

HONORS NEWSLETTER

September 2019

Honors Program embarks on annual Fall trip

On Friday, Sep. 20, approximately 30 Honors students and 10 faculty members traveled to Charleston, SC for the weekend. Students began the trip with a dinner cruise which navigated the Charleston Harbor and provided excellent musical entertainment. Students participated in engaging mini courses throughout the weekend as well, with topics ranging from low country food culture to Charleston's historic religious congregations. The group was able to explore and see many of the sights that downtown Charleston has to offer and ended the trip with an excursion to the famous Hyman's Seafood. It was definitely an engaging and informative trip for all who attended! The group is pictured below, standing on the grounds of the Charles Pinckney historical site.



Photo by Willa Weltzin

Upcoming Honors Program Events:

- Sep. 28, 2019: Think Meredith Open House for HS Seniors
 - Sep. 29, 2019: FOE- College tunnel tour and bonfire
 - Oct. 19, 2019: FOE- Leslie Odom, Jr.
 - Oct. 25, 2019: Honors Committee meeting, 10 am

Alumnae Corner

Whitney Bell



Whitney Bell ('17) has recently finished up her second year as a Postbaccalaureate at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) in Durham, NC. After a season of graduate school interviews, she has been accepted into several PhD programs. The acceptances include Wake Forest University, Baylor College of Medicine, Emory University, Yale University, Vanderbilt University and UNC Chapel Hill.

It was a long and difficult decision-making process for her, but she ultimately decided to attend UNC, where she wishes to join either the cell biology or pharmacology department. The UNC program is an umbrella program where everyone enters undeclared and chooses their department after lab rotations at the end of their first year. She's very interested in their Certificate in College Teaching program. Whitney is incredibly grateful for all that Meredith College taught her. To quote Whitney directly, "my time at Meredith really inspired me to pursue a PhD with the goal of having a teaching-focused career. This could change in the next six years of course, but regardless of my career choice, I know that UNC will provide me the research and teaching foundations to be successful in whatever I decide to do."

Editor's Note: The alumnae corner is a section aimed to showcase recent feats or awards that Meredith Honors Program alumnae have received! Meredith alumnae are going strong around the world, and this corner aims to recognize these accomplishments. Do not hesitate to contact Dr. Pitts or me with any concerns.

Sophomore receives Rachel Carson fellowship



Emma Fry, member of the Class of 2022 Honors program, earned a spot in the Rachel Carson Council (RCC) Fellowship program this past summer. The RCC fellowship program specifically targets students who are passionate about the world and enacting environmental change. Recipients of this award receive a stipend in order to execute environmental work projects in their respective school campuses. In addition, RCC fellows work with staff members in the organization, write blogs and update others on their progress, as well as engage in the community around them. Emma found out about the program through one of her professors and decided to apply. “I first heard about the fellowship program from my World History professor, Dr. O’Keefe, but I continued to see posters around campus on bulletin boards and became even more interested in what the fellowship was about,” Fry said. “I might not have made the time for the application process in the first place though if it wasn’t for Dr. O’Keefe, because she really made me feel like I had a strong proposal when she heard my idea for solar on Meredith’s campus during the fellowship interest meeting.” She says that she has always been passionate about the environment and its sustainability. Emma is very excited for this opportunity that awaits her, and she already has various ideas for how to promote environmental advocacy at Meredith. “I definitely have a plan to include some type of solar on Meredith’s campus,” Fry said. “Right now, I’m zoning in on a (perhaps) little known project being undertaken by the grounds staff and many others to build an outdoor classroom and education space to get more students and staff involved with our campus garden, The Three Sisters Garden.” Congratulations on this accomplishment, Emma!

Edited by: Hannah Porter, '22. Advisor: Dr. Brent Pitts, Honors Program Director

