



THE DAVY

The Monthly Newsletter for the Freddie T. Davy Honors College
at Hampton University

Student Editor in Chief: HoneyRose Smith | Faculty Editor in Chief TaKeia N. Anthony, Ph.D.
Student Assigning Editor: Laura James

November 2025 Edition

MIT Informational Session



Leonard Jones speaks on his experience researching at MIT in Summer 2025.

1 MIT Research Opportunities

Students interested in considering Graduate School or a Summer Research Internship were invited to join the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Information Session. The session was hosted on Nov. 13, at 5:00 P.M. in the Student Center Lounge. Honors Scholar, Leonard Jones, spoke on his Summer 2025 Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) at MIT. He discussed the opportunity to work alongside leading researchers, and the valuable skills he gained through this opportunity.

2 Fall Open House & Visitation Weekend

The Freddie T. Davy Honors College had a great time meeting prospective students during the 2025 Honors Visitation Weekend and Fall Open House. Executive Board members Nyla Howard, Madisyn Strange, Jordan Hart, Joshua Hall, and HoneyRose Smith spoke to students and parents about the Honors College's purpose, legacy, and membership requirements. We look forward to welcoming new scholars to the Honors College!



Executive Board Members are pictured presenting Information
Left to Right: HoneyRose Smith, Jordan Hart, Joshua Hall, Madisyn Strange

Editors: Riley Bell, Isabella Campbell, Maya Powell, Miles Walker

Honors Gives Back



3

Card-Making for Nursing Home Residents Initiative

Miss Freddye T. Davy Honors College, HoneyRose Smith, led an initiative to create and distribute cards to Marcella Post Acute Nursing Home, spreading positivity and hope to the residents.



Honors Students wrote cards on Nov. 10 and Nov. 12 in the W.E.B. DuBois Honors College. The students enjoyed dedicating their time to this project and produced 82 cards, which resulted in 41 service hours at the rate of 1 hour per 2 cards.



On November 15, twelve students participated in the in-person visit to the nursing home, earning 5 community service hours each for a total of 60 hours. In total, the nursing home initiative produced 101 community service hours for Honors College students.

4

Impact Through Honors Drive

The Honors College partnered with Mary Jackson Fundamental Elementary School to provide support to students during the economically stressed holiday season.

Honors Students were encouraged to donate canned goods, travel-size toiletries, and socks from October 3 to November 14. We collected over 450 items – including 213 cans of goods, 225 pairs of socks, and 13 personal care items.

These items were donated to the school on Nov. 14 by the Honors College President, Nyla Howard. The Honors College plans to continue similar service projects throughout the year.



**Mary Jackson
Fundamental Elementary
School Donation Dropoff**

Honors Scholarly Programs

Hampton University Honors College Hosts Graduate School Workshop Featuring Expert Guidance and Student Panel



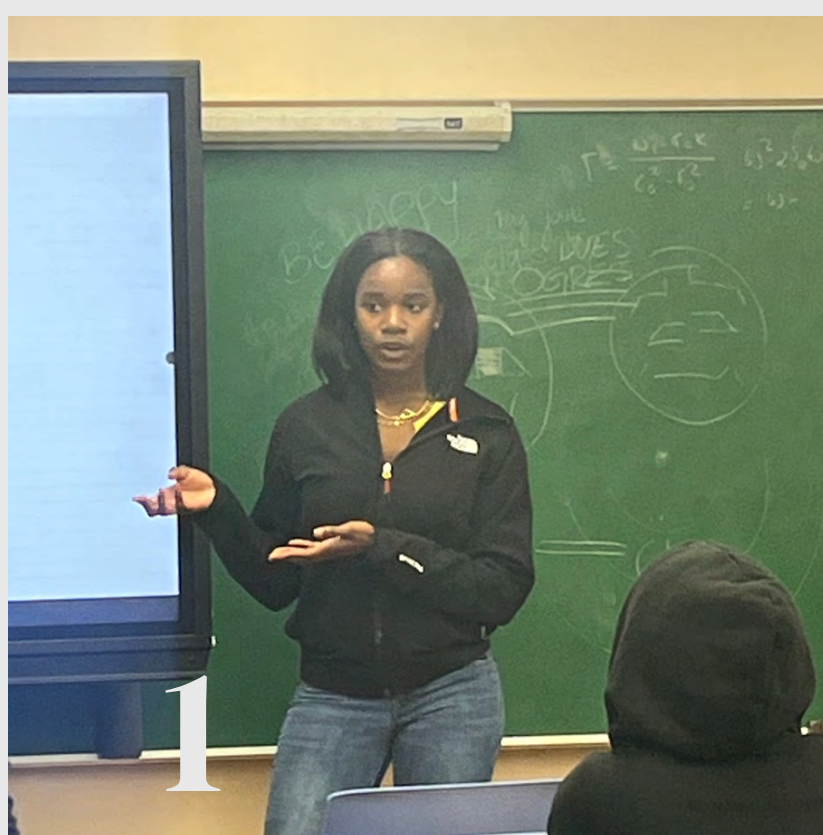
**Dr. Scott Challener, Graduate
School Dean**



**Scholars gathered at Graduate
School Workshop**

Student Center Ballroom • November 10th • 6:30 P.M.

The Graduate School Workshop occurred on Nov. 10 and was attended by junior and senior Honors students. Dr. Scott Challener, Dean of the Hampton University Graduate School, served as the speaker, offering advice on several topics like the application process and funding. The night concluded with four panel speakers, all Hampton University graduate students from various departments, including Physical Therapy and Physics. The moderator of the panel was Miss Honors College, HoneyRose Smith, with aid from Dr. Challener. They asked the panelists questions about their matriculation into graduate school at Hampton University (HU) and why their journeys aligned with the school. The event provided valuable insight to students considering education beyond their undergraduate studies.



Scholar Ayana Van Demark

Navigating Study Abroad Opportunities: Ayana Van Demark's Journey



**Dr. TaKeia Anthony, Director
and Scholar Ayana Van Demark**

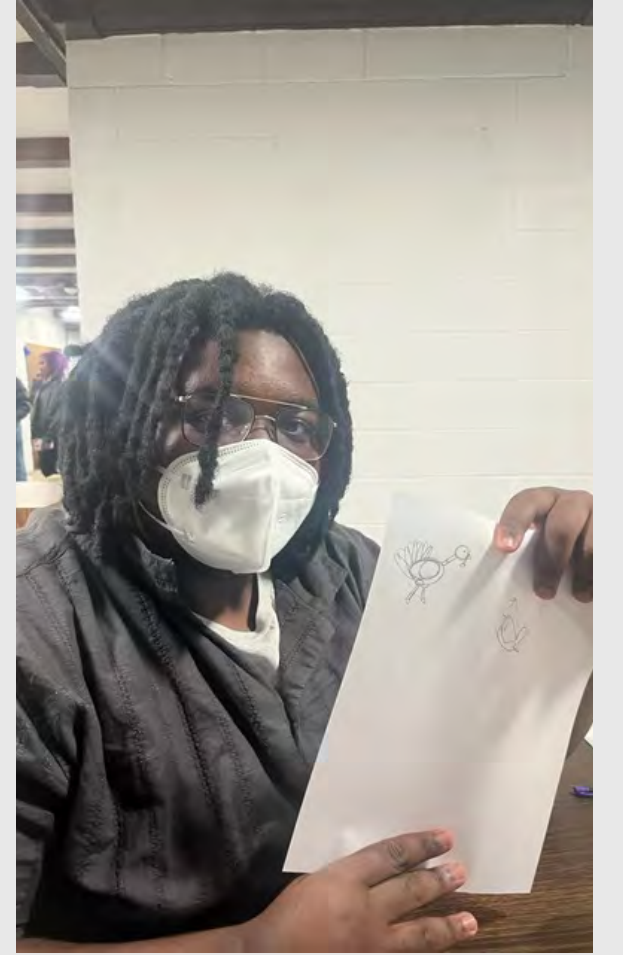
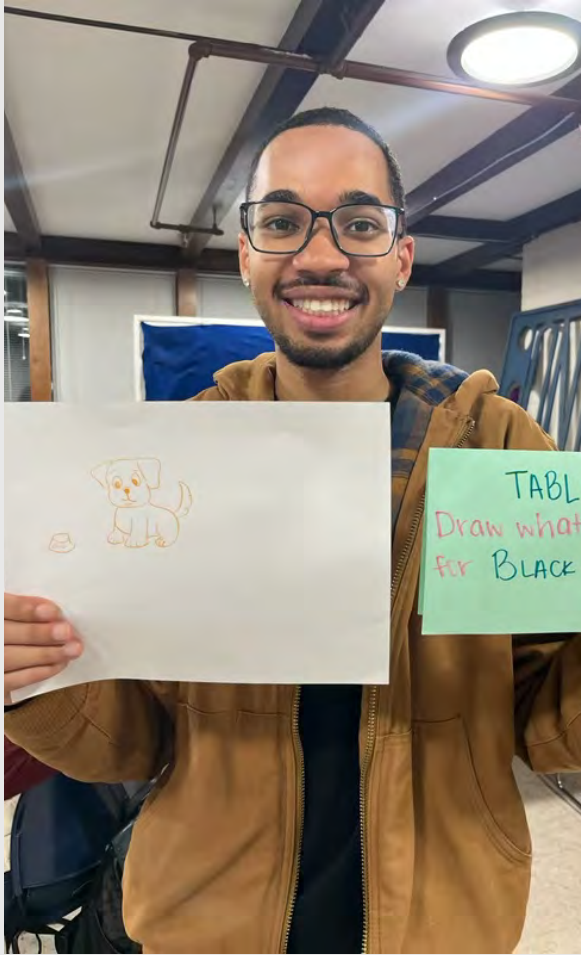
University 101 Seminar • Hampton University

Ayana Van Demark, a third year Health Science major, sought to guide underclassmen through the process of selecting a study abroad opportunity. She was the guest speaker in Dr. Anthony's UNV 101 honors freshmen seminar class, where she highlighted the importance of knowing what location is best for you, familiarizing oneself with your provider, and ensuring clear communication. Van Demark notes that study abroad programs offer a unique perspective to "further develop skills" and "gain more exposure to different cultures." She will be studying abroad during the Spring 2026 semester in the Netherlands.

Editors: Riley Bell, Isabella Campbell, Maya Powell, Miles Walker

Honors and Harvest Feast

On Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025, on the 8th floor of Dubois Hall, the Freddye T. Davy Honors College gathered for a night of food and fellowship at the Harvest and Honors Feast. Over 50 students were in attendance. Music and community were accompanied by tasty Thanksgiving food.



Honors College Student Spotlight

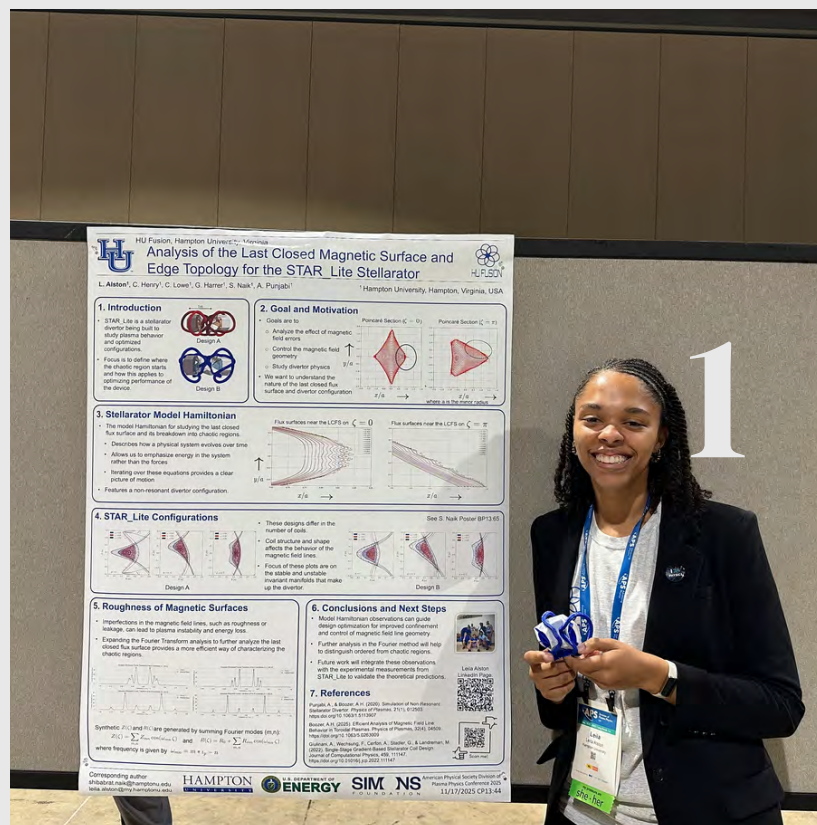
Exceptional Leadership: Honors Scholar McKenzie Fitzgerald Selected as a “BIG” Mentor, Shaping the Experience of Prospective Students



Hampton University • 11.6.25 • Honors Visitation Weekend

Honors Visitation Weekend was held Nov. 6-9. This was an opportunity for prospective Hampton University Students to gain selective insight into the school. Honors Scholar McKenzie Fitzgerald was honored to be selected as a BIG, working with the Hampton University Student Recruitment Team. BIGs are current Honors Scholars who help guide prospective students, called littles, during the weekend. Fitzgerald's prospective student spent time with her, exploring the campus and attending classes in her intended major. The weekend ended on a high note with McKenzie's prospective student receiving a \$25,000 scholarship to attend Hampton University in the Fall of 2026. Honors Scholar McKenzie Fitzgerald was honored to guide and help influence incoming scholars to attend Hampton University.

Hampton Honors Scholar Leila Alston Showcases Outstanding Research at Prestigious National Plasma Physics Conference



Long Beach, California • Nov. 17–21, 2025 • Plasma Physics Conference

During the week of Nov. 17, Honors Scholar Leila Alston had the incredible opportunity to attend the American Physical Society Division of Plasma Physics Conference in Long Beach, California. She presented a poster on her work with the STAR_Lite Research and Training Program located at Hampton University. Specifically, her research focused on theoretical modeling and simulations of magnetic field lines, with an emphasis on Poincaré sections and Fourier Transform Analysis. Sharing this work with other students and researchers who specialize in the field of plasma physics was an amazing experience. Connecting with graduate students from various programs and hearing about their experiences added guidance for her future career. Leila Alston left incredibly motivated with valuable insight as she continues shaping her own academic and professional journey.

Honors College Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Naoufal Lakhssassi: Honors College Research Excellence: Innovations in Soybean Genetics



Doctor Nauofal Lakhssassi is an Assistant Professor of Biological Studies, Graduate Program Director, and an Honors College Faculty member. He has gained a multitude of recognitions for his proficiency in plant physiology, molecular biology, mutational breeding, genetics, and functional genomics. He utilized his skills to further develop ideas, creating research pieces that investigate the effects of pathogens that have become resistant to various suppressants, tainting the yield of plants such as the soybean. He was invited to various conferences to discuss similar findings and other research topics, such as the upcoming Plant and Animal Genome (PAG) conference in January 2026. In addition to his major accomplishments, Dr. Lakhssassi has also received the Hampton University Faculty Grant Development Award to further his research on increasing the nutritional value of soybeans.

Honors College Director | Meet the Greeks Keynote Speaker

MEET THE GREEKS

Dr. TaKeia Anthony was the 2025 Meet the Greeks keynote speaker on Nov. 19. The title of her message was, "So You Want To Be Down?" She encouraged students to join Greek Letter Organizations to better their communities and to foster brotherhood and sisterhood.

MEET THE GREEKS

Dr. TaKeia Anthony
Director of the Freddie T. Davy Honors College, Hampton University
Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated
Keynote Speaker

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025

ROBERT C. OGDEN HALL

Editors: Riley Bell, Isabella Campbell, Maya Powell, Miles Walker

November Birthdays



Trinity Sessoms
Junior



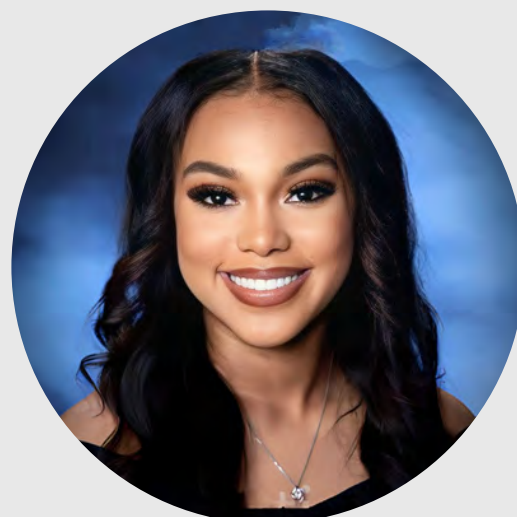
Kianna Frazier
Sophomore



Khairi Hill
Sophomore



Chase Bell
Sophomore



Janiya Corcolis
Sophomore



Xavier Heggie
Freshman

Acknowledgments

A Special Thank You to the Hampton University Administration for supporting the Honors College. Thank you, Honors College Students for all your hard work in the classroom and in the community.

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