

# FHSU Honors College



Newsletter



## THE NUMBERS

91 Students  
63 Alumni

27 majors  
represented

3.8 average  
COVID-year GPA

6 out of 19 of  
the 2021 Torch  
Award Nominees

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the FHSU Honors College,

In the past two years, we have strengthened the Honors College's focus in two ways. Both of these are part of our mission of service. First, we have sought to broaden our appeal to students and families in our region, so that they can experience more fully why an FHSU education is a uniquely strong value that prepares students for life-long success. Second, we have sought to build among our students an active culture of service. From the laboratory to the playing field, from the theater to the global campus of study abroad, our students are working together to create their futures and the future of our region.

We have been able to celebrate many successes, even in two pandemic-disrupted years. Applications and enrollment in the Honors College are up substantially – in Fall 2021 we welcomed over 50% more new freshmen and transfer students than in Fall 2020, and numbers of applications continue to rise. Students also continue to celebrate major career successes – every single Honors College student who has sought admission to medical, pharmacy, social work, physical therapy, or occupational therapy school over the past two years has been admitted, almost always to their first-choice school.

With thanks and best wishes for a joyful season,

Kevin S. Amidon, Ph.D

You are our best resource as we seek to continue to make unique educational opportunities available to deserving students. We would be happy to welcome you for a visit to the Honors College anytime or answer any questions you have. As you undertake your end-of-year tax planning, please consider a gift to the Honors College. Only with financial support from our dedicated friends can we help all students in the way they deserve. Please visit [www.fhsu.edu/honors](http://www.fhsu.edu/honors) for more information on donating, or feel free to contact me personally at any time ([ksamidon@fhsu.edu](mailto:ksamidon@fhsu.edu) / 785-628-4748).



## THE GREAT TIGER VILLAGE FLOOD OF 2021

The third day of school was over. All but the latest night owls had hit their twin beds.

Suddenly, at around 2 a.m., the first floor of Tiger Village suddenly became soaking wet.

Staff came into the affected rooms to squeegee and vacuum away the water.

Rumor has it that a pipe burst, but no official statement was released by Residential Life.

So if the first floor still smells like a river, that's why.

## GOODBYE, MCMINDES

After a history of finding home in McMindes Hall, the Honors College was relocated to Tiger Village this fall.

Tiger Village, built in 2017, features three floors and four wings. Two of these wings are home to the sororities Delta Zeta and Sigma Sigma Sigma. The HC moved into the place of the fraternity Sigma Phi Epsilon, which is now located off-campus.

Each wing has a common area on the ground floor, with couches, a TV, and a full kitchen. This is a new amenity for the HC, as the second floor of McMindes, where the HC once resided was the only floor in the hall to extend into a study area instead of including a kitchenette.

While the long hall of McMindes will be missed, Tiger Village provides a fresh facility for Honorables to continue doing Honorable things, with a little less space and a lot less interruption from fire alarms and football players.

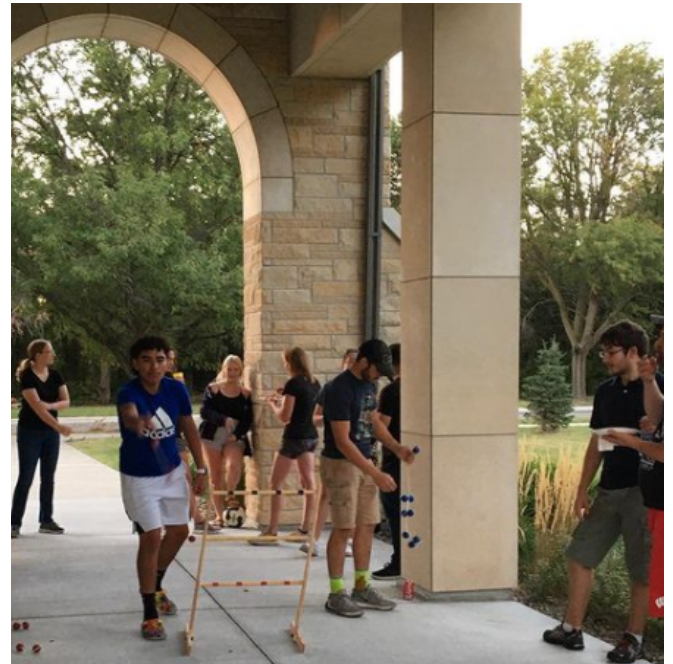


Photo from a September get-together with pizza and lawn games. Follow us on Instagram @fhsuhonorscollege for more updates!

## READ LIKE AN HONORABLE

Every fall, in Kevin's Freshman Seminar courses, the students read a book together to be discussed in class.

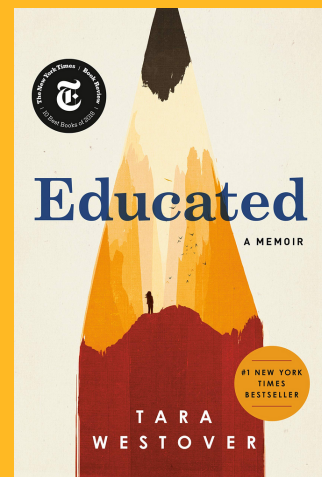
This year, the choice was up to the students, and they decided on *Educated* by Tara Westover.

While there is no formal book club discussion outside of Freshman Seminar at this time, we encourage all current and past Honorables to pick up a copy if they wish to collectively experience the literature.

For those interested, here's a quick synopsis from CJ—a CJ-nopsis, if you will: *Educated* recalls the experiences of Tara Westover, a girl raised by radically conservative Mormons in Idaho,

and her efforts to reach college despite never receiving a formal education.

Through a fascinating narrative about off-grid family life and a struggle to define what "education" really means, *Educated* raises the kind of intellectual concerns Honorables might contemplate critically.





SUMMER & FALL 2021

# SHELL-EBRATING SUMMER ACHIEVEMENTS

## MEGAN ROTH,

a 2020 Honors College graduate, was inducted as a lifetime member of the Phi Alpha National Social Work Honor Society.

This high achievement is a well-deserved recognition of her dedication towards her field of study.

Megan is currently at KU working on her MSW, and we're excited to see what she continues to accomplish. Congratulations, Megan!



## BRYNN WOOTEN,

a sophomore Geosciences and Biology major, was named a 2021 Barry Goldwater Scholar late this spring.

Brynn is the first FHSU student to receive this honor.

The Goldwater Scholarship Program is an award for promising students in STEM fields, covering the cost of two years of undergraduate education so as to enable these outstanding students to make future research contributions.

Brynn gives thanks to FHSU and its faculty for their help along the way: "I am very excited about this, especially because I hope it gives Fort Hays State University and the Honors College the recognition they so rightfully deserve. I would not have been able to do this without many amazing mentors from my life and education, so I want to give a special thanks to Dr. Ian Miller and Dr. Tyler Lyson (from the Denver Museum of Nature & Science), Dr. Laura Wilson, Dr. Lexey Bartlett, Dr. Lorelei Patrick, Dr. Kevin Amidon, and Mr. & Mrs. Dr. Sumrall!"

Congratulations, Brynn! Now go make your own history!

(Photo: Brynn is jacking a 750 pound crocodile that they hauled out of the field during a flash flood.)

## ANNA BRULL

has been a busy freshman: she is majoring in both Accounting and Finance; is involved in multiple student organizations; and is active in Greek life as a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha.

This summer, her efforts cumulated to earn her the honor of being a Koch Scholar.

After applying in March and enduring three rounds of elimination, Anna received a call in July informing her that she had earned a place as one of 50 Koch Scholars.



Koch Scholars receive a \$5,000 scholarship. They also have the opportunity to attend leadership conferences throughout the fall, and they "get first dibs" (Brull) on Koch internships during the following summer.

Congrats, Anna, and best of luck with those conferences!



## WANT TO BE IN THE SPOTLIGHT?

We'd love to highlight what our Honorable students and alumni are up to! It's as simple as contacting Kathay at [kljohnson2@fhsu.edu](mailto:kljohnson2@fhsu.edu)

Or, if you'd rather write something up yourself, we have a blog: <https://thehonorableblog.blogspot.com/>