Fall 2014 was a busy semester for FHHS! In August we were excited to announce the introduction of two honors courses that will be offered in Spring 2015. Little did we know that our goal of honors initiatives at FHSU would grow exponentially in a very short time! We are pleased to announce that there will be an Honors College beginning in August 2015. The spring semester will be filled with major decision making and getting the Honors College ready for students in the Fall.

**Fall 2014 Events**
- Fall Retreat
- Collection for Haiti
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters Speaker Call-a-Thon
- NCSL
- Etiquette Dinner
- Christmas Cookie Decorating
- Kick-Off to Finals Dinner and Massages

**Executive Team Spotlight**
*Cameron Rohleder, written by Olivia Seirer*

Cameron Rohleder is currently a physics/pre-engineering major at Fort Hays State University. Since coming to FHSU, Cameron has been dedicated to his studies in physics and loves to solve complex problems. Cameron has high aspirations within the field of physics and is confident that his education will give him the tools that he needs to reach his goals. After college, Cameron hopes to create products that will benefit others. Cameron’s passion for physics, coupled with his interest in aerospace and rocketry, should lead to a promising career after school.

Before FHSU, Cameron attended Hays High School, in Hays, Kansas. During high school, Cameron was involved in extracurricular activities and held leadership roles. He was the Vice President of the Hays High Industrial Technology Association and an officer in National Honor Society.
The welcoming environment and “family-feel” motivated Cameron to attend FHSU. Cameron recapped one of his first experiences at the University: “The first time I visited the physics program—my senior year in high school—I was pulled aside by the department chair and another professor and had a peer-to-peer conversation with them. It really gave me a sense of what I wanted to do and helped me develop a standard of myself.”

Since he grew up in Hays, Cameron has always been familiar with FHSU and the opportunities the University has to offer; including the 3-2 program offered by the physics department. By the end of his fifth year as an undergraduate, Cameron will have two degrees under his belt: a physics degree from FHSU and an engineering degree from another university.

Cameron believes that the physics department, along with other programs at FHSU, helped to shape his character. Aside from being a member of the physics club and working on independent physics projects, Cameron concurrently takes part in the Distinguished Scholars Program (DSP), Fort Hays Honor Society (FHHS), a programming seminar, and intramurals. He has even taken on leadership roles, such as the DSP’s Associate Coordinator and FHHS’s Administrative Assistant, and dedicates fifteen hours per week to the positions.

Aside from his many activities, Cameron works as a tutor and office help at the Kansas Math and Science (KAMs) office. He has been employed by KAMs for three years now. In the past, Cameron has worked for both the Physics department, as well. When asked what his favorite part of FHSU was, Cameron replied: “[My] major, and the professors in it. They really hold the students accountable and are able to address quite a few nuisances in my education. Also, I really like the college town feel that this university has: very lax and undisturbed for the Cameron’s most memorable experiences while at FHSU come from his time with the Distinguished Scholars Program group. He enjoys the caring people who always strive to do their best and will provide insightful discussion over any topic. Cameron believes that DSP is a key factor in his personal development and has given him the chance to befriend those who will change the world for the better.

Michelle Klepper, written by Taylor Willits

Michelle Klepper, an All-American track athlete, Fort Hays Honor Society President, and Management major, started her impressive resume at a small high school, in Ellinwood, Kansas. Here she held a multitude of leadership positions. After graduating, she attended and competed for the track team at Barton Community College for two years, and then transferred to Fort Hays State University where she continued to compete in track and is presently a senior working towards a Bachelor in Management with an emphasis on Human Resources, a field that will let her utilize her passion for helping others. She has worked with the Management Development Center at FHSU and she is currently the Human Resource Store Specialist at Dillons. Michelle exclaims that some of the most rewarding things about being the President of Fort Hays Honor Society are the opportunities she’s had to work with influential faculty members and the part she has played in helping to create the brand new Honors Courses and Honors College.
**FHHS Members Testimonials**

1. Why did you join Honor Society?
2. What did you gain from Honor Society?
3. Why is it important to support high achieving students?
4. Why do you feel it is important to be a high achieving student on campus?

**Olivia Seirer**

I joined Honor Society to get back in touch with the campus community and to meet other high-achieving students who value their education and know how to work hard. During my undergraduate years at FHSU, I noticed myself becoming more and more distant from the campus community and organizations due to an overwhelming schedule. Therefore, during my graduate career, I want to get back in touch with FHSU's offerings. What better way to do so than through an Honor Society?

This first semester in Honor Society has really helped me get back in touch with the FHSU family-like community (which drove me to choose FHSU as my higher education venue in the first place). Honor Society has motivated me to continue to work hard and excel in my academics. I have also reconnected with my personality in a way. During the past few years, I had lost my passion to help others (something that inspired me greatly in high school), but Honor Society has rekindled that passion. I now find myself looking for opportunities to contribute to FHSU, the Hays and surrounding communities, and abroad.

Without recognition and positive reinforcement, what would be the point of trying so hard to succeed? What would push us to stretch our limits and keep reaching higher and higher? Self-motivation is an important virtue, but without praise and support we would have no fuel to keep going. If there is no one to stoke the fire, it will lose strength and fade away to nothing; taking opportunity with it.

Being a high achieving student is important for my future. Due to my academic accomplishments, many amazing opportunities have opened up for me. My hard work has already been paying off, and I can’t wait to see what my future has in store for me. However, excelling in academics is not only important to me because I want to become successful. I also want to work hard and make my professors, my family, and my God proud of me. I want to be a positive representation in the world, and I want to strengthen the name of Fort Hays State University. FHSU has contributed so much to my success and to building my character; being a high-achieving student is the very least I can do to show my appreciation.

**Abby Dreher**

For me, seeing honor society is a pretty major thing! It is an honor to be recognized for achieving good grades.

I have gained friends, opportunities, and new leadership skills through being a member of Fort Hays State Honor Society.

High achieving students work hard to excel in school, but we also have to work for a living as well. We need some help so we can continue achieving and reach out full potential in college.

It is important to me, because we take time out of our day to come to class and learn. I drive 30 minutes to and from FHSU. That is gas money right there. Gas is not always cheap. I have to work so I can continue to get my education.
Taylor Willits

I joined FHHS because I wanted to be more involved in on-campus activities that would be helpful to my education.

I got to meet others that could give me advice about classes and professors, and also participate in a lot of opportunities I wouldn't of had without being a member of FHHS (scholarships, etiquette dinner, library space).

I think it's important because high achieving students will take advantage and really appreciate all the support that we receive. Most high achieving students are willing to do the extra work to get the most out of their college education, and those students should be supported and encouraged to continue.

It definitely sets you apart from the majority of campus, and that will really make a differences when applying for scholarships, jobs, internships, etc. It also opens up more opportunities as an undergraduate student to get the experience needed to continue to graduate school.

FHSU Professor Spotlight

Dr. Lanee Young, written by Olivia Seirer

Dr. Lanee Young is currently an Associate Professor of mathematics education in the Mathematics and Computer Science Department at Fort Hays State University and is the assistant coach for Tiger Volleyball. Aside from teaching and coaching, Dr. Young is also active in many department committees, is the sponsor of Kappa Mu Epsilon, and serves as a member of the Special Events Committee and the Library Committee at the university level.

While being greatly involved in FHSU’s academic, athletic, and extra-curricular programs, Dr. Young also finds time to work on research projects. Currently, Dr. Young is working on research in Inquiry Based Learning in the math classroom. Her explanation of the research is as follows: “Many times we spoon feed information to our students, which makes them less likely to think and challenge themselves. I am working towards having the students do more math work in the class—instead of passively accept what I am telling them—and then look at the data both qualitatively and quantitatively to see if it improves the learning experience for the students and instructors.”

When asked why she wanted to teach, Dr. Young replied: “I decided I wanted to teach because I really wanted to coach. The combination of teaching and coaching gave me the best opportunity to make a difference with kids. I knew I wanted to be a positive role model and influence kids in a positive way. Teach them to set goals and persevere is equally important in math, sports, and life.”

Dr. Young chose to teach math simply “…to prove [she] could do it.” As a student in elementary school, Dr. Young was told she had a learning disability and would never be able to grasp and understand mathematics. It was not until middle school that Dr. Young began to do well in math, and she would then go on to excel in it during high school—even doing independent study. By the time she started college, Dr. Young knew she wanted to become a math teacher, not only to secure a future career, but also to prove to herself (and those who doubted her) that she could do it. Dr. Young understands how difficult math can be, which helps her relate well to many students.

If Dr. Young had not pursued a teaching and coaching career, she believes that she would still be doing something in the athletics field: athletic training, strength and conditioning, or sports psychology. Another possible route for Dr. Young would have been farming or ranching.

Before pursuing higher education, Dr. Young attended Arickaree High School in Anton, Colorado. After high school, Dr. Young spent her freshman year of college at Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kansas. She then transferred to FHSU to complete her degree in mathematics and Spanish. Upon completing her Bachelor's degree, Dr. Young decided to continue her education at FHSU and earned her Master of Arts in Teaching Mathematics degree. After FHSU, Dr. Young decided to obtain her PhD from Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas.
With her Bachelor’s, Master’s, and PhD under her belt, Dr. Young began her teaching career. She taught at a high school in Colorado for three years and then decided to return to FHSU. Dr. Young enjoyed her time at FHSU as an undergraduate and then graduate student and says that she “…was grateful for the opportunity to return.”

Dr. Young’s favorite part about FHSU is the people. She values the relationships she has built with her colleagues and students and believes they are what make working at FHSU special and great. Dr. Young says that the people she works with make going to work fun. Also, she likes “…that many of the students still come from a small town farming background,” and “The town is small enough to live in and we aren’t too far from wide open spaces.”

*Dr. Cheryl Duffy, written by Tristen Galliart*

I took World Literature and the Human Experience my freshman year as my first English course at Fort Hays State University with Dr. Cheryl Duffy. I loved the course and the way Dr. Duffy taught it, including her quirky squirrel obsession added into sample sentences.

The experience I had in Dr. Duffy’s course contributed to my decision to minor in English. Dr. Duffy grew up in Hill City, Kansas. She attended Colby Community College as a Presidential Scholar, earned her bachelor’s degree from Emporia State University, her master’s from FHSU, and her PhD from the University of Kansas.

Dr. Duffy has a daughter, Anna Towns, who also graduated from FHSU. Her late husband John Towns graduated from FHSU as well in 1985. Her husband of 15 years, Bob Duffy, is a counselor in the Kelly Center and the DAWN coordinator.

Dr. Duffy has always wanted to teach, and when she was 18 and a freshman in college she was interviewed for the school paper and she stated her goal as “to earn my PhD and become an English professor.” Although Dr. Duffy has obviously always had the goal to be an English professor, I inquired about what she would be doing if she was not a teacher. She mentioned working as a professional writer, a counselor, or a pastor. When asked why she wanted to teach at FHSU, she gave one of the same reasons I love FHSU as well. Dr. Duffy explained that she loves FHSU because she truly has the opportunity to get to know her students and watch them grow as scholars and human beings, and they get to know her too.
**FHHS Tidbits**

**Fall Retreat** - On September 6th, 33 members attended the Fall Retreat in Stouffer Lounge. This gave the members the opportunity to meet other members, learn more about FHHS, and create goals for the upcoming year.

**Collection for Haiti** - Courtney Kaba, FHHS Vice President and Social Chair Coordinator, introduced FHHS to a Haitian ministry, Here I Am. Together with additional FHSU organizations, about $500 worth of items were donated.

**Big Brothers, Big Sisters Speaker** - Two BBBS representatives talked to FHHS during a September meeting about the benefits of being a part of this program. FHHS is looking into helping with a BBBS event during the Spring semester.

**Call-a-Thon** - During one of the October meetings, our FHHS members took part in our first “Call-a-Thon”. For ten minutes, all members were encouraged to call family and friends and ask if they were interested in supporting FHHS through the FHSU Foundation’s campaign, “I Fed the Tiger”. For every dollar raised, the Foundation would match a dollar through this donor funded campaign. FHHS was able to raise a total of $950!

**NCCL** - Margarita Santiago, Reinette Strydom, and Katie Showalter were chosen to attend the National Conference on Student Leadership November 20th - 23rd in Orlando, Florida! These members had the opportunity to learn from multiple speakers and do some sight-seeing as well.

**Etiquette Dinner** - On November 11th, 45 members and faculty guests attended the FHHS Etiquette Dinner. Speaker’s name facilitated the event, instructing on the proper etiquette through a five course meal, as well as introductions, and other tips.

**GRE Prep Sessions** - FHHS hosted 4 seminars, open to all FHSU students to learn more about Graduate School testing. A special thanks goes to Santina Dechant, Keith Dreiling, Gene Rice, and Travis Montgomery for facilitating!
Kick-Off to Finals Dinner and Massages - Approximately 20 members took a break from studying for finals and had some fun at our last social event of the semester. The meal was catered by TK's Smokehouse and hand and back massages were given by Janelle Nease and Alyssa Schulte of Heavenly Bodies Massage Therapy.

Christmas Cookie Decorating - FHHS members stayed after their December meeting to decorate Christmas cookies and enjoy the Christmas spirit!

FHHS Fall Scholarship Recipients - Stephany Gress, Tristen Galliart, Macy Becker, Michelle Miller, Courtney Kaba, and Michelle Klepper. Congrats!

Want to learn more about Fort Hays State Honor Society (FHHS)?

Visit us at our website: [http://fhhs.fhsu.edu/](http://fhhs.fhsu.edu/)
Like us on Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/forthaysstatehonorsociety](https://www.facebook.com/forthaysstatehonorsociety)
Email us at: forthaysstatehonorsociety@gmail.com

Our Mission Statement: “The mission of the Fort Hays State Honor Society is to provide support, opportunity, and recognition for accomplished students. Our high-achieving membership seeks out to facilitate active change for the benefit of Fort Hays State University by networking a diverse and accomplished student cohort with a unified objective.”