

Honors



Newsletter of the University of Georgia Honors Program

Winter 2009



*Christina Faust
is clearly one of the
brightest stars
in the UGA
academic sky.*

— President Michael F. Adams

PRESENTING Triple Crown Winner *Christina Faust*

For the first time in UGA history, a student has secured the Udall, Truman, and Mitchell scholarships. “Christina Faust is clearly one of the brightest stars in the UGA academic sky, and I am very proud of her,” said President Michael F. Adams. “She has demonstrated remarkable talent and the ability to master a variety of areas of study, characteristics which bode well for her future. I expect great things from Christina.”

In November 2008, Christina, a fourth-year Foundation Fellow from Athens, GA, was selected as one of only 12 national recipients of the 2009–2010 George J. Mitchell Postgraduate Scholarship. The Mitchell Scholarship, named in honor of the former U.S. senator who served as chairman of the historic peace negotiations in Northern Ireland in 1998, is nationally competitive and supports one year of graduate study in any discipline offered by institutions in Ireland and Northern Ireland. The award promotes a spirit of community and global understanding through linking future American leaders with the island of Ireland. Christina will use her scholarship to study immunology and global health at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. As for Christina’s future career, she says, “I hope to approach wildlife health issues from sociological and environmental perspectives in order to develop the most sustainable and effective solutions to our planet’s most pressing challenges.”

This past year, Christina was also awarded the Harry S. Truman and the Morris K. Udall Scholarships. The first recognizes third-year students who are preparing for public service careers and the latter recognizes second- and third-year students who are planning careers related to environmental policy.

While at UGA, Christina has pursued a dual bachelor’s/master’s degree in ecology and is conducting avian influenza research through the Odum School of Ecology and the College of Veterinary Medicine. She has also traveled to five continents to volunteer and study. In addition to her academic and research activities on and off campus, Christina has been an active volunteer with the Gameday Recycling program, and holds leadership positions with the Go Green Alliance Council and the Sustainable Development Committee of the UGA Ecology Club. “Many of our students impress me, but Christina truly inspires me,” said Dr. David S. Williams, director of the Honors Program. “We need leaders who understand the delicate interwoven nature of our complicated ecosystems, and who can envision and articulate answers and approaches. Christina is a leader for our times, and I am extremely proud of her.”

Seven Honors Students Present their Research at a National Conference

For the second year in a row, Honors Program students presented their research at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), the nation's largest undergraduate conference. The seven Honors Program student participants were **Opeoluwa Fawole, Marcus Hines, David Mitchell, Muktha Natrajan, Joseph Rimando, Cleveland Piggott, and Jasmine Williams**. They presented research in the areas of cancer, Alzheimer's and stem-cell research, infectious diseases, and behavioral sciences. David Mitchell, a second-year pre-business major from Fayetteville, GA, won the best poster award in the social and behavioral sciences category.

The Honors students enjoyed the first-hand experience of a major science conference and had the opportunity to present their work on a national stage. They were also able to network with representatives of institutions that they are considering for graduate or professional school. Professors Marcus Fechheimer and Kojo Mensa-Wilmot were the UGA faculty coordinators and traveled with the group to Orlando, FL.



L-R Joseph Rimando, Opeoluwa Fawole, David Mitchell, Dr. Marcus Fechheimer, and Marcus Hines. Not pictured are Jasmine Williams, Muktha Natrajan, and Cleveland Piggott.

PASSIONATE ABOUT CANCER RESEARCH



When **Jasmine Williams**, a third-year student double majoring in biology and Spanish from Stockbridge, GA, was applying to college she was fairly sure her future career was going to be in cancer research. She just had to find a university with the right fit. She accepted an invitation to attend the 2006 CURO Symposium as a Promising

Scholar and it was there that she realized she had found the place. "I was able to attend the CURO Symposium during my senior year of high school and meet with students and professors who were conducting the type of research I was interested in," Williams said. After being accepted into the Foundation Fellows program and realizing all of the amazing opportunities available at large through the Honors Program, Jasmine chose to come to UGA.

Although the Fellowship has enabled Jasmine to travel extensively, the outstanding research opportunities through the CURO program have shaped Jasmine's drive and career path. She was able to start working in a cancer research lab as soon as she arrived on campus, and she believes this to be instrumental in her undergraduate experience. "The CURO program is a

unique one, facilitating graduate-level research experiences at the undergraduate level. This definitely continued my interest in science and opened my eyes to experiences I would never have been aware of otherwise." One such eye-opening opportunity arrived via Howard Young, a university alumnus Jasmine met at alumni events, who shares her interest in cancer research. Young, a pancreatic cancer survivor, felt she would be perfect for an internship at the esteemed Translation Genomics Institution (TGen) in Phoenix, AZ where he had received treatment. With an outstanding application and Howard's help, Jasmine secured the TGen internship.

For eight weeks, in conjunction with the Heliose Scholars Program, Jasmine worked in an endometrial cancer lab studying a drug called PD173074 which facilitated cell death in tumors. "My internship at TGen helped me to realize that I am still passionate about cancer research as a career and exposed me to a new aspect of the field in translational research," Jasmine said. "Traveling to the other side of the country made me aware of how different and dynamic a research career can be, and I appreciated that experience. I loved every part of my research, learning about endometrial cancer, designing scientific experiments, and realizing that research is different when conducted within an institute rather than at a university. I am excited about the career opportunities available to me after this internship and am thankful for the experience." Jasmine hopes to go back to TGen in summer 2009 to continue with the project.

2008 – 2009 CURO APPRENTICES NAMED

Each year the Honors Program awards CURO Apprenticeships to students who are interested in enriching their academic experience by becoming immersed in research. The students are paired with UGA faculty research mentors representing various disciplines across campus, and spend 10–12 hours a week on individual research projects. The award provides a \$2,000 stipend for their first year, which is renewable for a second year. The current CURO Apprentices are the following:

First-year students

Christine Akoh	Athens, GA
Amarachi Anukam	Athens, GA
Michael Burel	Acworth, GA
Jaharris Collier	Oglethorpe, GA
Craig Hayes	Conyers, GA
Shelby Hipol	Boxborough, MA
Kema Hodge	Lithonia, GA
Dillon Horne	Loganville, GA
Francisco Marrero	Columbus, GA
Amanda McKenley	Snellville, GA
Patricia Mitchell	Tucker, GA
Akanksha Rajeurs	Roswell, GA
Al Ray, III	Lithonia, GA
Donald Snyder	Albany, GA
Theodore Story	Byron, GA

Second-year students

Kelly Canterbury	Hampton, GA
Opeoluwa Fawole	Lawrenceville, GA
Marcus Hines	Albany, GA
Jackie Lastra	Marietta, GA
Jasmaine Mathis	Statesboro, GA
David Mitchell	Fayetteville, GA
Muktha Natrajan	Martinez, GA
Alexander Orellana	Suwannee, GA
Elizabeth Pollak	Statesboro, GA
Joseph Rimando	Warner Robbins, GA
Aalok Sanjanwala	Cumming, GA
Giridhar Subramanian	Marietta, GA
Brian Watts	Douglasville, GA
Laura Wynn	Dunwoody, GA

CONGRATULATIONS, OPE!

Honors student **Ope Fawole** from Lawrenceville, GA is the first UGA student to receive the prestigious Howard Hughes Medical Institute Summer Research Scholarship. Ope will travel this summer to an institute of her choice to continue her research in infectious diseases specifically related to pregnancy-associated malaria.



CHANGING THE WORLD, ONE INTERNSHIP AT A TIME

This past semester, Foundation Fellows **Sharon McCoy** and **Lucas Puente** traveled to Washington, DC to work and learn in the nation's capital. Sharon, a third-year student from Evans, GA, and an international affairs and Spanish major, interned with the Center for American Progress (CAP). Lucas, a third-year student from Wilmington, NC, and an international affairs and finance major, interned with Senator Barack Obama's office.

Sharon was responsible for researching news about Latino affairs in Brazil, Argentina, and Peru and oil companies in Mexico and Brazil. The work built on her academic interests in international affairs. Sharon was born in the Philippines and lived in the Netherlands and Italy before she settled in the USA. In the summer prior to the Washington internship, Sharon worked in Ecuador with the Center for Mediation, Peace, and the Resolution of Conflict. There she investigated the conflicts among Colombians, Colombian refugees, and Ecuadorians in Ecuador. This spring she will participate in a study abroad program studying Spanish in Chile. Sharon hopes that her future will include work in the civil rights or foreign service arenas.

Lucas' work in the Obama senate office involved helping to compile a research document on the proposed \$700 billion bailout of the financial service industry. During the summer prior to his time in Washington, Lucas interned with the Department of State in Managua, Nicaragua. He worked in the Embassy's Consular Section where his two primary functions were handling visa applicant intakes and investigating visa applicants with potential ineligibilities. He also visited Americans in prison for crimes committed in Nicaragua, went to the regional court to ensure a fair trial for a case with American plaintiffs, and delivered a presentation on behalf of the US Government in an international conference on trafficking. Lucas hopes that his career will involve working on issues regarding Latin America.



A natural teacher

Ramsey Scholar **Betsy Katz**, a mathematics, Spanish, and religion major, knows what she will be doing when she leaves the UGA campus after graduation this spring. Betsy serves as the campus coordinator for Teach for America, and will join the program herself. She will be teaching math at an inner city school in San Francisco. Teaching seems to come naturally to Betsy, as she has taught English both in Athens as well as in Mexico to foreign language speakers. She has tutored with the local Latino community and volunteered as a Spanish language interpreter both with the Clarke County School District as well as with the Mercy Health Clinic. In addition, she also works as a student minister with the Presbyterian Student Center. But Betsy's life is not all work and no play. She is an active member of the UGA Women's Rugby Football Club. Betsy will enter graduate school after she has finished her commitment to the Teach for America program.



To learn more, visit www.teachforamerica.org

For the Love of Learning

The love of learning comes easy to **Chris Chiego**, a fourth-year Foundation Fellow and international affairs and history major from Nashville, TN. In high school, Chris was an active member on the academic team, so he joined the UGA Quizbowl team when he arrived on campus. He found that the team had a small membership and was not well organized. Chris rallied several fellow students with the goal of having Quizbowl UGA regain its status as a respected team in the Southeast. Since those early days on campus, Chris has served as president, treasurer, and currently serves as the club's advisor. Quizbowl is a more academic version of traditional trivia games, incorporating a broad spectrum of questions on topics ranging from history and science to literature, religion, and mythology. "I've never taken a physics class, but Quizbowl questions on physics have inspired me to start reading about astrophysics and models of the universe that I never would have read otherwise," said Chris. "And it's the same with mythology, modern music, and American art." Under Chris' leadership, Quizbowl at UGA has grown to one of the largest programs in the region with 15 to 20 members practicing each week and competing nationwide against Quizbowl teams from other schools such as Harvard, Princeton, and Stanford.



Chris (in green shirt) practicing with fellow UGA Quizbowl team members.

STUDENT PROFILE

Beau Gilmore

2008 Homecoming King **Beau Gilmore** shows his trademark grin and abundant energy when you ask him about his time at UGA. He talks about how much he enjoyed his academic path of biology and exercise science, but his real passion shows when he speaks about the service projects he participated in over these past four years. He says, "I feel strongly that time is wasted if not devoted to service. My passion for people, being around them, working through their problems, forming relationships, and collectively working towards their goals means everything to me."

It is that core commitment to service that led Beau to become a leading force for UGA Relay for Life, helping to make the past year the most successful one ever for the organization. But Beau did not just serve with his peers on campus. With funding from his Foundation Fellowship, Beau traveled to Tanzania where he worked for six weeks in a local clinic participating in outpatient care, vaccinating and weighing infants, and providing many services to pregnant women. Although his knowledge of the local language was minimal, he was able to communicate with the locals and work independently at the clinic. The trip strengthened Beau's taste for adventure and passion to serve others. So this past summer, he traveled to Peru with another Foundation Fellow, Robert Thrasher. While Robert worked with PROPERU, a non-governmental agency that works under the Peruvian Chamber of Commerce, Beau found another clinic to volunteer in. His time at UGA volunteering with Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society, and his volunteer work in Africa and Latin America, have helped Beau to clarify his career goals in medicine. He would like to either specialize in pediatric oncology or third-world internal medicine. But first he will take a year off to find some more adventure (he is eager to return to Africa) and to find some more opportunities to volunteer his services.



Yes, I would like to support Honors Program students!

Honors Program Annual Fund

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Soaring to great heights

Going to extremes and giving it your all is not a foreign concept to **Annalise Peters**, a third-year student from Decatur, GA majoring in international affairs and environmental economics and management. After all, she is combining a challenging academic program with a grueling athletic schedule since she serves as captain of the UGA ladies track team and competes as a pole-vaulter. As one can imagine, heights do not bother Annalise, which came in handy when she traveled to Africa this past summer and climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. Through the Honors International Studies Program (HISP), Annalise secured funding to conduct research in Madagascar, but she decided to first make a stop in Tanzania to fulfill a long-time dream. Reaching the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro (called Uhuru) was indeed a dream come true. She later wrote in her blog, “There’s no way to internalize or even describe Uhuru. Standing on top of the highest point on the entire continent of Africa, looking down on a crystal blue sky over Kenya and Tanzania. Giant ice walls to the left. Low lying snow-filled valleys to the right. You’re on the roof of Africa, but talk about humbling. Truly, a once in a lifetime experience, and I’ll never forget that moment.” Following this feat, Annalise made her way to Madagascar and interned for a month with Reef Doctor, an organization performing coral reef research, conservation, and preservation along the southwest coast. While living in a reef hut with another volunteer intern, she combined her love for scuba diving and adventure with performing seagrass surveys to document growth and depletion. Annalise was one of only two Americans working with Reef Doctors, which enabled her to begin thinking more internationally. Following her summer travel experiences, Annalise feels she has learned that “college is a journey to learn your path.” She feels her eyes were opened to her path by living alongside natives, seeing poverty up close, and developing a strong conviction to make a difference. She hopes to return to Madagascar and travel for a year before attending law school, while her ultimate goal is to contribute to policy-making for those less fortunate.



L-R Heidi Knoblock, Andrew Durso, and Jean Chi

TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESCUE

For several enthusiastic and eco-friendly UGA Honors students, including **Jean Chi, Andrew Durso, Christina Faust, and Heidi Knoblock**, recycling became a renewed focus during the 2008 football season. Gameday Recycling, a program originated by their friend and fellow UGA student, Mark Milby, got them fired up. They volunteered their services and leadership capabilities and together embraced campus recycling with the UGA game opener against Georgia Southern University. With a group of 10 volunteers and 28 bins distributed throughout campus, the team collected 500 pounds of recyclables. However, after the first two games, the group realized their need for additional help. So, with more volunteers by their side – all wearing homemade lime green shirts with the word ‘recycle’

on the front and the recycling symbol on the back – the team was ready to collect their biggest yield yet. Their efforts paid off: more than 75 volunteers and 115 bins collected 3,200 pounds of recyclable material during the Alabama game. This level of success and organization continued throughout the football season, enabling them to collect a total of 10,200 pounds of recyclable material from six games. Andrew Durso, a fourth-year ecology major from Durham, NC, feels the group is on the right track: “In a decade when our landfill may soon be filled, every little bit of diversion helps.” For Heidi Knoblock, a fourth-year dietetics major from Acworth, GA, game day recycling spans far beyond the pounds of recyclables collected. She says, “It has been rewarding to see the change in habits of tailgaters and fans over the past few months, but working with my peers has been the most rewarding aspect of this project.” Jean Chi adds, “I am continually inspired and impressed by the heart that Honors students and other students at UGA show through their actions.”

2008 – 2009 William Moore Crane Leadership Scholars

Twelve Honors Program students were recently awarded the William Moore Crane Leadership Scholarships for their stellar academic record and outstanding campus leadership. The award carries a \$1,000 scholarship. The award is named for a 1921 UGA graduate who was influential in the founding of the UGA Alumni Society.

“This year’s Crane Scholars have demonstrated tremendous commitment to civic engagement while balancing the demands of rigorous academic programs. We are proud of the ways they have impacted local, national, and international communities,” said Jessica Hunt, Honors Program Scholarship Coordinator. The students are:

Jeremy Akin

International Affairs
Savannah, GA

Sarah Alongi

Marketing and Public Relations
Woodstock, GA

Patrick Dever

Economics
Lubbock, TX

Stephen Dorner

Microbiology
Alpharetta, GA

Chandler Holbrook

International Affairs and History
Monroe, GA

Betsy Katz

Mathematics, Spanish, and Religion
Thomasville, GA

Lauren Kelly

Microbiology
Johns Creek, GA

Asiya Khan

Religion and Psychology
Alpharetta, GA

Katie Moore

Broadcast News and French
Charleston, SC

McCoy Pitt

International Affairs
Atlanta, GA

Selena Robinson

Public Relations
Harlem, GA

Kristen Tullos

Economics and International Affairs
Valdosta, GA



When artistically inclined **Kathryn Durfee** arrived on campus four years ago from Atlanta, GA, she didn’t have a clear major in mind, nor what she really wanted to do with her interests in French language, films, writing, and photography. She certainly could not have imagined that she would finish her UGA career with an internship at Blue Sky animation studios to work as a student production assistant for the animated movie *Ice Age 3*. It took several of Dr. Richard Neupert’s film studies classes, and his mentoring of this young student with a quiet but determined passion for film, to reveal to Kathryn that she wanted to declare a film studies major. While perusing her course options, Kathryn stumbled upon several animation classes and decided to give them a try. She instantly loved Professor Mike Hussey’s animation classes and knew what she would like to do in her future.

During May 2008, Kathryn traveled to Cannes, France to attend the Cannes Film festival. In August 2008 she traveled to Los Angeles, CA as a student volunteer at the esteemed SIGGRAPH, where she was one of 400 national and international student volunteers accepted from an application pool of 2000. Kathryn networked with people such as the director of “Kung Fu Panda” and the art director for the “Ice Age” movies and “Horton Hears a Who!” The latter introduced her to the idea of interning for Blue Sky Animation Studio, which hopefully will become the start of a successful career in the animation film industry.



Top row (L-R): Lauren Kelly, Katie Moore, and Asiya Khan.
Middle row: Jeremy Akin, Stephen Dorner, Patrick Dever, and Betsy Katz.
Bottom row: Chandler Holbrook, Sarah Alongi, and Selena Robinson. Not pictured: McCoy Pitt and Kristin Tullos

Two Honors students win Fulbright Scholarships

Recent Honors graduate **William Wiegand** was awarded the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship for the 2008–2009 academic year and is teaching English in South Korea. **Maria Baetti**, also a 2008 graduate, earned a Student Full Grant for study and research abroad and is currently enrolled in the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, Austria. The Fulbright Program is the nation's largest international exchange program for teaching or advanced research. According to Maria De Rocher, UGA's Fulbright academic advisor and Program Coordinator in the Honors Program, "These prestigious grants are a testament to the exceptional achievements of UGA students and UGA's serious commitment to international education."

William, who received degrees in international affairs and Spanish, is spending a year in South Korea, teaching at an all male high school in Cheongju. He credits his Honors activities as a contributing factor to his success at UGA. Through the Honors Program, William interned as a legislative analyst with King & Spalding law firm and received an international travel grant to volunteer in the Ecuadorian cloud forest. "I am honored to be selected as a Fulbright Scholar," said William, who will begin law school next fall, "but I wouldn't be in South Korea right now if it weren't for the encouragement, support, and advice of my family, my professors, mentors, and close friends."

Maria, who received degrees in advertising and psychology, is currently earning a diploma in international relations. While a UGA student and Foundation Fellow, Maria was able to travel extensively across the globe. She also interned with the Atlanta marketing firm Fitzgerald+CO and studied wild dolphins of the coast of Bimini Island in the Bahamas. "As a student in the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, I have the opportunity to interact with students from all over the world and prepare for a career in an international setting. I'm honored to represent the Fulbright Program and the Honors Program in Austria."



Maria Baetti

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