

# THE HONORS REPORT

OCTOBER 2020



**Look at you, Honors students, surviving the fall Semester!**

**The October edition includes:**

| SECTION  | PAGE(S) |
|--|---------|
| Announcement to All Honors Students.....           | 2       |
| Community Service: Benefits and Opportunities..... | 2       |
| Marauders Care at The Day of Caring.....           | 3-4     |
| Nazarchuk: Student Volunteer Spotlight.....        | 4-5     |
| Get Ready for Thesis Day.....                      | 5       |
| Pretzels on the Porch a Success.....               | 6       |
| Interview with New Honors Faculty Member.....      | 7       |
| Honors Students' Favorite Mask Photos.....         | 8       |
| Congratulations to Adam Loving.....                | 9       |
| Zoom Office Hours Calendar.....                    | 9       |
| Thesis Tip and Motivation of the Month.....        | 9       |

**Just a reminder to download the phone app, Remind, and sign up to receive easy notifications and alerts from the Honors College!**



**Step 1:** Sign up with an email (If you want, you can also link your phone)

**Step 2:** Create a password

**Step 3:** Search and choose "Millersville University of Pennsylvania" as your school

**Step 4:** Add a "class" with Honors College code @423979, or search Beth Roberts or Elizabeth Thyrum under teachers

**Step 5:** Turn on notifications, and then you are all set!

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**Millersville University**  
HONORS COLLEGE

## **ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL HONORS STUDENTS:**

**\*\*\*\*Priority registration** will take place on **November 4th - 6am**.

Be sure to contact your academic advisor to schedule an advising appointment for the 2nd - 4th week of Oct. and to receive your TAP#. Dr. Thyrum is available for advising in relation to honors courses.

The biannual **Honors College registration Ice Cream Social**, now virtual--where you can discuss your curriculum with Dr. Thyrum & our Peer Mentors and receive your TAP# --will be **Oct 28th - 7pm**.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE: BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

By Natalie Flory

Volunteering can be a simple task that resonates with a larger impact, and as Honors College students, we must take the initiative to support the community through volunteerism.

Millersville University strives to follow a core set of EPPIIC values. These values tie into serving the community through volunteer work, and focuses on Millersville's commitment to the surrounding communities as well as our campus. Volunteering provides a direct link to community, which consequentially enriches the college experience.

Many volunteering opportunities exist for those who are willing to seek out the benefits of giving back to something greater than ourselves. On the Millersville website, one can discover information about specific events and opportunities. Many MU organizations, such as the Honors College Student Association, along with Experiential Learning and Career Management (ELCM), offer volunteer experiences for students. Some volunteer work requires clearances, while some may not, but either way the university will help guide students through receiving necessary clearances with ease.

In addition, the Honors College frequently offers volunteering opportunities. The Honors College keeps its students updated on upcoming events on campus and in the surrounding community that require volunteers. Chances to volunteer come up often; keep checking your emails! For example, ELCM sponsors the Day of Caring each September. This year, the Honors College had 59 students participate in this Saturday morning event that took our students out into Millersville and surrounding communities.

Josh Marzak, Honors College student, comments, "As Honors students, it is our goal, to look at the state of our communities through a new lens, and volunteering allows us to change them for the better." Marzak is a Music Industry Major with a Concentration in Production, Class of 2021.

Overall, community service offers benefits to the students, along with their community. Giving back can be a way to explore future career fields, make new contacts and connections, and also provide support to something larger than oneself. The benefits of volunteering should not be understated, especially in relation to the college experience.



# MARAUDERS CARE AT THE DAY OF CARING

By Elias Peluso

On September 12th, Millersville students dedicated the day to extending their helping hands across the local community at the Day of Caring. For the past 19 years, United Way of Lancaster has organized this annual and charitable event to engage locals, including Millersville University Honors College students, in community service.

Despite the 2020 pandemic, Millersville volunteers were still able to assist the local community as changes were made to ensure safety. In light of social distancing guidelines, transport buses were at very low capacity, masks were required, and students were only given outdoor tasks.

Split into groups, volunteers were sent to numerous local establishments: including Lake Grubb Park, Manor Township Park, Glatfelter Memorial Field, Trinity Church, Daniel's Den Playground, and Columbia Park. At the parks, students cleaned up trash around the walking trails and picnic areas. At the other locations, they worked on landscaping— weeding, raking leaves, and even leveling asphalt.

These tasks might not seem illustrious, but the volunteers would disagree. Many students expressed their enjoyment and even gratitude for the opportunity. Some participants are quoted below:

**“Two students and I collected trash from the Lake Grubb Nature Park in West Hempfield Township, PA. We came across plentiful flowers, sparkling rocks, fascinating animal life, and a surprising number of bamboo stalks—just to name a few sights...Overall, I'm so grateful to have participated in this year's Day of Caring, despite this year's limitations, and am hopeful to be a part of the next Day of Caring.”**

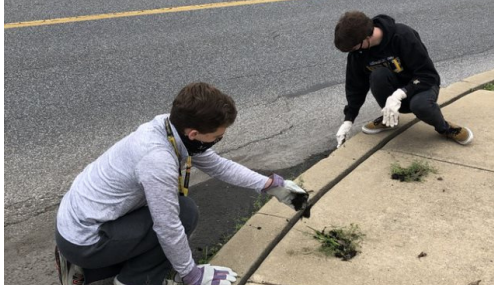
-Matthew Teare, Freshmen, Class of 2024, Major in Meteorology



**“Our task was to collect litter that we found in the park along the trails and by the edge of the river... It was worth it to pick up the more unique items of trash, such as an arrow and two broken plates with messages scrawled on top of them. I absolutely loved it!”**

-Joseph Gaglio, Sophomore, Class of 2023, Majoring in Biology with a Concentration in Animal Behavior

# MARAUDERS CARE AT THE DAY OF CARING CONT.



**“My group was taken to a playground outside a church where we pulled weeds... I am glad I was able to participate in helping the community in some way. Small actions can make a huge difference.”** -Sam Johnson, Freshmen, Class of 2024, Majoring in Mathematics Secondary Education

**“This year, even given the current situation, we were able to complete outdoor service activities that impacted the Millersville area in meaningful ways.”**

-Natalie Flory, Sophomore, Class of 2023, Major in English Education



**“My team and I were tasked to clean up any litter we found around the local trail, side walk and creek... Simultaneously we would learn the history of the path and the preservation of it. It was a learning experience and a massive effort to help preserve the environment.”** -Mitchell Harrison, Freshmen, Class of 2024, Majoring in Computer Science

It's no secret that travel and work situations are difficult for everyone this year, so many have not even considered the possibility of community service. However, the Day of Caring has made it clear that people still have the ability to devote one day to helping others, and that this one day can have a lasting positive impact on everyone involved.

## NAZARCHUK: STUDENT VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Leah Freeman

Kyle Nazarchuk, a meteorology major and Honors College Student, volunteered at Penn Manor High School in the fall and spring semester of the 2019-2020 school year. Overall, he contributed over 124 hours of his time to the school and took on a variety of roles: being a teacher's assistant for classes relating to television production and broadcasting, assisting students with assignments and projects, and contributing as either an assistant or producer for the daily production of video announcements. Nazarchuk further volunteered and supported the Penn Manor Community, dedicating free time that he did not officially report, by helping the school with photographing athletic events and creating videos with the photographs to be shown on their announcements.

## NAZARCHUK: STUDENT VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT CONT.



Nazarchuk was inclined to volunteer at the high school because he wanted to continue contributing to the community in college, as he did in high school. He reached out to the principal of Penn Manor, and from there was introduced into the high school's community.

The experience overall was de-stressing to Nazarchuk, and he was excited to wake up every day to contribute to the lives of the school's talented students and to its amazing community. He greatly appreciates how volunteering at Penn Manor gave him the ability to inspire upcoming college students. Nazarchuk hopes he not only ignited the students' passion for education, but also their passion for volunteering in using himself to set an example.

Nazarchuk insists everyone would feel joy and fulfillment in volunteering in work that interests them, and supports this in how he felt he's benefited personally from fulfilling his desire to give back to the community and assist students.

The Honors College congratulates Kyle on this outstanding achievement and on his "above and beyond" contribution in the area of service!

**"Penn Manor was crucial in getting my days started off right and left me ready to take on the college work I had coming at me that day."**

– Kyle Nazarchuk, class of 2023

## GET READY FOR THESIS DAY

By Michael Skros

The Honors College will be hosting its annual Thesis Day on Wednesday **October 7**—a day dedicated to helping Honors students become more comfortably prepared for their thesis process.

A Thesis Workshop for 2nd year students (but anyone is welcome to attend) will be held at 4:00pm. All Honors students are required to attend a Thesis Workshop during their Sophomore year before starting their Thesis or Creative Project. Dr. Thyrum will explain the process, go over important information, and provide resources during this session. 3rd and 4th year students who are working on their Thesis/Creative Project should attend the Q&A Session at noon on the same day. During this session, students will be able to ask questions and collaborate with others who are also working on their project. Both sessions will be held on **Zoom. Meeting ID: 294 629 5508**

Completing a Thesis or Creative Project is a unique opportunity to study something that interests you and also to work closely with a faculty member. It is a great resume builder, helps prepare students for graduate school, and often leads to opportunities for conference presentations and awards.

# PRETZELS ON THE PORCH A SUCCESS



**“Thank  
you...**

**...to everyone  
who  
participated.”  
-Beth Roberts**

By Elizabeth Duchesneau

Dive into the semester with Pretzels on the Porch, a new activity the Honors College plans to continue during the fall season. Pretzels will be served at each event, whether they're soft, crunchy, or shaped.

The first event occurred on September 1st. Fifteen Honors students gathered outside of Franklin House—social-distancing, of course!—and were joined by special guest President Wubah. Not only is Pretzels on the Porch an opportunity to get involved in campus life during the pandemic, but it's also community building. Other special guests who attended our first 4 Pretzel events included Provost Prabhu, Dr. Susan Luek, Dr. Finley-Bowman, and Dr. Kaitlin Mondello. Approximately 40 honors students attended in total, along with Dr. Elizabeth Thyrum, Director of the Honors College.

“It was a great chance for freshmen to interact with each other and with upper classmen—while enjoying a soft pretzel,” Beth Roberts, Honors College Administrative Assistant, says of the event. “Thank you to everyone who participated.”

While this activity is currently postponed for a few weeks, look forward to its return in mid-late October. Get involved this semester, make some new friends, and get out of your typical quarantine routine. Be sure to look out for future sign-ups for this event, and join us for Pretzels on the Porch!

# INTERVIEW WITH NEW HONORS FACULTY MEMBER



**MU has a new faculty member in English this fall semester who will be teaching two sections of ENGL 110H Honors Composition as well as ENGL 241H Honors Exploration of World Literature. Dr. Kaitlin Mondello, we are happy you are here and teaching our students, and send our best wishes for a great first semester at MU!**

**What is your position(s) at Millersville University?** "Assistant Professor of Ecostudies, Dept. of English"

**Where did you complete your degrees and education?** "I received my undergraduate (BA) and Master's degrees in English from Stetson University (a small liberal arts college in Florida) and I completed my doctorate in English at the City University of New York (The Graduate Center) in New York City. I just finished a postdoctoral position there in the Teaching and Learning Center where I focused on pedagogy."

**When did you realize you wanted to work in the English department?** "I was inspired by faculty in my undergraduate major to become a professor of English. My undergraduate college has some similarities to Millersville, so I am excited for the chance to explore the power of literature and its meaning and value in our lives and the world at MU."

**How do you feel about this new experience in the Honors College?** "I am really looking forward to being a part of the Honors College."

**Is there anything else you would like to share about yourself?** "My area of specialty is Ecostudies, which is an interdisciplinary field that explores definitions of nature and issues of environmental justice. I also have specialties in Animal Studies and Science Studies where I examine those topics as they are represented in literature. My favorite novel is Frankenstein by Mary Shelley. I also recommend her lesser-known novel, The Last Man, which happens to be about a global pandemic."



# HONORS STUDENTS' FAVORITE MASK PHOTOS



**“Hi Honors College! I am the Honors Report editor, Leah Freeman, and this is my favorite mask! It is so simple, it effortlessly goes with all my outfits. I am a junior, class of 2022, English major with a concentration in Writing Studies.”**



**Hunter Davis, Junior, Class of 2022, majoring in Language and Culture Studies with a concentration in French and Spanish, with Elena Antonucci, Junior, Class of 2022, majoring in Psychology**



**“Here's my roommate and I wearing our favorite masks! My name is Elizabeth Duchesneau, I'm a sophomore, anticipated graduation 2022, English Ed major, and my roommate's name is Alyssa Munro. She's also a sophomore with an anticipated graduation 2023, and a Meteorology major.” -Elizabeth**



**Elias Peluso, Sophomore, Class of 2023 (Spring), Bachelor of Science in Robotics and Control Systems Technology**



# CONGRATULATIONS TO ADAM LOVING

## **Congratulations to Adam Loving for receiving the Joseph and Marianna Nolt Family Scholarship Endowment in early May!**

Adam Loving, Art Major, '21, Honors, received the award, which counts as tuition for thesis credits and as a grant for thesis research expenses, which is given to a rising junior with a minimum 3.0 GPA and majoring in early or middle level education.



**"I'd like to thank Dr. Leslie Gates, Dr. Christine Filippone, and Jeri Robinson-Lawrence for being willing to take this little idea of mine and helping me develop it to the enormous project that it has become. I'd also like to thank Dr. Rene Munoz, who is in charge of the scholarship. My coaching words of success are: If you have the idea and you think it can work as a thesis project, go ahead and do it. I think you'll be way more happier and way more motivated if you're doing something that you find interesting and you're excited to see the end product."** -Adam Loving

## ZOOM OFFICE HOURS CALENDAR

### **Monday:**

Beth: 9-11am  
Alanna: 10-11am  
Dr. Thyrum: 1-2pm  
Michael: 3-4pm

### **Tuesday:**

Beth: 9-11am  
Michael: 11-12am  
Dr. Thyrum: 1-2pm

### **Wednesday:**

Beth: 9-11am  
Dr. Thyrum: 1-2pm  
Alanna: 4-5pm

### **ZOOM MEETING ROOMS:**

Dr. Thyrum's Personal Room:  
<https://millersville.zoom.us/j/2946295508>

Beth's Personal Room:  
<https://millersville.zoom.us/j/5912081934>

Alanna's Personal Room:  
<https://millersville.zoom.us/j/7708911082>

Michael's Personal Room:  
<https://millersville.zoom.us/j/4720493672>

### **Thursday:**

Beth: 9-11am  
Dr. Thyrum: 1-2pm  
Michael: 4-5pm

### **Friday:**

Beth: 9-11am  
Alanna: 11-12am  
Dr. Thyrum: 1-2pm

## THESIS TIP AND MOTIVATION OF THE MONTH!

### **Adam Loving, Thesis in Progress:**

"I think my biggest tip for anyone starting their thesis is to make sure the finished project is something that can be obtainable during your two semesters of independent study. And I think it's important to pick a project that is interesting or important to you. I think especially having the motivation to do anything right now is crucial in making every day feel like some kind of normal to us."

