

Fall 2022 & Spring 2023

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY

HONORS COLLEGE

Pictured: a snowman built on the Tiger Village lawn.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the FHSU Honors College,

We are thrilled to have the chance to tell you about all the wonderful successes our students and the program have had in this time. One piece of news is the most gratifying of all, because it shows that our focus on campus and community engagement—as a central part of FHSU’s service mission—is succeeding even beyond our hopes. In Fall 2022 we welcomed by far the largest group of incoming freshmen ever in the Honors College: 39 students. Current, transfer, and online students added a dozen more, meaning that overall Honors College enrollment grew over 30% in one year. While this level of growth has challenges, our students make every effort worthwhile. Fall 2023 admissions are very close to this record-shattering level as well!

Honors College students continue to produce amazing research and creative work, make a difference in the Hays community, and be the change they wish to see in the world. We were particularly proud that in May 2023 we graduated our first fully online Honors College student, Amber Sidwell. Working closely with her as Director, and learning from her feedback how we can enrich the Honors Online experience, have been transformative for me.

I also want to give my warmest congratulations and esteem to our indispensable Academic Program Specialist (yes, a promotion!) Kathay Johnson. In May she graduated with her Master of Science in Education with a focus in Higher Education Student Affairs. She is the heart and soul of our program, and we couldn’t do it without her.

Thank you, and best wishes from Forsyth Library (news of exciting renovations to come!)



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BY THE NUMBERS

- Over **70** Honorables on the Fall 2022 Dean’s Honor Roll
- **3.8** Honorable average cumulative GPA
- **28** total 2023 Graduates

STUDY BREAKS

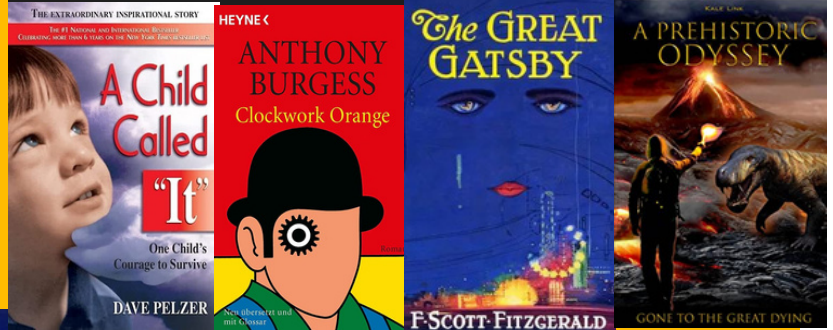
When you let Honorables decide what they want to do for fun, they often choose competition: glow bowling and an egg hunt! (We all win when Honorables have fun together.)



2022 HC BOOK CLUB

During this fall's Freshman Seminar courses, the student vote for book of the semester was split. Have you ready any of their picks?

- A Child Called It by Dave Pelzer
- A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess
- The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- A Prehistoric Odyssey by Kale Link



THE HONORABLE "IRON FIST"

Our Honorables appear everywhere! Beyond SACAD, SGA, and award ceremonies, Honors College students are engaged in all sorts of on-campus activities, like the Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine performance, and in many teams and student organizations, like the pep band, the cheerleading team, or just showing up to cheer.



OUR NUGGETS ARE STILL COOKING AWAY

SELF-MADE, SELF-PUBLISHED: KALE LINK



Kale Link, a freshman geosciences major, self-published a book on Amazon, and he has presented about his novel-writing process at the Hays Public Library and the Forsyth Library. A recording of his presentation and more information about Kale are available on his website: kalelink.com.

For those looking for some new summer reads, check out *A Prehistoric Odyssey: Gone to the Great Dying*.

Time travel may seem like a magical concept, but when Owen Walker and his friends are mysteriously transported 252 million years into the prehistoric past, a harsh reality sets in. In the Permian desert, they must contend with dehydration, apex predators, and an impending mass extinction, the largest the world has ever seen. Will Owen and his classmates be able to come together and survive? Even if they do, will they ever be able to find a way home? Only time will tell.

JUST GETTING STARTED: ELLA BURROWS

In addition to being elected as the Student Government Association's Student Body President, Ella Burrows, freshman political science major, earned a Newman Civic Fellowship for the upcoming year, which will provide her with networking opportunities and allow her to attend a conference in Boston.



WEIRD FLEX, BUT OKAY: ROSE REILLY

Rose Reilly really bends over backwards for success, stretching past the competition in the 2023 Student Engagement Tiger Talent Show.

OUR "INDISPENSABLE" ACADEMIC PROGRAM SPECIALIST: KATHAY JOHNSON



Pictured: Kathay completing her MSE in Higher Education Student Affairs (HESA).

In addition to earning her master's and a change in title, our staff member Kathay Johnson received an honorable mention for the National Collegiate Honors Council's 2023 Award for Administrative Excellence. Here's what our director, Kevin, had to say about Kathay and all that she brings to the HC:

"The heart of Kathay's success is found in the way she models the values of Honors education spontaneously, genuinely, and with deep conviction. The heart of our Honors mission is engagement with the life of the university and the community through service. Every day, Kathay shows our students and colleagues firsthand this kind of engaged leadership from a position in which such dedication is not in the job description - or the compensation package. She isn't simply a consummate administrative professional; she models the goals we set for Honors education every day. She is indispensable to me, to the Honors College, to our students, and to FHSU."

FRESH OUT OF THE ACADEMIC OVEN (ALUMS)



HOME IS WHERE WHOLE HEARTS IS: KAYLAN GARCIA

Kaylan Garcia graduated from our program and earned her bachelor's in psychology in 2019 before heading to Oklahoma State University for her master's. After some time working in Denver, Kaylan's come back to Hays, opening her own practice for marriage and family counseling: Whole Hearts Counseling. Those who are interested in her services can find out more at wholeheartstks.com.

Pictured: Kaylan (Lagerman) Garcia in her 2019 FHSU graduation photos (left) and in a 2023 Hays Post article (right).



2021 graduate, Sierra Eichman (below), recently received the 2023 Graduate Student Leadership Award from the University of St. Mary in Leavenworth, Kansas, where she is pursuing her Doctor of Occupational Therapy.



Photo from the FHSU Biological Sciences Department.



OSTEOPATHY ON THE WAY: CHRISTOPHER CRAWFORD

After graduating from FHSU with his B.S. in Biology with an emphasis in Health Professions in 2022 and staying another year to work on his master's, Chris has been accepted to the Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine. He begins courses in late July.

We cannot do this without you, our alumni and community members. The Honors College has a smaller budget and staff than it did the day it was founded in 2015, yet it has grown in student enrollment by 800%--without even considering the effects of inflation. Any amount you can donate, or consider as a legacy gift, will help enrich our students' experiences and efforts as they do their utmost to enrich FHSU, Hays, and the world. You may use the "Make a Gift" button on the Honors College website, or contact the FHSU Foundation.

www.fhsu.edu/honors