A Note from the Director

It’s been another outstanding year for Honors at Carson-Newman University. Last year you read about a record 75 at the 2014 Honors Weekend Scholarship competition. Well, that helped create a record freshman honors class of 51 students! This is truly an outstanding freshman class, both in number and in quality. The average ACT of the incoming class is the highest in recent years.

President O’Brien hosted the seniors who graduate this spring at dinner on Monday night, as he does every spring. This graduating class of 11 seniors will be moving on to pursue their important callings in medicine, research, social work, law, and humanities graduate work. That dinner every spring is one of the most moving events of the year for me. I am SO proud of these fine young people and the work they have done, and SO sad to see them go, that I get a big lump in my throat every time.

As I thought back to my first meeting with these young scholars over four years ago, I was amazed at the transformation that has taken place. They have grown from nervous, frightened, scattered dynamos of energy into focused, polished, confident young scholars, ready to follow God’s call on their lives as they seek to serve God by serving others. It’s hard to express just how gratifying it is to see that transformation. I am truly blessed by the opportunity to work with these incredible young people every day.

And we could not do it without the support of people like you. Your prayers, your spreading the good word about our program, your ideas for new initiatives, and your financial help are all essential to the good work we do. So thank you very much.

To honor our supporters, we are hosting reception at homecoming this year, in Henderson 408 late Saturday morning, Oct. 17. See below for some more exciting details.

And enjoy reading below about this year’s students, the activities, the senior theses, and more in this year’s Annual Report.

Brian Austin

Director, Carson-Newman University Honors Program
Don’t Miss Our Homecoming Reception, Oct. 17!!

The Honors program will be hosting a very special reception for alumni and friends during Homecoming. Late that Saturday morning (or early afternoon), October 17, 2015, we will gather in Henderson Humanities Building room 408 (Honors Program Office), for a time of celebration of special donors to our program. At that time will unveil a plaque that recognizes a gift to name one of our study rooms and we will christen the new space the “Honors Commons” of Carson-Newman University. *Save the date!!* (details tba)

**Program Updates**

- Fall Trip to Staunton, Virginia was attended by 45 people. We saw the American Shakespeare Center, Washington and Lee University, VMI, and Covered Bridge Park.
- Major outings included two performances of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, where the Maestro recognized us publicly from the stage of the Tennessee Theatre.
- We hosted outstanding lecturers from the University of Tennessee and Walters State Community College.
- Sixty-seven prospective honors students and their families attended Honors Weekend in late January.
- The Honors Program Office (soon to be named “Honors Commons”) was established in a beautiful space on the fourth floor of Henderson Humanities Building.
- The former President’s home, now the Honors Campus House, housed its first residents this spring and several social events were hosted there (including the picnic shown in some of the photo montage in this report).
- President and Mrs. O’Brien hosted the Honors Seniors for a lovely dinner at Copper Cellar in Knoxville, to celebrate those seniors’ wonderful accomplishments.
- Eleven honors graduates this year, three with perfect 4.0 GPAs, four were named Outstanding Graduates in their departments.
- Since Dr. Austin will be on sabbatical in the fall semester, the program will be led by Acting Director Dr. Mark Hussung. Dr. Hussung led the program VERY successfully for ten years and is really looking forward to taking the reins again. The program is extremely fortunate that he was available and able to fill in.
Honors Weekend 2015

This year we hosted 67 Honors Prospects and their families. And we always ask them to complete a brief assessment form to help us improve the experience. Below is a summary of those results.

Honors Weekend 2015 (5 = very helpful, 1 = not helpful at all)

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<td>1. 星期五1:45 session with Dr. Austin</td>
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<td>2. 学术面试</td>
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<td>3. 丰盛晚宴</td>
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<td>4. 混合</td>
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<td>5. CN alumnus interviews</td>
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<td>6. 讨论小组与CN学生</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>7. 与财务援助主管会面</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
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Suggestions:

- I’d love more time with the CN students. (The mixer/panel was an excellent opportunity to get a taste of what the college experience is like.)
- Ice breaker games would have been nice.
- Improve on time management. If some activities were shortened, ? would be more precise. (unreadable)
- It was a mutual belief that longer interviews would have been beneficial.
- Mixer was definitely the funnest part- if next year isn’t too cold, you should serve ice cream at the mixer.

Praise:

- PLEASE do cadaver lab again! Cadaver lab-5
- Touring the cadaver lab was amazing, I just wish we could’ve spent more time there.
- Cadaver lab was great. I loved the people racks.
- Enjoyed the cadaver lab
- Loved the cadaver lab
- Cadaver lab was great! 6 out of 5!
- Cadaver lab was absolutely amazing!
- Absolutely loved the cadaver lab- very informative
- Cadaver lab was cool and the prof wonderful!
- Loved the interviews and the mixer!
- Enjoyed being paired up with my major professors for the interview.
- Wonderful!
Staying with a current student was great!
I really enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with the students and have a glimpse of what college will hopefully be like.
I loved the students who helped and shared their rooms and thoughts.
I greatly enjoyed being able to spend time with current honors students, including spending the night in a dorm. My host was the best!
My guide Megan was absolutely amazing and was able to calm my nerves incredibly.
Spending the night with students gave me a nice perspective on CN, and it has been helpful hanging out with them.
The hosts were extremely helpful and friendly.
Gave me a good perspective on life at CN and college life in general.
I really enjoyed the weekend and got a lot of good information.
I really enjoyed my host and visiting the campus.
The mixer was a relief- it helped us all talk as people, not as competition.
I enjoyed the weekend, and I felt like it helped me learn more about CN and what the Honors Scholarship has to offer.
Fun
Thank you
It was wonderful getting a taste of life at CN! Thank you so much!
Thank you for working around my weird schedule
Thank you all
I’m in love with this school. The people here made this weekend 110% perfect. Can’t wait to come here!!!
Program Vital Statistics

Bar chart showing the number of girls and boys by year and gender.

Pie chart showing the distribution of home states, with states such as TN, IN, NC, GA, MI, Wash., D.C., VA, AL, SC, FL, TX, MO, and Gambia represented.
Distribution of Majors

- undeclared
- psychology
- accounting
- art
- biology
- biology/health professions
- business
- chemistry
- chemistry/health professions
- communication
- consumer and family sciences
- CS ??
- educ elementary
- educ special
- english
- exercise science
- film
- history
- linguistics
- math
- music
- nursing
- physics
- political science
- religion
- social entrepreneurship
- sociology
- spanish
- theatre
Social Event Highlights
Social Event Highlights Cont.

"I enjoy making new friends and hanging out with old friends in a relaxed environment." - Rachel Harmon

"The symphony excursion trip provided me not only an amazing educational experience, but it also gave me an opportunity to connect with fellow honors students and strengthen friendships within the program." - Caleb Ketring

"The honors Program introduced me to most of my friends." - Muriel Nelson
Senior Profiles

Name: Alex Carver
Hometown: Kingsport, TN
Major: Biochemistry (B.S.); Religion and Philosophy (B.A.)
Minor: Oxford Studies
Honors Thesis: ELUCIDATING THE INTERACTION OF COPPER (II) WITH HUMAN PRION PROTEIN PEPTIDE 106-126 USING LABELING ELECTROSPRAY DEPOSITION AND MASS SPECTROMETRY
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Paul Martino
Favorite Honors Memory: Our many trips to the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra
Plans after Graduation: Attending Vanderbilt Law School to pursue a J.D. (expected May 2018)

Name: Kelli Douglass
Hometown: Sevierville, TN
Majors: Human Services, Mathematics
Honors Thesis: "The Effects of Friendship and Membership on College Club Growth and Helping Networks"
Advisors: Ray Dalton, Alden Starnes
Favorite Honors Memory: Abingdon Fall trip 2011
Plans after Graduation: Working in Kenya during the summer, then working and possibly grad school.

Name: Garret Duron
Hometown: Woodstock, Ga
Major: Biology
Honors Thesis: Quantification of Nitrogenous Disinfection By-Products Using Solid-Phase Microextraction and Gas Chromatography
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Dalton
Favorite Honors Memory: Going to the NCHC in Colorado with Dr. Austin and Alex Carver
Plans after Graduation: Marry Bethany DeWitt and attend Mercer University School of Medicine in Savannah, Ga

Name: Niki Green
Hometown: Johnson City, TN
Major: General Psychology and Religion with an Emphasis in Leadership & Ethics
Minor: Positive Psychology;
Honors Thesis: **DOES GOD HATE GAY PEOPLE?**
THE INFLUENCE OF CHRISTIANITY IN EXPLICIT AND IMPLICIT MEASURES OF ATTITUDES TOWARD HOMOSEXUALITY AT A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
Thesis Advisor: Dr. April Dye
Favorite Honors Memory: Almost getting kicked out of the Muhammad Ali Museum with Mary Ratchford
Plans after Graduation: Take a year off; Adopt a kitty named Nunnetz

Name: Jeddidiah Wayne Duke Griffin
Hometown: Bryson City, NC
Majors: Biochemistry, Biology, and Applied Physics
Minor: Psychology
Thesis Advisor: Paul Martino
Favorite Honors Memory: Playing capture the flag with glow sticks.
Plans After Graduation: I will attend East Tennessee State University to earn a Ph.D. in Biomedical Science with a concentration in microbiology. My career goal is to be a professor.

Name: Ashlee Jones
Hometown: Johnson City
Major: Exercise Science
Honors Thesis: **AN ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTS OF CHRONIC EXERCISE WITHIN THE SYMPATHETIC NERVOUS SYSTEM TO IMPROVE THE STRESS RESPONSE AND ACHIEVE ACADEMIC SUCCESS IN SECOND GRADERS**
Thesis advisors: Dr. Patsy Boyce & Ms. Jenifer Hartwig
Favorite Honors Memory: Playing capture the flag and other social events with my peers
Plans after graduation: Continue my education at Liberty University School of Medicine.

Name: Katie Jones
Hometown: Kingsport, TN
Major: Art with Graphic Design Emphasis
Minor: Photography
Thesis Advisor: Julie Rabun
Favorite Honors Memory: Going to the symphony in downtown Knoxville followed by a trip to Coolato Gelato's.
Plans after Graduation: Hopefully find a job in Graphic Design doing what I love- helping other people achieve their creative visions and needs.
Name: Etta Long  
Hometown: Knoxville, TN  
Major: Applied Psychology & Human Services  
Honors Thesis: "We Just Have Love to Give": a Qualitative Study of the Foster Parent Experience  
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Carolyn Carlisle  
Favorite Honors Memory: the weekend trip to Narrow Ridge Earth Literacy Center with the Eco-Psychology class!  
Plans after Graduation: I have already accepted a job in the Foster Care Division of the Department of Children's Services here in Jefferson County.

Name: Adam Lyons  
Hometown: Holbrook, NY  
Major: Applied Psychology  
Minor: N/A  
Honors Thesis: I'm Cocky Because I Have the Skill to Back it Up: A Correlation Between the Big Five Personality Traits, Character Creation and Time Spent Playing MMOs  
Thesis Advisor: Dr. April Dye  
Favorite Honors Memory: Taking Dr. Lee's Honors English 101 was one of my best memories. He would often come and play music for us and allow us to just ponder some of nature's mysteries. While his teaching method seemed unorthodox, it definitely helped me to appreciate the world around me more and I learned many life lessons through taking his class.  
Plans after Graduation: I am attending Western Carolina University for a M.A. in Applied Experimental Psychology.

Name: Abbie Moody  
Hometown: Loogootee, IN  
Major: English, emphases in Literature and Creative Writing  
Minor: Political Science  
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Victoria Barker  
Favorite Honors Memory: Through the Honors Program, I met the person who became my closest, most valued friend. When I was a freshman, I hosted her during Honors Weekend. We had several classes together, became roommates the following year, and then had the privilege of living in the Honors House together this past year.
Plans after Graduation: I will be attending Western Carolina University to get my Master of Arts in English.
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<td>Nikole K. Green</td>
<td>Elucidating the Interaction of Resveratrol with Amyloid-β (1-40) Homosexuality</td>
<td>April Dye</td>
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<td>Jeddidiah W. Griffin</td>
<td>Using Labeling Electrospray Deposition and Mass Spectrometry An Analysis of the Effects of Chronic Exercise within the Sympathetic Nervous System to Improve the Stress Response and Achieve Academic Success In Second Graders</td>
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<td>Abigail L. Moody</td>
<td>Feline-Adity: Implementing the ASPCA’s Adopter/Adoptee Personality Match System for Cats at the Humane Society of Jefferson County</td>
<td>Vickie Barker</td>
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<td>Cara N. Swanson</td>
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<td>Susan Karr</td>
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MISSION
Our mission as Christian educators is to help our students reach their full potential as educated citizens and worldwide servant-leaders.