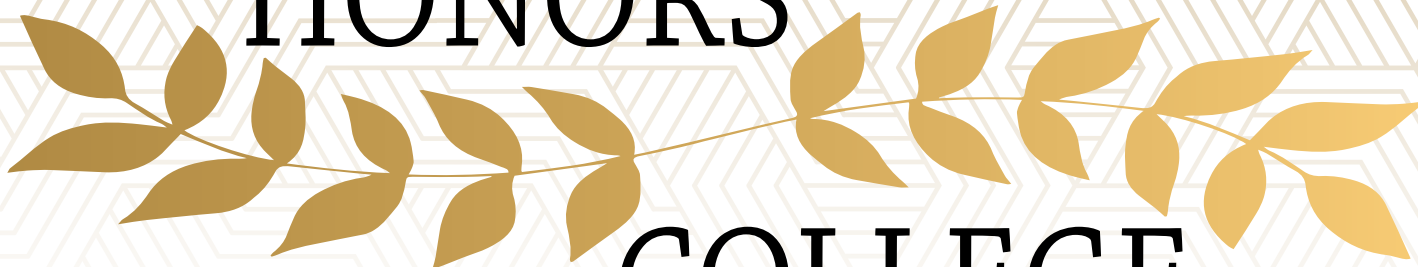


# THE HONORS

# COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



## Semester in Review

By Lisa Perdigao, Ph.D., Assistant Vice President, Honors College

The Florida Tech Honors College was established in fall 2019. A total of 117 freshmen, sophomores and juniors representing the College of Aeronautics, Nathan M. Bisk College of Business, College of Engineering and Science, and College of Psychology and Liberal Arts are inaugural members of the Honors College. We are in the process of admitting new students for fall 2020.

As a graduate of the Honors Program at Boston College, I am passionate about honors education. Honors courses and activities shaped my education and professional career. I vividly remember reading and discussing Plato's work in my first honors seminar, working on my senior thesis with faculty members and applying to graduate school. When I was a graduate student at Northeastern University, I had the opportunity to teach honors English courses to students in a range of majors. Now I am inspired by the Honors College students at Florida Tech who bring with them a wealth of talents, accomplishments and goals. I am excited about what we have already accomplished and our plans for the future.

The Honors College recognizes and fosters student success in five central areas: academics, research, leadership, mentorship and civic engagement. Honors College students are required to satisfy honors credit hours with honors courses, honors sections, honors options and honors research. We offered two honors seminars this year on the topics of Engineering the Body (fall 2019) and War and Technology (spring 2020). In fall 2020, we will offer two sections of the honors seminar: Space, Time and Memory (3 humanities credits) and Technology and Civil Liberties (3 social science credits). We have expanded our honors offerings for 2020–2021 to include honors sections of Writing about Literature, Survey of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, and Survey of Modern and Contemporary Philosophy, and we have created Honors Special Topics and Honors Research Experience courses.

Honors College students are also required to satisfy honors activity hours. In fall 2019, we launched the Honors Leadership Lecture Series where distinguished leaders in academics and industry highlight how they developed the skills that shaped their successful careers. Dr. Anthony Catanese, former president of Florida Tech, was our inaugural speaker. Dr. Jose Nunez, head of Kennedy Space Center's university partnerships, led a "fireside chat" about research opportunities and a tour of KSC's Swamp Works for Honors College students.

Social events brought Honors College students together to solidify our newly formed community. Honors College advisory groups represent both faculty and students. Ten honors faculty fellows representing the four colleges are active participants in the college and review applications, lead and participate in activities, and create and review policies. The Student Honors Council consists of 11 Honors College students who are liaisons between the student body and administrators. Council members lead, organize and participate in honors activities and represent the Honors College at university events and the Florida Collegiate Honors Council. Additionally, two Honors College ambassadors, Laura Guidugli and Sam Kaynor, and an Honors College intern, Martine Fredrickson, lead our efforts in marketing, social media and the peer mentoring program that we are launching in fall 2020.

The Florida Tech Honors College is a vibrant community that is shaped and supported by the contributions of its members. It begins with the students and extends to faculty, staff and administrators who are dedicated to student success. There are many ways for Honors College students to be active participants beyond the classroom. Join us for honors activities, and share your ideas with Student Honors Council members and administrators. You are all student leaders, and we value your contributions.

Spring 2020, Issue 1

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## Announcements



### New Faculty Fellows

James Brenner, Ph.D., is a new faculty fellow for the Honors College. He is also the materials lab coordinator and secretary of the AIChE East Central Florida.

Csaba Palotai, Ph.D., is a new faculty fellow for the Honors College. He is also the Physics & Space Sciences Program Chair.

### Welcome Aboard

Ian Handler, Jasrayman Thind and Isabella van der Haar are the newest students of the Honors College in the spring semester.

### Engage

The Honors College is now on Engage. Stay tuned to our page to know about the upcoming events during the semester through the following link:

[floridatech.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/honorscollege](http://floridatech.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/honorscollege)



## Save the Date

### Spring/Summer 2020 Calendar of Events

Florida Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference ...	Feb. 7–9
Big Day of Service .....	Feb. 23
TED Talk: "How Not To Be Ignorant About The World" .....	Feb. 25
Disney Leadership Strategies.....	March 21
University Honors Convocation.....	April 23
Discovery Day .....	April 25

### Academic Calendar

Spring 2020 Classes Begin .....	Jan. 13
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes) .....	Jan. 20
International Festival .....	Feb. 16
Midterm Grading Opens .....	Feb. 28
Spring Break (no classes) .....	March 9–13
Last Day of Classes.....	April 29
Study Days (no classes) .....	April 30–May 1
Final Exams .....	May 4–8
Spring Commencement Ceremonies .....	May 9
First Day of Summer Classes (8-, 9- and 11-week terms) .....	May 18
Memorial Day (no classes).....	May 25
Independence Day (no classes) .....	July 3
First Day of Summer Classes (6-week term) .....	June 22
Summer Commencement Ceremonies.....	Aug. 1

## Honors College Faculty and Staff, Spring 2020

### Faculty

Lisa Perdigao, Ph.D., *Assistant Vice President*  
Margaret Moore, *Administrative Assistant III*

### Faculty Fellows

James Brenner, Ph.D., *Department of Biomedical and Chemical Engineering and Sciences*  
Alan Brown, Ph.D., *Department of Biomedical and Chemical Engineering and Sciences*  
Travis Conradt, Ph.D., *School of Psychology*  
Kastro Hamed, Ph.D., *Department of Mathematical Sciences*  
Cecilia Knoll, Ph.D., *Department of Mathematical Sciences*  
Csaba Palotai, Ph.D., *Department of Aerospace, Physics and Space Sciences*  
Ronnal Reichard, Ph.D., *Department of Ocean Engineering and Marine Sciences*  
Matthew Ruane, Ph.D., *School of Arts and Communication*  
Michael Slotkin, Ph.D., *Nathan M. Bisk College of Business*  
Brooke Wheeler, Ph.D., *College of Aeronautics*

### Student Honors Council

Dylan Barnes, *Department of Aerospace, Physics and Space Sciences*  
Jake Cole, *Department of Aerospace, Physics and Space Sciences*  
Kayla Decker, *Department of Aerospace, Physics and Space Sciences*  
Martine Fredrickson, *School of Psychology*  
Luis Mantilla Garcia, *Department of Aerospace, Physics and Space Sciences*  
Connor Geran, *Department of Aerospace, Physics and Space Sciences*  
Grace Harrington, *Department of Biomedical and Chemical Engineering and Sciences*  
Sam Kaynor, *Department of Computer Engineering and Sciences*  
Alecea Nelson, *Department of Biomedical and Chemical Engineering and Sciences*  
Caroline Sisko, *Department of Aerospace, Physics and Space Sciences*  
Kelly Van Woesik, *Department of Mathematical Sciences*

### Honors College Student Ambassadors

Laura Guidugli, *Department of Biomedical and Chemical Engineering and Sciences*  
Sam Kaynor, *Department of Computer Engineering and Sciences*

### Honors College Student Intern

Martine Fredrickson, *School of Psychology*

## The Honors College Newsletter

is a publication of Florida Tech's Honors College.

150 W. University Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32901-6975

[floridatech.edu/honors-college](http://floridatech.edu/honors-college)

Editor: Laura Guidugli | Co-editor: Thomas Mathey

### Thank You

Special thanks to those who contributed to this issue of the Honors College Newsletter: Thomas Mathey, Kayla Decker, Sam Kaynor and Martine Fredrickson

### Connect With Us



Florida Tech Honors College



@fitechhonors

## Inaugural Leadership Lecture Series

On Dec. 3, the Honors College hosted the inaugural Leadership Lecture Series event with former Florida Tech President Anthony Catanese, Ph.D. This event was the first of many that will be hosted every semester, presenting our students with different leaders and their perspectives about leadership and what it entails for our generation.

During the event, Dr. Catanese talked about his career path and shared his knowledge on the importance of vision, leadership and role modeling. He also talked about new urbanism and how it is reminiscent of classic American neighborhoods.

During the lecture, Dr. Catanese discussed the importance of a college degree and how society is changing its view on college diplomas. He urged students to take the opportunities that would present themselves in the future to achieve success.

## Upcoming Workshops

The Honors College presents a series of workshops during the spring semester. Come and learn about the steps to follow when creating résumés, cover letters and an online professional profile.

### CVs, Résumés and Hybrids

**Wednesday, Feb. 26, 5:30 p.m. | Evans Library, Link Room**

A workshop on creating curriculum vitae, résumés and hybrid CVs/résumés for Honors College students applying for internships, scholarships, graduate schools and jobs.

### Cover Letters

**Thursday, March 26, 12:30 p.m. | Evans Library, Link Room**

A workshop on creating professional cover letters for Honors College students applying for internships, scholarships, graduate schools and jobs.

### GradTrack Workshop: LinkedIn and Creating a Professional Online Presence

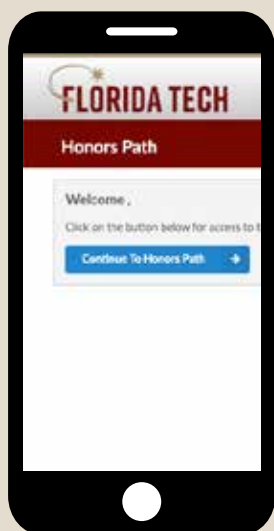
**Wednesday, April 1, 5:30 p.m. | Evans Library, Link Room**

A workshop on creating a professional profile on LinkedIn and social media.

## TED Talk

**Tuesday, Feb. 25, 6 p.m. | Olin Life Sciences (OLS), Room 130**

The Honors College presented a TED Talk by Hans and Ola Rosling on the topic: "How Not To Be Ignorant About The World." The talk, which was open to the Florida Tech community, was facilitated by Student Honors Council member Kelly van Woesik.



## Honors Path

Honors Path enhances honors students' education at Florida Tech so that high-achieving students make the most of their potential. The portal encourages honors students to plan ahead, so they graduate from Florida Tech with a career profile that goes beyond a diploma and a good GPA. Below is a tutorial on how to submit your activity hours into the portal.

### STEP 1:

Access the website:  
[apps.fit.edu/honorspath](http://apps.fit.edu/honorspath)

### STEP 2:

Log in to the Honors Path Portal using your Florida Tech email and password.

### STEP 3:

Click on "Continue to Honors Path" on the confirmation page.

### STEP 4:

Click on the "Activity Hours" icon on the home page.

### STEP 5:

Fill in the basic information about the event.

### STEP 6:

Use the scroll down menu to select the type of Activity Hours.

### STEP 7:

Answer each of the following questions in the "Reflection" section:

- Describe the event.
- How, if at all, did this event challenge your expectations and values? (and if not, why not?)
- What did you learn from your experience?

### STEP 8:

Click on "Submit New Activity Hours" and wait for them to be approved.



## Student Reflection On Disney Leadership Strategies

By Thomas Mathey

The Disney Leadership Strategies trip to Epcot that I attended last year as a Panther Distinguished Scholar was undoubtedly my favorite experience. The best part of the trip was that while my group was being taught the necessary skills for being an effective leader, we were taken backstage. We got to see some of the behind-the-scenes action, including the costuming department where new costumes were being designed and current costumes were being stored.

The cast member who was educating my group on effective leadership made each lesson enjoyable. He taught us the importance of clear communication by having the group work to design a princess dress with charades and demonstrated different leadership styles throughout history by having us

match leadership descriptions with prominent historical leaders. The cast member also answered all the questions we had, ensuring that everyone was able to get the most out of the leadership lessons.

Along with the engaging activities, we were told how Walt Disney, Disney World's founder, used the skills we were being taught to turn his dream into a successful reality. The examples of how Walt Disney communicated with his team to bring about his ideas gave substance to the leadership strategies that we were learning. It's a great place to meet like-minded students, and I recommend that students who want to become successful leaders attend the upcoming trip on March 21.

## Student Reflection On NASA Swamp Works

By Kayla Decker

I thoroughly enjoyed the Swamp Works tour. The most interesting thing for me was getting to stand feet away from the gigantic cryogenic tank that will be used for the new Artemis mission. The tank was easily 20–30 feet tall or more, yet it represented a small sliver in the assembled rocket diagram that they showed us.

Another awesome part of the trip was getting to experience the regolith chamber and the experimentation area. The area had a substance that was left over from the construction industry that resembles the dirt on the moon, so they can perform tests on it and determine solutions for problems on the moon. I was utterly fascinated. In the experimentation room, they showed us how they charge the regolith particles so that they would be shot off into the air and away from astronauts' space suits so that the fibers of the dirt do not puncture the suits, scrape against the helmets or find their way inside the aircraft. They also repeated the test for us using Buzz Aldrin's glove—the one worn during the first trip to the moon.



The whole trip was incredible, but one last major event was traveling to the actual launch pads located around the facility. The launch pads were amazing to see up close, and we even saw the vehicle that carries rockets back and forth, called the Crawler. To sum up, it was an amazing trip I would definitely recommend to anyone!

## Recent Activities Recap

### Welcome Back Party

The spring semester is already upon us. To celebrate we had our very first event: a welcome back party. Our students enjoyed pizza and snacks while mingling with their friends and getting to know other members of the Honors College.

### Big Day of Service

This year's Big Day of Service took place on Sunday, Feb. 23, 1–4 p.m. As part of the event, volunteers worked with The Children's Hunger Project to package meals for children in need throughout the local Brevard County area. This event supported a great cause while counting toward activity hours in the Honors College.

### Discovery Day

On Nov. 16, Honors College students and faculty represented the Honors College at the fall Discovery Day. During the event, our students had the opportunity to discuss and provide information about the Honors College and what it means to be an honors student to more than 800 prospective students and their families.

### Open House Fall 2019

In October, honors students enjoyed an afternoon with food, drinks and games at the Honors College Open House. This was the first time most students were in the house, so they got the opportunity to explore the place where "all the decisions are made."

For those who do not know where the Honors College is located, our address is 3110 Country Club Rd. (gray house with the red door).

## Faculty Fun Facts

The Honors College invited one of our faculty fellows, Matthew Ruane, Ph.D., to answer a couple of questions for this issue's Faculty Fun Facts.

### What was your dream job when you were my age?

“When I was an undergraduate, I wanted to be a lawyer until the spring of my senior year. I realized at that point there were too many lawyers in the U.S., and it wasn't what I wanted to do with my life. I then tried to become a diplomat, but that didn't work out either. After graduating, I went into finance for two years, before going back to grad school. For more than 20 years, I have been doing what I knew I was meant to do.”

### Why did you go into this career?

“I enjoy teaching, and I think I am an excellent classroom instructor. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing a student suddenly 'get it.'”

### What career accomplishment are you most proud of?

“Being invited three times to attend Infusing Institutes at the East-West Center in Hawaii. I first attended in 2010, when I spent three weeks learning about South Asia (India, Pakistan, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan), then in 2012 for China and Japan, and finally in 2019 for Korea. I've been able to take the material I learned and 'infuse' it into courses I teach. I'm particularly happy to have created an entire course on British India that has been successfully run three times so far.”

### Why did you offer to teach a class for Honors College students?

“I believe in the mission of the Honors College and in the chance to teach the best and the brightest students at Florida Tech. I hope to expose them to new ideas and give them a chance to express their own conclusions about the complex relationship between war and technology.”



### Who would you say is your role model?

“You know, this is always a difficult question, but if I were being 100% honest, I would have to say George Washington. Not only was he the first president of the U.S., but he tried to be the best president he could be and hoped he had left the new nation on the best path to success. More than 200 years later, I'm not exactly sure he would be happy with the current state of political discourse (he thought political parties would damage the nation), but I believe he might be encouraged by the general success of our democratic experiment.”

### Please share your favorite hobby or activity in your spare time.

“While I enjoy travel and reading, I'll admit that I am a major geek/nerd. I've played tabletop role-playing games since I was 13—not only Dungeons & Dragons, but a number of other role-playing games. I currently run two games online (D&D 5e and Cyberpunk 2020), two face-to-face games (Call of Cthulhu and D&D 5e) and play in two games. The newest D&D 5e game is for faculty and staff at Florida Tech, and it's a quick hour over lunch once a week. I've also had a few gaming-related things published, mostly for Call of Cthulhu, and I am a regular attendee at GenCon.”



## 2020 Honors Convocation

Honors College is pleased to organize and present the 2020 Honors Convocation. Each year, Florida Tech's Honors Convocation recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding undergraduate and graduate students.

This year's Honors Convocation will be held on Thursday, April 23, at 3:30 p.m., in the Gleason Performing Arts Center. There are three award categories for students:

### Outstanding Student of the Year

*(sophomores, juniors, seniors and graduate students in the College of Aeronautics, Nathan M. Bisk College of Business, College of Engineering and Science, College of Psychology and Liberal Arts, and Honors College)*

In order to be considered for the Outstanding Student of the Year award, a student must have submitted an application form and a brief essay by Monday, Feb. 17.

### Outstanding Junior and Outstanding Senior

*(undergraduates)*

Awardees are selected from the pool of students who submitted materials to their academic units for the Outstanding Student of the Year award.

### Distinguished Student Scholar

*(undergraduates)*

Awards are presented to all undergraduate students who have completed more than 55 credit hours at Florida Tech with cumulative GPAs of 3.8 or higher.

*Note: Awards will be presented to four Honors College students. Please submit an application and essay to the Honors College office.*



# Honors College New Course Offerings

## COM 1102: Writing About Literature

(3 credits)

Focuses on reading and analyzing poems, plays and short works of fiction. Students write several essays and one research paper on literary topics.

## HUM 2551: Survey of Ancient/Medieval Philosophy

(3 credits)

Surveys key philosophical problems that occupied philosophers in the ancient and medieval periods. Emphasizes the analysis of theories by ancient and medieval philosophers on issues such as skepticism, universals, the existence of God and free will in their historical context.

## HUM 2552: Survey of Modern/Contemporary Philosophy

(3 credits)

Surveys key philosophical problems that occupied philosophers in the modern period and today. Emphasizes the analysis of theories by modern and contemporary philosophers on issues such as the nature of knowledge, facts versus values, personal identity and consciousness in their historical context.

## HON 2001: Honors Seminar

(3 credits)

Focuses on the intersection between social sciences and STEM fields. Includes guest lecturers from various disciplines. Emphasizes analysis and synthesis of sources. May be repeated for a maximum of six credits, provided topics change. (SS)

## HON 1020, HON 2020, HON 3020, and HON 4020: Honors Special Topics

(3 credits)

Presents honors students topics of special interest offered by various academic areas. Topics announced before registration. May be repeated provided topics change.

## HON 2990 and HON 2991: Honors Research Experience 1 and 2

(1 and 2 credits)

Offers research experience under the direction of a member of the faculty. May be repeated for a maximum of six credits. (Requirement: Department head and instructor approval)

## HON 4991: Honors Research Experience 3

(3 credits)

Offers research experience under the direction of a member of the faculty. Requires a semester project. May be repeated for a maximum of six credits. (Requirement: Department head and instructor approval)

To clarify, freshmen and sophomores entering the Honors College are required to take either HON 2000: Honors Seminar (HU) or HON 2001: Honors Seminar (SS).

For fall 2020, we plan to offer:

**HON 2000: HONORS SEMINAR ON THE TOPIC OF SPACE, TIME AND MEMORY**

(Perdigao, TR, 12:30–1:45 p.m.)

and

**HON 2001: HONORS SEMINAR ON THE TOPIC OF TECHNOLOGY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES**

(Souris Smith, MWF, 2–2:50 p.m.)