

The Honors Report

April 2017

Volume XXXI, No. 7

On the web at <http://www.millersville.edu/honorscollege/>



Senior Spotlights!



Zach Cober

While at MU I held these positions: Alumni Chair, Public Relations Chair, Orientation Leader, Resident Assistant, Economics Tutor, Peregrino, Missionary, Beideman Scholarship Recipient

Likes: Discussion-based classes, Film Theory, Graphs, McCafé® Shamrock Shake

Dislikes: Bad grades, early mornings, that little flap in vending machines that blocks your hand from being able to grab snacks in the bottom row

Hobbies: Hiking, reading, making obscure references,



Times, Dates and Other Items of Importance:

Apr. 9 (Sun): Palm Sunday

Apr. 16 (Sun): Easter

May 7 (Sun): Spring Recognition Banquet

May 8-12: Final Exams

May 13: Commencement



!Birthdays!

Birthday greetings to our students celebrating their arrival on this earth during April and May:

Rebecca Heller	April 1
Tancy Wenrich	April 1
Maria LaSpina	April 2
Adam Neideigh	April 5
Rose Fisher	April 7
Sarah Hagen	April 8
Betsabe Hernandez	April 9
Sean Hamilton	April 12
Zach Cober	April 14
Meghan Epler	April 15
Alyssa Cannistraci	April 17
Sean Domencic	April 17

Hadassah Stoltzfus	April 21
Alexis Chin	April 21
Susan Lloyd	April 23
Lizzy Wahba	April 24
Elizabeth Schaeffer	April 24
Michael Duncan	April 26
Grace Smoot	April 28
Brittney Brown	April 28
Kadia Julian	April 29
Christine Persun	May 1
Julia Puia	May 6
Kelley Hershey	May 7
Gillian Good	May 7
Leo London	May 7
Joe Greeby	May 8
Adam Weiner	May 8
Jocelyn Elzer	May 10
Cross Truesdell	May 12
Benjamin Wesley	May 12
Bryanne Minnella	May 15
Tim Keebler	May 17
John Haberkern	May 18
Matt Gormley	May 19
Ashley Christenbury	May 24
Payton Campbell	May 25
Peter Sitarik	May 25
Connor Billings	May 29

Remember your friends on their special day!

Dr. Downey's Spring 2017

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday

9:30-11:30 am.

Other times available by appointment! Call: 871-7552.

Dr. Downey's office hours may be subject to change at times.

Spring Recognition Banquet

The spring recognition banquet will be held on Sunday, May 7 in the Lehr Dining Room of the Bolger Conference Center. The Honors College has almost 30 graduating seniors this May, the largest group ever!! These seniors will be recognized along with other Honors students who have achieved overall high academic GPA's. Dr. Downey will be the guest speaker at this banquet so all of you do not want to miss this banquet!! Invitations will be forthcoming in your mailboxes so please respond to attend. Graduating seniors may bring family members, a special person, or a faculty member who has been a

mentor to them. Full names are needed for guests for name tag purposes.



May Commencement, 2017

The Undergraduate Commencement will be held on **Saturday, May 13, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., on Chryst Field at Biemesderfer Stadium.**

Rehearsal will be held on Thursday, May 11 at 4:00 p.m. in Pucillo Gymnasium for those participating in either or both ceremonies.

Those who have placed rental or purchase orders for regalia with Darlene Hunsberger at the University Store will be contacted by her directly by email when their orders arrive. All Honors College graduates will also pick up their various colored cords at the bookstore for commencement.



Senior Spotlights!



Lizzy Wahba

Four years ago I was beginning my freshman year. I had arrived from my fourth high school, where I grew up, in Honey Brook, PA. Before leaving my family to return home to America, I had spent four years living in Bahrain in the Middle East, where I had attended a Lebanese school loosely modeled on an American curriculum, two different British schools, completing my GCSEs at one and IB diploma classes at the second. I spent time there volunteering to teach expatriate adults from Venezuela to read English; volunteering at a school for children with mental disabilities; conducting choirs at a British music school; and on the weekends, as an actress in a British drama troupe. I had traveled to 33 countries before coming to college, but my adventures were far from limited here at Millersville. I learned in Bahrain to take

every opportunity, and I learned at Millersville how challenging that can be.

Prior to my first semester four years ago, I remember mapping out my classes with the DARS printed on eight pages fanned out in front of me. I had marked, in color-coded highlighter, all the requirements I needed to graduate. I painstakingly chose every class, cross-referenced it with the catalog to check availability, and even planned each of my eight semesters with a proportionate amount of major and general education classes. Four years later and I will admit that picking those classes was the only thing I could have predicted in each semester, each year of my college experience – the rest has been a wonderful surprise.

I came to Millersville with two goals: to learn, and to take every opportunity. The first proved to be mandatory. I learned something new every day, from the content of my courses to the proper way to shower in a dormitory (the answer is: with flip flops!) The latter was a true challenge. I have had many opportunities, and I can honestly say I've taken all of them here at Millersville. This opportunist perspective comes from realizing I don't find regret in choices, only in ignoring a chance for something different. The first opportunity I took was to accept my invitation to the Honors College, an invaluable experience that truly shaped my success in college. I joined the Color of Teaching (CoT) the first month of freshman year. I was told it's "a sophomore or junior year group", but I knew what I had ahead of me as a Secondary Education English major with a minor in History, and I wanted to dedicate myself to the community of high school students and the experiences of volunteering before my schoolwork began to take more of my time and effort. I mentored high school students with CoT, playing games, doing crafts, even attending events locally and on campus. I rose to the position of Historian in that group, as a freshman, and attended my first-ever academic conference, PSEA. I was also active in History Club my freshman year. I'll never forget the silence during our election meeting when someone nominated me as Club President the first semester of my sophomore year. I remembered my goal, my promise to myself to be an opportunist: I took the nomination, and won.

My sophomore year proved to be the biggest test of my opportunism. On a whim, I

auditioned for the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire, and was cast in a singing group as a street sweeper's daughter. This began the balancing act of work and full-time school, but I proved capable and continued to work 30+ hours a week until my final semester, in retail, food service, and of course the Renaissance Faire. With my regained confidence in theater, I signed up for a Millersville conference, the Anne Frank Project, a drama-based storytelling workshop for English professors and education majors. It was a challenge, as one of few students in the room and the youngest to boot, but I learned there that putting yourself out there academically can lead to wonderful relationships with faculty and like-minded students – and certification in pedagogy, in this case! This conference also introduced me to Dr. Shea, who recommended me to a study abroad opportunity in Oxford, England, my dream school. This was the biggest, but also the best, opportunity I have had at Millersville – I cannot say enough about how remarkable studying abroad is. While there I took many travel opportunities, waking up early alone to traipse the English countryside or hop on a bus, because there was always “just one more” museum I could hit, historic estate I could tour, or garden I could read in! I spent some time in Ireland on my way home, as well. I returned to Millersville in my junior year with vigor.

My junior year, I took on the ultimate challenge of my academic career thus far: writing my thesis. I completed a thesis for both Departmental Honors as well as the Honors College, with which I have retained academic distinction (a 3.8 GPA or higher) every semester. My thesis I took as a twofold challenge. I aimed to complete my thesis one year early, and instead of a familiar subject or expanding an existing paper, I chose to write on an altogether new topic: Zora Neale Hurston, the first loud voice for black feminism – a school of thought and an author I had only been introduced to the semester I began my paper, in African American Literature with Dr. Corkery.

I finished my thesis by my personal deadline, I have finished each semester with academic distinction, and I am graduating from the Honors College in only 4 years with an education degree, a minor, and magna cum laude. I have received the Honors College Hoffman Scholarship, the APSCUF-MU Scholarship, the Dorothy J. Patterson English Scholarship, and the Outstanding English Major Award. Throughout my senior year I have been student teaching at McCaskey East High School, where I am working to gain experience not only in the classroom but in organizing after school activities and the school play. Additionally this year I have presented my

thesis at EAPSU's fall conference, drove to Georgia to attend the NCTE and ALAN conferences, and will present at Made in Millersville this April. Upon graduation I plan to teach high school, and then pursue my MA and PhD to eventually be a Professor of English Literature. I have been – and will continue to be – successful because of the experiences I have had at Millersville University through the opportunities I have graciously accepted from the excellent faculty and programs at our university.

New York City and CATS

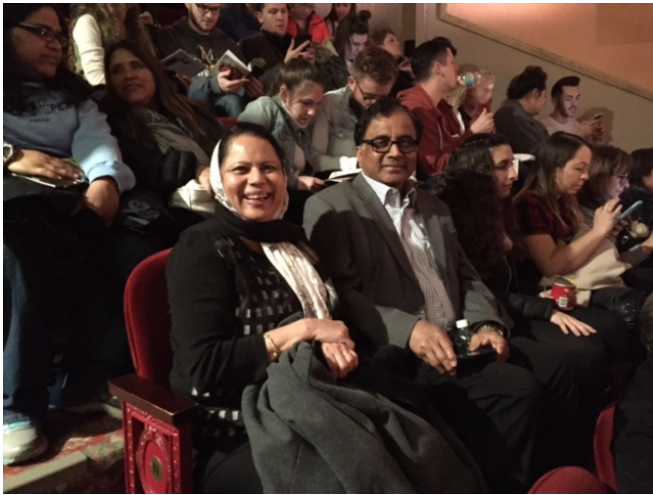
A total of 51 students went to New York City on Saturday, April 1st. A slight snafu with the coach arriving on time for the actual departure from Millersville happened, but since it was April Fool's Day, the coach finally arrived and the group departed. While in New York City, the group with chaperones Dr. & Mrs. Downey and Dr. & Mrs. Prabhu, attended the 2:00 pm matinee of CATS at the Neil Simon Theatre. Here are a couple of pictures from that show.



CATS stage and theatre



CATS stage



Dr. & Mrs. Prabhu



Some of the students at CATS

2017 PASSHE Student Leadership Conference

10 Honors students traveled to the Dixon University Center in Harrisburg on Monday, April 3rd to participate in the 2017 PASSHE Student Leadership Conference. The host of the conference this year was Millersville University and our own two Honors students, Anne Mitzel and Grace Smoot were the co-chairs who organized the conference and the program. We extend our congratulations to both ladies for a job well done! MU Provost, Dr. Vilas Prabhu, was the guest speaker at the conference.



Cast of CATS



Neil Simon Theatre



Dr. Prabhu and Dr. Downey with MU students attending the PASSHE 2017 Student Leadership Conference.



Students from PASSHE schools who attended the 2017 Student Leadership Conference



Dr. Downey with all MU students who attended the 2017 PASSHE Student Leadership Conference, hosted this year by Millersville University at the Dixon University Center in Harrisburg. Our thanks to Grace Smoot and Anne Mitzel for all their hard work in co-chairing the conference!



Conference co-chairs Grace Smoot and Anne Mitzel with Dr. Downey



PASSHE conference guest speaker for the luncheon was MU's own Provost, Dr. Vilas Prabhu!