



HONORED GUESTS

From gardening to Shakespeare, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon, and first lady, Georganne Nixon, reflected on their own MU Honors Experience with our newest class of 690 first-year students at the annual Honors College Induction Ceremony.

Held on Aug. 20, the two, who each hold an Honors Certificate and a combined four MU degrees, spoke in tandem at the event.

Mrs. Nixon went first. “The Honors College experience meant so much to us,” she said, as she focused on the need for students to strive for intellectual growth. Mrs. Nixon urged the students to “tend to their gardens,” taking the metaphor from her work across the state to help end hunger and reinvigorate communities through local gardening. Accordingly, she encouraged them to take on new challenges and be open to new ideas as a way to meet the educational challenges they will face.

Gov. Nixon encouraged the students to find value in the College’s interdisciplinary studies and

become comfortable with and adept at solving complex issues.

“In my line of work, it is good to read Hamlet every now and again,” he quipped, only half in jest, as he explained how his studies, in Honors courses on Shakespeare and the political theories of Hegel, intersected and then facilitated his interests and informed his career in politics.

“Kill all the lawyers,’ a famous line from Hamlet, doesn’t mean what many people think it does,” he said. “Rather, it means that we must sustain the intellectuals, the leaders, to keep the masses from becoming leaderless.”

Gov. Nixon challenged the students to be aware of and ready to responsibly engage the social capital that comes as a result of their advantages.

“The burden of intellect is born by the brightest... by the leaders,” he said. “And you must be willing, intellectually, to go toe-to-toe with others if you are going to be the leaders of tomorrow.”

To learn more about our Induction Ceremony or read our annual student speaker’s comments, visit our website.



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GOV. JAY NIXON

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 6-7

Dr. Stephanie McClure

Social Justice lecture, leadership workshop, and reception.

Oct. 21-23

Homecoming Weekend

Enjoy an Honors alumni breakfast along the parade route.

Oct. 31-Nov. 5

Geek Week

A celebration of all things geeky, nerdy and Honors.

MANY TIGERS, ONE READ

Before their roommate introductions began and cars were loaded for move-in, all new, first-year Honors Tigers shared in the College's newest tradition - a coordinated "One Read".



During Summer Welcome, students were asked to read *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. They then arrived on campus ready to discuss, engage, and incorporate the book's ideas into their coursework and community programming within the College.

Just Mercy focuses on legal reform, constitutional issues, racism and the plight of juveniles cast aside by a legal system more focused on absolute rules than cruel circumstance. It has garnered significant attention for Stevenson and his legal aid group, the Equal Justice Initiative.

An Honors "One Read" has been done on a smaller scale for several summers, piloted in the Honors Freshman Interest Groups (FIGs). After seeing the program's success among the FIGs, a "One Read" committee was formed to help take the program the next level—all incoming students.

As a prelude to the program, and in cooperation with the MU School of Law, Stevenson was invited to speak on campus in March about his mission and vision for a more just legal system and in regards to our campus affairs.

The new students were also expected to participate in a two-hour discussion with other Honors students and faculty, during which they watched Stevenson's talk then discussed his ideas. They were charged with developing a personal response to one of his four challenges—get proximate to those in need, change the narratives that lead to injustice, stay hopeful that change will be made, and get out of your comfort zone to learn and grow.

The program's value has already been seen, as

Stevenson's ideas have had an impact on shaping students' course selections, serving as topics for late-night discussions in the residence halls, and informing in-class discussions. Faculty in the Honors Humanities Series have reported that students, on their own, have been using examples and ideas from *Just Mercy* when discussing the galley slaves episode in *Don Quixote*. It has formed the backdrop of a significant discussion thread in several one credit hour Honors tutorials as well, including Death and Dying in the Civil War or the experiential tutorial that will take students to the opening ceremonies of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in late September.

"The Honors community values the four pillars of Mizzou just as we value the four challenges presented by Stevenson," said Honors College Director Dr. J.D. Bowers. "The two go hand-in-hand, in our minds, and will help lead us through challenging times to intellectual and social advancement."

Alumni and friends of the College can also join the program. Lectures and other campus-wide events focusing on *Just Mercy* are open to the public. Keep an eye on our [Facebook page](#) for updates.

ABOVE LEFT: Dr. Maya Gibson, a professor of Music spoke to the Honors One Read Symposium for incoming freshmen on Aug. 19.



ABOVE: Dr. Rachel Harper, coordinator of the Honors Humanities Sequence, discusses *Just Mercy* at the Honors One Read Symposium with incoming freshmen on Aug. 19.



ABOVE: The I-70 Sign Show's Main billboard in Hatton, Missouri, featuring art by Ed Ruscha. The sign show is curated by Anne Thompson and MU Honors students. Photo from i70signshow.org.

THE ART OF TEACHING

Anne Thompson wanted to engage students in new conversations from start to finish. With the help of MU Honors students, the art professor did just that by turning the billboards along Missouri's Interstate 70 corridor into an art show, from the state's beginning to its end.

Since 2013, Thompson has taught a course designed for two to five Honors students, called a tutorial, focused on curating the I-70 Sign Show.

Missouri's piece of Interstate 70 has one of the highest concentrations of billboards in the nation and passes through Columbia only two miles away from MU's campus. The tutorial required students to intertwine their knowledge of art and design with issues of public discourse, America's automobile culture and how to stage a public project.

Conceived of as a public project and put into the classroom as a result of an Honors College Faculty Fellowship, Thompson's I-70 project has had a tremendously positive and lasting impact on students. She is now transforming the tutorial into a three-credit General Honors course, which will allow her to reach and engage more students with the myriad issues the project examines.

"There is so much more that can be done with this type of project," she said. "It is exciting to think about having this as a regular course."

Such dedication is what led to her being selected as the 2016 Honors College Outstanding Faculty Award recipient. True to her character, she was focused on her students during her acceptance of the award, though she is both a celebrated artist and recognized faculty member.

"Thankyouagainforhonoringmewiththisaward," Thompson said. "Getting this kind of acknowledgment for my students is incredibly meaningful. To have such an award, and from the Honors College, feels especially sweet."

Her former tutorial students have received fellowships at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, internships at New York's Museum of Modern Art, the St. Louis Art Museum, and Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art, and an assistantship at the Guggenheim. Several have gone on to advanced studies in art at MU and other universities throughout the country.

Thompson is also engaged in her own studio projects, keeping a very active pace in her teaching and artistry. Her art has been called "smart, sophisticated, and elegant." In June, she opened a solo show at 57 West Art Gallery, the noted New York City venue, and then traveled to Utah for a summer-long residency, before returning to campus.



ABOVE: Anne Thompson poses in front of an art installation. Thompson is the 2016 recipient of the Honors College Outstanding Faculty Award.

GIFT OF A LIFETIME: THE BRAZEAL SCHOLARS FUND

Through their generous support, Jim and Cathy Brazeal have played a central role in the College's efforts to ensure the success of diverse and high achieving students. In 2004, the couple partnered with the Honors College to create the Brazeal Honors College Endowed Diversity Scholarship.

The challenges of ensuring a diverse student population are many: attracting and recruiting students, providing resources for admitted students and demonstrating that diversity is a value and centerpiece of our community in and out of the classroom. The Brazeals have ensured that the Honors College would always have the means to support a number of these highly talented students.

Since its founding, there have been 12 Brazeal Scholars, including four currently studying at MU. All have benefited from the couple's mentorship, engagement and support.

Each Brazeal Scholar is awarded a four-year scholarship, a year of research support and a stipend to be used towards study abroad. The expansive nature of the fund's three-pronged support ensures that Brazeal Scholars benefit from some of the most high-impact opportunities in a student's secondary education.

The Brazeals launched Kansas City Power Products in 1981. For 34 years they worked side-by-side selling industrial engines throughout the greater Kansas City metropolitan area. An MU alum, Jim's dedication to the university and the couple's commitment to the community made their decision to fund a scholarship an easy one. It is in the spirit of service that they stay involved in the lives of "their" scholars.

The newest Brazeal Scholar, Maya Hill, is from Kansas City, studying sociology. She is a member of the Discovery Fellows program, and is conducting a research project on the social hierarchy of university communities, from groups in the residence halls to more formal structures, under the guidance of Dr. Wayne Brekhus. She recently went through MU Panhellenic Association's Formal Recruitment and joined the social sorority Delta Gamma. A life-long singer, she has also joined the a capella group Mizzou Forte.

Maya is already directing her studies towards

her post-graduate goal of attending law school, and as such is enrolled in a variety of classes, including Black Studies, psychology, and the Honors Humanities Series course, "The Early Modern Era", all with an eye toward improving her knowledge and critical thinking skills.

True to form, Maya is having as big an impact on the Honors College and MU as the Brazeal Scholarship is having on her. "I've been really busy in my first few weeks," she notes, "but I'm finding my footing here [and] I've never been more sure that I made the right decision in coming to Mizzou."

You can learn more about Maya and other Brazeal Scholars by visiting our website:

[honors.missouri.edu/embracing-new-opportunities.](http://honors.missouri.edu/embracing-new-opportunities)



ABOVE: Maya Hill at her surprise scholarship announcement party, with Jim and Cathy Brazeal, Dr. J.D. Bowers, Ms. Kia Breaux, and Mr. Chuck May.

SHOW HONORS PRIDE



For those looking to show off their Honors pride, the College is now offering the iconic "MIZZOU HONORS" gray t-shirt. Every MU College and School has their own, and so do we. Be a part of the community and get one today, for only \$10.

For a limited time, we also have Honors College Geek Week 2016 t-shirts, in celebration of all things Honors. This year's Geek Week launches Oct. 31 and is a week-long festival of learning and intellectual engagement.

Finally, you can also order a "classic" Honors College lapel pin for only \$5. Or, purchase a pack of three contemporary buttons for \$5.

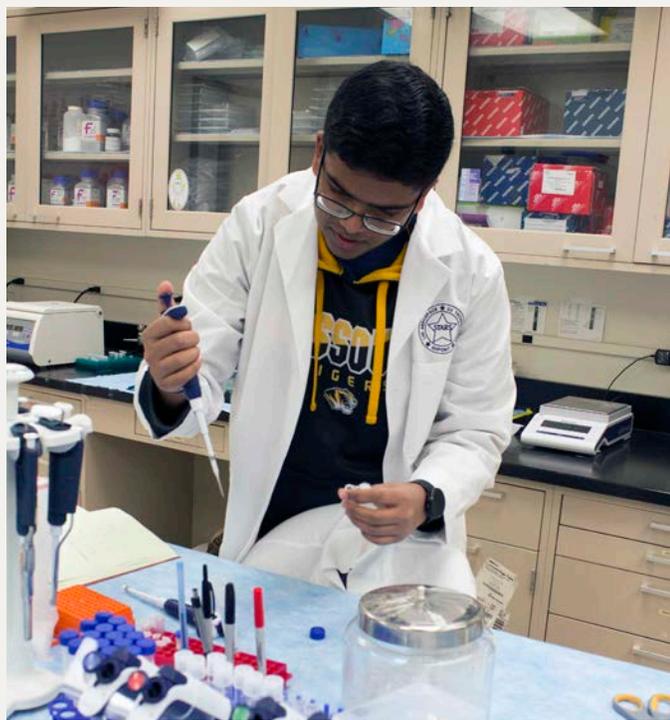
Shipping and handling is included in all prices. We accept checks via mail, and cash if you find yourself back on campus in the Honors Center, 210 Lowry Hall.

NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR NAMED



We are pleased to announce, after a national search, the hiring of Ms. Jenelle Beavers, MU '01, as Associate Director of the Honors College. Jenelle comes to us after having spent the last eight years working for the U.S. Department of Justice. As both a former Missouri Scholars Academy (MSA) participant and an Honors College graduate, she brings a wealth of experiences to her role in the College. Holding both a JD and an MPH from University of Michigan, she will also develop new content courses within the Honors College curriculum.

We will share a complete profile and story on Ms. Beavers in our next newsletter.



ABOVE: Second year Discovery Fellow Sai Varoon Gajagowni conducts research in Veterinary Medicine in Dr. Senthil R. Kumar's lab. The Honors College now supports more than 250 opportunities for undergraduate research and artistry each year.

STUDENT SCHOLARS

Research and artistry has become part of several cornerstone programs in the Honors College. We're developing new programs and strengthening existing opportunities to allow undergraduates to get more involved in their field of studies.

ASH SCHOLARS

The ASH Scholars, taking its name from the fields of arts, social sciences and humanities, will provide Honors students in those disciplines more opportunities for research.

Co-sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Research, this newly formed program is modeled on traditional graduate-level research and artistry. It integrates budding scholars into a research team led by two faculty members. It is both a high-impact and highly unique program, and our College is the only Honors College in the country running such a program.

The program has launched with twenty research slots, in which participating students are engaged in one of two initial projects. The first explores the abolition of Slavery in the British Empire, and the second documents trends and developments within the Luyia African language group. Both provide students with enduring skills and knowledge.

DISCOVERY FELLOWS

The prestigious Discovery Fellows Program is in its fourteenth year. The two-year research and artistry experience for select first and second year Tigers has long been the conduit for students' paths to publication, graduate school admissions, international fellowships, internships and employment.

Each Discovery Fellow is assigned to a faculty research mentor and a supervised research or artistry project. Their responsibilities in the project increase over the course of the program. Each earns a \$2,000 scholarship and valuable experience in their field of study. As part of an annual cohort of nearly 60 participants, they also receive additional training through workshops.

Visit honors.missouri.edu/programs to learn more about these programs and others, including our updated Show-Me Scholars Program, the Undergraduate Success Program, and our soon-to-be launched summer program in research and artistry.



IT'S HER TIME TO LEAD

BECAUSE OF YOU.

Your giving supports the Honors advantage, which promotes academic excellence, an innovative and dynamic curriculum, unparalleled opportunities for undergraduate research and artistry, co-curricular programming, an engaging living-learning community, and civic leadership. Support us now at giving.missouri.edu/support-honors-college.



To learn more about opportunities to make a transformational contribution to the Honors College, please contact Dr. J.D. Bowers at bowersjd@missouri.edu or 573-882-4333 or Mr. Kim Nyoni at nyonij@missouri.edu or 573-884-3578. [You can also donate via web here.](#)



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