

THE HONORS REPORT

MAY 2020



Great job finishing out the semester- congratulations to our graduates!
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Our 2020-2021 HCSA Board is as follows...

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MESSAGE FROM DR. THYRUM



**"CONSIDER JOINING IN ON
OUR HONORS COLLEGE
SENIOR RECOGNITION ON
MAY 3 AT 1 PM ON ZOOM."**

Dr. Elizabeth Thyrum

Greetings to all of our students and soon to be graduates!

Although we could not have imagined ending our semester like this, we are proud of your resilience and grit! We all left for Spring Break on March 13 and could not have imagined how our semester would play out.

Since our two weeks of Spring Break, you are continuing your coursework on-line, participating in endless class periods and meetings on Zoom, perhaps completing internships through remote experiences, continuing service to your families and communities, and even pursuing research and defending your thesis through remote means. This has not been easy, so kudos to all of you for your adaptability and perseverance.

This semester, we have 24 seniors who are graduating. I encourage you to read about their MU experiences, accomplishments, and future plans in this report, last month's Honors Report, as well as on Instagram. Although we won't be able to celebrate our seniors' incredible achievements in person, along with the many other successes from this semester, please be proud of all that our students are and do. *Consider joining in on our Honors College Senior Recognition on May 3 at 1 pm on Zoom.* It would be great to see a sea of faces online that afternoon, congratulating our graduates. Check your email for an invitation to this remote event.

The Honors College is rooting for you! You all are awesome in so many different ways! Let's finish this semester strong. Then, make the most of your summer, whether you work, provide community service and volunteer, start on your thesis, or complete college credits. As you know and as our graduates have experienced, college 'zooms' by – make the most of each semester, break, summer, and winter!

If you need us for anything, Beth and I are available all summer. Email or call anytime.

We miss seeing you in Franklin House – until late August. *Be well, Dr. Thyrum*

MESSAGE FROM BETH ROBERTS



**"YOU MAKE UP A VERY
UNIQUE GROUP ON CAMPUS
- ONE OF RESILIENCE, DRIVE
AND DESIRE."**

Beth Roberts

From the "remote desk" of Beth:

When this academic year started, I was the secretary for the Biology department, sitting in an office in Roddy Hall. As the academic year ends, I am the Administrative Assistant for the Honors College, sitting at my desk as home, working remotely with a cat curled up beside me. A lot can change in just nine months.

For several of you, you are reflecting on your last "four" years at MU, thinking how you have grown academically and personally and wondering what the future holds for you. When you started here, commencement seemed so far away and now it is here and you are wondering where the time went. I have no doubt each of you will find success as you leave MU and us. I am looking forward to seeing where life takes you.

For many of us, we are wondering what these next few months and years will look like on campus. What changes will become part of our "new normal" and what changes will return to "normal." I don't know what "normal" will be as far as academics and social interactions, but what I know will remain is the strength and community that is Honors College. You make up a very unique group on campus - one of resilience, drive and desire. When we return to campus, you will unite as one and succeed!

I LOVE being a part of Honors College. I love when you stop in, just to say "hi!" I miss all of you. Thank you all for welcoming me to your community. This has been a positive move and a great adventure for me.

Stay in touch this summer and stop by Franklin House as soon as you return to campus!!

Beth

LIST OF SPRING 2020 GRADUATES

Congratulations to all our seniors who are graduating in the spring! The Millersville Honors College wishes you all the best of luck with your future endeavors!

Abigail Breckbill: Major: English; Minor: Linguistics

Hellen Brieva: Major: Business Administration Management & Marketing; Minor: Entrepreneurship

Taylor Chambers: Major: Psychology

Ashley Christenbury: Major: Biology; Minor: Chemistry

Jacob Coopersmith: Major: Sports Business

Samantha Ferguson: Major: Marine Biology

Sarah Hagen: Major: Social Work; Minor: Psychology

Kristen Hart: Major: Speech Communication;
Minor: Graphic Communication Technology

Kaylee Herndon: Major: Sports Journalism; Minor: Athletic Coaching

Christopher Higgins: Major: Geography; Minor: German

Destinee Holloman: Major: Physics; Minor: Mathematics

Rachel Laughlin: Majors: Biochemistry & Science Writing

Stephanie Leedom: Molecular Biology

Susan Lloyd: Majors: Mathematics Statistics & Actuarial Science

Taylor Michael: Major: Psychology

Meagan Schulman: Major: Atlantic World Studies

Noelle Shellenberger: Major: Mathematics BSE

Molly Sterner: Major: Biology

Noah Stitely: Major: Meteorology; Minors: Physics & Mathematics

Isaac Stottlemeyer: Major: Speech Communication;
Minor: Athletic Coaching

Jordan Traut: Majors: English & Anthropology; Minor: Culture Studies

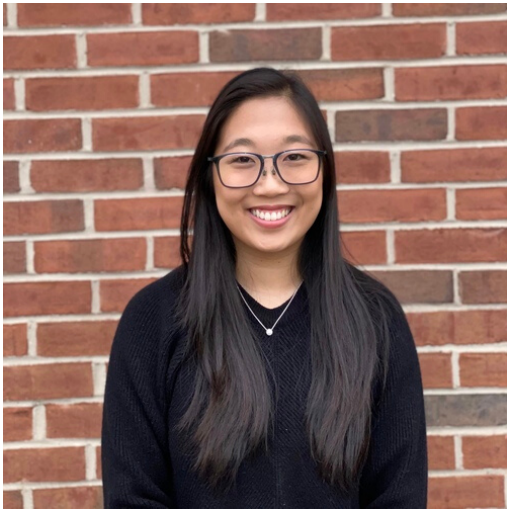
Cross Truesdell: Major: Biology

Julia Walters: Major: Digital Journalism

Adam Weiner: Major: Meteorology; Minors: Mathematics & Environmental Hazards & Emergency Management

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Taylor Chambers



My name is Taylor Chambers. I will graduate with a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Psychology. I am in University honors and psychology departmental honors. My thesis concentrates on perceptual psychology (vision): "Validating Techniques to Assess the Resting Focus of the Eyes and Correlate it with Subjective Estimates of Depth and Size". I am in Psi Chi (The International Honors Society in Psychology) I really enjoyed being a part of ACMO for the first year and a half of my college career. I will be taking a gap year between bachelor's and graduate school, I plan to continue on with perceptual psychology. I spent the summer doing research, funded by the MUSE grant, and I was accepted to present at the Eastern Psychological Association Meeting, the Undergraduate Research at the Capitol-Pennsylvania Conference, and the Made in Millersville Conference (did not present due to COVID-19).

Chris Higgins



Since my freshmen year, I have been a member of Phi Sigma Pi, a national honor fraternity that promotes scholarship, leadership, and fellowship on campus and within the community. During my time with the fraternity, I have been the chairperson for the Scholarship, Leadership, and Alumni committees. In the fall of my junior year, I interned at the Legislative Policy and Research Office in Harrisburg. As an intern, I provided state legislators with research on a wide variety of issues (redistricting, vaping, medical marijuana, etc.) so that they could draft legislation on those topics. Now that my senior year is wrapping up, I will defend my Honors thesis, which focuses on land use activity at the Philadelphia International Airport.

The Honors College has helped me tremendously in a number of ways. Since my freshman year, a number of my closest friends have been those who I met in the Honors College. One of the aspects of the Honors College that I enjoy most is the idea that we are a community, and that we are here to support and encourage each other. Many of my peers have always been very kind, and that has helped to make my time at Millersville very enjoyable. Additionally, the Honors College has helped me grow tremendously as a student. Many times I was encouraged in my Honors classes to go beyond my comfort zone, and I thank my professors for strengthening my confidence in the classroom.

As of right now, I am still exploring my options for the future. The idea of working at an airport intrigues me, and I may consider that option as a possible career path moving forward. Going to graduate school in the future is also on my radar. For now, I plan on weighing my options first and choosing the next step that is right for me.

As a freshman, I would have liked to have known that taking risks can be a very good thing. Whether it's pursuing leadership positions, academic opportunities, or joining a new club, getting out of a comfort zone can help a person grow tremendously. For any student, I'd encourage them to take advantage of every opportunity that Millersville University offers that interests them.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Sarah Hagen



Sarah Hagen will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and a minor in Psychology. During her time at Millersville, she was involved with Housing and Residential Programs as an RA and interned with the Connections team at Juniper Village at Mount Joy. She will be graduating with University Honors, Departmental Honors, and Latin Honors, and completed her thesis doing a content analysis of truancy diversion programs in public schools. Her proudest accomplishment during her time at school was successfully fulfilling a program leader role for her township's summer day camp program, which served more than 100 campers in her hometown. Her favorite honors college experience was seeing *Waitress* on Broadway during last year's New York City trip, and her favorite memories from Millersville all involve spending time with the awesome friends she made here! She plans to get a job in the social work field after graduation, possibly in geriatric social work.

Hellen Brieva

Hellen will be graduating with a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration, majoring in Management and Marketing with a minor in Entrepreneurship. She will be graduating with University Honors and Departmental Honors. While at Millersville, Hellen was a part of Omicron Delta Kappa, Student Business Association, and the traineeship program with the ELCM. Her favorite experience at Millersville was being able to plan and decorate for the Honors College formal. Her plans for after graduation is work for an insurance company as an underwriter.



Kristen Hart



Kristen will be graduating with a Bachelor's of Science in Speech Communication with a minor in Graphic Communication Technology. She will be graduating with University Honors, Latin Honors as well as Departmental Honors! Throughout her time at MU, Kristen was an Orientation Leader, Orientation Planning Committee member, tour guide for the SHARP Team, intern for the Arts at Millersville and a board member for organizations such as HCSA, PRSSA, ODK, Marauder Graphics, Relay for Life and Student Alumni Association. Some of her favorite experiences at MU include winning the 60 second pitch competition, attending various conferences and representing the MU Honors College at the 2019 PASSHE Honors Study Abroad trip to Krakow, Poland. After graduation, Kristen will be taking part in the Disney College Program during the fall and then seeking a job related to communications and marketing/graphic design!

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Kaylee Herndon



Working hard enough to pay off each semester of MU as I went was my biggest accomplishment since I also took a full classload as well as coached, worked a second job on campus, and worked an unpaid internship. I helped connect the Millersville Honors College to the Elizabethtown Honors College. I worked for the Reading Royals and the MU Ice Hockey team. I became a fencing coach while at Millersville as well.

I am happy to call Dr. Thyrum one of my mentors and by far the person who has had the biggest impact on my time at Millersville. She helped me find opportunities on campus that not only helped my resume, but also helped me pay for college as I went. The honors college also gave me gen eds that challenged me more than a non-honors gen ed would. The honors in the major option also allowed me to finish my honors credit requirements within my major and led to very interesting research.

I plan to work in sports media, preferably hockey. That would mean writing releases, social media, etc. I also plan to coach fencing part time wherever I end up!

I actually transferred in right before my sophomore year. I have no idea what honors college freshmen had to do at Millersville so I cannot really answer this. If I had to choose something outside of the honors college: Dreams change and that is okay. Also, always work ahead in classes if given the chance.

During my time at Millersville, I have attained the knowledge necessary to be successful in my field. More specifically, I have gained valuable experience through my coursework, an internship, and an independent research project. I have also had a great track and field career.

The Honors College has helped me challenge myself academically and give back to the community through service. It has been an incredible edition to the typical college experience.

After graduation, I plan to continue my studies and receive a Master's Degree in Medical Physics. From that point I'd like to work in the field of radiation therapy.

As a freshman, I would have liked to have known how important being open to new experiences is. There are so many opportunities available to you as a MU student that you should take full advantage of.

Destinee Holloman



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Rachel Laughlin



I have accomplished many things throughout my time here at Millersville. I have been writing, editing, and designing for The Snapper as an Associate Arts & Culture Editor, I was the secretary for the Creative Writer's Guild and Community Service Chair for the HCSA, but I am the current President of the Martial Arts Club and the Vice President of the American Chemical Society Student Chapter here at Millersville. I have been published through The Snapper, and The Oculus. And I anticipate being published in the Made in Millersville Journal, and George Street Press. I am currently working on my undergraduate thesis, called "Derivatives of Altersolanol-P" (working title), which I plan to defend in April. Finally, as of May 9th, I will be graduating with a B.S. in Chemistry, concentration Biochemistry, and a B.A. in Multidisciplinary Studies, concentration Science Writing. After college, I plan to work for a couple years before returning to graduate school, and pursue my dream career of becoming a science editor.

Meagan Schulman

During my time in the Honors College, I have served for two years on the HCSA board. First as Fundraising chair then currently as President. The summer before my senior year I received the MUSE grant to aid in researching my thesis. I used this grant to intern and do research at the National Museum of Bermuda. The honors college has helped me in numerous ways. It has given me a tremendous network of people that are always willing to help and have helped me make lifelong friendships. After Undergrad I will be returning to Millersville for my Master's in History, following that I would like to receive my Ph.D. As a Freshman, I wish I knew that it was okay to take a step back and be by myself for a little. Often college is just a constant influx of people, information, and work and it is okay to take time for yourself to destress every once in a while.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Noelle Shellenberger



Noelle Shellenberger will be graduating with a Bachelor's of Science in Education in Mathematics. She defended her thesis, entitled Classical and Transformational Approaches to Triangle Center Theorems and Its Implications to Geometry Education, last May and presented it at Made in Millersville. Throughout her time at Millersville, she was involved with a variety of clubs including Honors College Student Association, Mathematics Educators at Millersville University, Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honors Society, Delta Phi Kappa Education Honors society, University Christian Fellowship, and United Campus Ministries, which she was vice president of her senior year. Through these organizations, she had opportunities such as mentoring incoming freshmen, teaching a professional development seminar, leading a bible study, and attending various retreats and conferences, including one that helped organize on human trafficking. She also had the opportunity to work several jobs on campus including Peer Mentor for the University Honors College, a tutor in the mathematics assistance center in Wickersham, and as a Peer Mentor for the Pre-Scholar Summer Institute.

She has so many memories that she deeply cherishes, from shenanigans in Reighard and South to French Toast Friday to Swing Dancing to seeing shows in New York to exploring Lancaster to chuckling about some of the absurd things we have done (like the one time we went sledding with an inflatable swan).

Noelle will be getting married this summer and she will be hopefully getting a teaching job in the Lancaster Area.

During my time at Millersville, I've worked on several research projects, including my undergraduate thesis investigating neural crest cell reprogramming in the plastron of a turtle shell, but also in classes such as Genetics and Ecology which gave me experience in various disciplines. I've also had the opportunity to be a student worker at the Millersville PSECU Financial Education Center for over 2 years, provide academic support in the Biology Department as a mentor, and made solutions and set up labs as the lab technician for Cell and Development.

Most importantly, the Honors College gave me the means and support to go for my undergraduate thesis, which was a really important part of my college experience.

After college I plan to attend a summer program at the Stowers Institute in Kansas City, Missouri (waiting to hear back about interviews!) and either continue there for graduate school or apply somewhere a little closer to home.

Something I wish had been reiterated to me as a freshman is that it's never too soon to get involved with professors and start independent research. I began my thesis experience the summer after my sophomore year but I would have loved to have had more time in the lab to learn.

Molly Sterner



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Jordan Traut



During my time at Millersville, I was selected to be the first AHSS fellow and awarded the MUSE for my thesis research. Also, I had the opportunity to study abroad twice: I went abroad through the PASSHE honors summer scholarship program in Poland and was given the Dmitzak Honors Study Abroad scholarship to help me pay for my semester abroad in Japan.

The Honors College has given me support and a voice on-campus and in my personal life. Honors showed me how to advocate for myself and pushed me to apply for research grants and scholarships I might never have thought were within my reach. Dr. Thyrum, especially, provided me with a lot of guidance. I consider her a kind of life mentor. Also, the honors community is made up of many people I consider my good friends who will make time to talk with me when things get stressful both academically and personally. There's been a lot of laughs and a bit of tears with the Honors College, and I am going to miss that the most when I graduate.

There are a lot of different paths before me right now, and honestly, I am not sure which route I will take. In the next few years I do know that I hope to find a job that allows me to help people, maybe volunteer on a Native American reservation, and also, get my masters.

I wish I had known as a freshman that there are a lot of research funding opportunities available that few people apply for. I would have done a lot more cool things in my field for free!

Cross Truesdell

B.S. Biology

Latin honors, university honors, and departmental honors

Favorite honors college experience is the 2018 PASSHE honors study abroad trip to Vienna, Austria and Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Accomplishments: Resident assistant, mentor for the biology mentorship program (BMP), and was VP for the men's rugby club

Future plans: I am taking the MCAT this summer and plan on attending medical school in the fall of 2021.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Julia Walters



My time at Millersville University and the experiences I've had are unparalleled. I really expanded my horizons in college with being involved with the Honors College, working at the University Store, and becoming the Managing Editor of the school newspaper, The Snapper. I would not be the person I am today without Millersville or the Honors College. I've met so many amazing people who inspire me on a daily basis. I am so appreciative of the progress I've made and the people who helped me along the way.

Additionally, the memories I've made here are ones that I know I'll remember forever and hold so close to my heart. I will miss this school so much upon graduation!

For my next steps, I plan to apply to as many writing positions as I can within the Communications/Journalism field and hopefully get a job within my field! Graduate school and continuing my education is also an option for me. Lastly, I really would love to take some time to travel as well. I'm excited to see where the world takes me!

Adam Weiner will graduate with honors with a Bachelor of Science in Meteorology and minors in Mathematics and Environmental Hazards & Emergency Management. He is planning to attend graduate school for atmospheric science in Fall 2020 with a research focus on severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. As a student at Millersville, Adam served as the Historian, Treasurer, and President of the American Meteorological Society Student Chapter; as well as in the roles of Treasurer and Undergraduate Vice President of the International Association of Emergency Managers Student Chapter; worked as a stage manager and staff technician at the Winter Visual and Performing Arts Center; worked as a Campus Weather Service lead forecaster; served as an Event Staff member on the SHARP Team; and volunteered for various activities throughout each year.

Adam Weiner



His favorite experience on campus was participating in the two-week collaborative Student Experience in Airborne Research - Mid-Atlantic Region (SEAR-MAR) research project as a sophomore. His favorite experience off-campus was an internship at the National Weather Service Office in Raleigh, NC as part of the NOAA Hollings Scholarship Program.