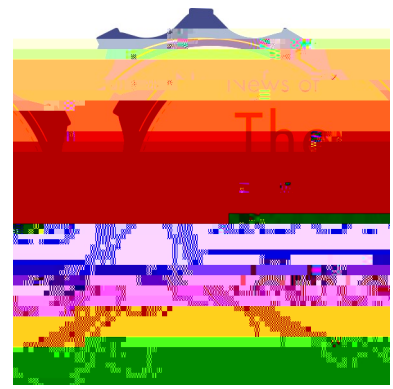


January 2014



For many students, graduation is circled on the calendar as the date when they can finally take a break from hard work... perhaps a trip to the beach to catch some waves and relax. For senior physics major \_\_\_\_\_, graduation is circled for a very different reason: that's when he gets to start working hard again. And he will be in the water, quite often in fact, but not relaxing. Ben has been in competitive sprint canoeing since 2006, is currently a member of the U.S. National Canoe/Kayak Team, and has his eyes on the 2016 summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. After graduating in spring 2014 with his physics degree, Ben will get back to the grueling training regimen required of elite competitors, and will log over 3,000 training hours be-

tween May and the ICF World Championships in summer 2015, which (along with the Pan-Am Games) will determine which countries land a spot in the Olympic events.

Ben was an Honors student and Georgia Merit Scholar in high

school at North Hall, all while excelling in flatwater competition. Ben dominated the U.S. Nationals in 2010, taking home seven gold medals. But after beginning college, he soon discovered that easy As were hard to come by. As Ben puts it, "I don't believe in doing anything halfway," but he realized he couldn't be an A student and a world champion canoeist at the same time. Knowing that his competitors (none of whom are trying to balance sports and school) might begin to beat him, Ben decided that his focus needed to be on school. As a result, he has made Dean's List every semester at UNG and will graduate either cum laude or magna cum laude. He has been working with Dr. Richard Prior on a research project with newly devel-

UNG-Gainesville student showcased his academic and professional acumen this semester at the International Crisis Intervention Team Conference (CIT) in Hartford, Connecticut. CIT training is a 40-hour Peace Officer Standards Training certified course for law enforcement. It helps officers understand how to respond to a situation where a person in a mental health crisis is involved. Camden has long been an advocate for the mentally ill in Georgia. Currently a third-year Psychology major, Camden also works full time as a consultant at the Georgia Department of Corrections where he educates probation officers on the proper ways to assess, support, and assist probationers struggling with mental illness.

At the conference, Camden presented on mental illness as a physical disease process and how to recognize the symptoms of mental illness. In his talk, he emphasized the importance of avoiding deadly force when there are proven alternatives to resolving the crisis in a manner that provides for officer safety and life-saving treatment for the suffering individual.

For Camden, "the critical importance of my presentation was to inform the audience that CIT saves lives, recovery is real and

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# ALUMNI NEWS

On November 10, 2013, Honors students at UNG Oconee participated in a "History on the Lawn Celebration" sponsored by the Oconee County Historical Society. This collaboration began last summer when Dr. George Justice began to help the Oconee Historical Society plan for the event. "Our campus immediately recognized a golden opportunity for UNG to establish stronger ties to the community here in Oconee County and to support our mission for greater public engagement," states Justice. "In addition, our American Democracy Project committee also found this as a way to promote student civic participation in the county."

The primary objectives were to begin an archive of old photographs that depicted the people and places throughout the county, begin catalogue of oral histories taken from residents willing to tell their stories, and generate greater interest in preserving the history of Oconee County. Over the course of a few short weeks, Justice and his students generated widespread support across all campuses to bring the necessary resources required for this project, including enough video and audio equipment to conduct the oral interviews, as well as scanners and computers to document the photographs. Justice and his students plan to develop a presentation on student civic engagement and local histories.

The festival was a great success. UNG students scanned photographs, interviewed residents, and manned information tables. They participated in ways that taught them how such collaborations can produce the best rewards. The Historical Society was most appreciative and complimentary of UNG's support and presence at the festival. This was truly a model for demonstrating the ways in which UNG can make meaningful contributions to the communities it serves and for teaching students about civic responsibilities.

Student research opportunities, scholarships, and study abroad funding are largely dependent on the support of UNG's donor base. If you would like to make a contribution or discuss ideas for an innovative gift to the Honors Program, please contact Dr. Skipper, Dean of Honors.

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678-717-3698

Dr. Skipper is also seeking dynamic individuals to serve on the Honors Advisory Board. Please contact him if you are interested in serving.

finished her Master's in History at Binghamton University in May, and got engaged to Alex Jablonski in December.

After leaving UNG, enrolled in English Education at UGA. She is currently student teaching at Peachtree Ridge High School and will graduate Summa Cum Laude in May.

married John Wagner in July, with Honors alum Christie Hightower as her maid of honor. She is working for UNG in the Advancement Office.

just completed her fourth semester at the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN. In June she married Jeffrey Martin, who is currently serving in the Army at Schofeld Barracks, Hawaii.

is working as a teacher at Creekland Middle School in Gwinnet County and starting her Master's degree. She got married last year, and along with husband Andy recently bought her first house.

recently began working on a PR campaign for the Atlanta Brain Bee, a neuroscience trivia competition for high school students (and part of a larger international competition).

will finish her Master's in Psychology in two semesters and is working as an ABA Therapist. She shares a house at Fort Bragg with her cat, as husband is currently deployed.

and wife Kathleen and are living in Hillsboro, Oregon. He is working on growing his own financial consulting business.

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