along the way. So much of professional school and the larger professions beyond it is about applying a thought process. Knowingly or not, Lawyers, accountants, bankers, and many more are taught a way to think that allows them to excel in their chosen profession.

The JSU Honors Program taught me a way to think about things that laid the foundation for everything I've done since graduation and everything I will do going forward.



Upcoming Events

March 2nd- 7:15 am Virtual Meeting

March 7th- 4:30pm Program Meeting

March 11th- Little River Canyon Center Trip

March 17th- 7pm Honors Formal

April 12th- 5pm President's Lawn Event

- Open to all Honors Program members
- Food, fun, and games!
- Raffles and prize opportunities

Look for more information to come!



Honors Program

