

VOL. XXXV

NO. 1

THE HONORS REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2020



Welcome back, Honors students!
The September edition includes:

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Franklin House hours this semester:

Monday, Wednesday-Friday: 8:00am-12:00pm

Tuesday: 8:30am-5:00pm

Additionally, every Tuesday, starting September 1, Franklin House will sponsor Pretzels on the Porch twice a day. The first session will be 12:00-1:00pm and the second will be 4:00-5:00pm. This will be an opportunity for students to meet on the porch of Franklin House to socialize and get to know each other. From time to time, we will have a special guest to greet the students.

Consulting Editors
 Dr. Elizabeth Thyrum
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Student Writers
 Natalie Flory
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Millersville University
 HONORS COLLEGE

GREETINGS FROM DR. THYRUM AND BETH ROBERTS



Greetings to all.....Welcome to our incoming freshmen, and welcome back to our returning students! We hope you had a wonderful summer and are excited for the new school year. For those of you who haven't met us yet, Dr. Thyrum is the Director of the Honors College and also a professor in the Psychology Department, and Beth Roberts is the Administrative Assistant for the Honors College.

Dr. Thyrum is a MU alum who graduated from MU's Honors Program in 1986. She has been a faculty member in Psychology since 1994 and has been Director of the Honors College since 2017. Before joining the Honors College, which she had been with for a year, now, Beth Roberts was a secretary for the Biology Department since 2012. Needless to say, we both know the inner-workings of MU and feel well positioned to assist you as you progress through your time at MU. Please call on us anytime if you have concerns about your schedule, your academic progress, or even your personal life.

Although this fall won't look like our typical fall semester at MU, we encourage you to become as involved as possible in our campus. Consider attending Honors College Student Association (HCSA) meetings beginning in September. Drop in to one of our upcoming Pretzels on the Porch at Franklin House. Take advantage of all that the Honors College has to offer as a way of making the most of your experience here at MU!

Our office hours are included in this newsletter. Please stop by Franklin House sometime to say "hi" and chat or to introduce yourself. Also, this semester, please make use of our Zoom links—we are both available to meet remotely. We look forward to a great semester with you!

Best,
Dr. Thyrum and Beth Roberts

P.S. **Freshman and Sophomores**, keep a look out for an email about signing up for one of the required Freshmen and 2nd year student meetings!

HONORS COLLEGE FALL 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

Mon, 17 - 20 - Freshmen Move In
 Mon., 24 - Fall 2020 Classes begin

Zoom Personal Meeting Rooms:

Dr. Thyrum: <https://millersville.zoom.us/j/2946295508>

Beth Roberts: <https://millersville.zoom.us/j/5912081934>

September

Tues, 1 @ 12:00pm and 4:00pm Pretzels on the Porch (every Tuesday through October)
 Sat., 12 - Day of Caring
 Sun, 13 @ 7:00pm – HCSA Meeting via Zoom

October

Thur, 8 - Thesis Day - All meetings will be held via Zoom.
 (Dr. Thyrum's Zoom Meeting Room: <https://millersville.zoom.us/j/2946295508>)
 @ 12:15 Thesis Q & A (for students currently working on thesis/creative project)
 @ 4:00 Thesis Workshop (required for second year students)
 Sun, 11 @ 7:00pm – HCSA Meeting via Zoom



November

Sun, 15 @ 7:00pm – HCSA Meeting via Zoom

MANDATORY FRESHMEN MEETINGS

All Freshmen (1st year) are required to attend one of the following meetings in order to receive priority registration TAP number for Spring '21 course registration.

All meetings will be held at 7:00pm via Zoom.

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

Thursday, September 24 @ 7:00pm * Monday, September 28 @ 7:00pm
 Tuesday, September 29 @ 7:00pm

MANDATORY 2nd YEAR STUDENT MEETINGS

All 2nd Year students are required to attend one of the following meetings in order to receive priority registration TAP number for Spring '21 course registration.

All meetings will be held via Zoom.

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

Monday, October 5 @ 7:00pm * Tuesday, October 6 @ 4:00pm
 Thursday, October 8 @ 7:00pm



THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON CAMPUS

By Leah Freeman

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives drastically over the past few months leaving in its wake many changes to the Fall semester. This semester, the school will be utilizing a hybrid modality of education which includes the use of in-person and online teaching platforms in order to provide students with a high-quality education as safely as possible. Technology in classrooms has been upgraded over the summer to accommodate the flexibility this fall requires.

Despite still including the face-to-face classroom experience, an immensely greater number of online courses will be offered this semester than usual. Any classes being taught in-person, which is less than 20% of all MU classes, along with all online classes, will continue straight through the semester, including during Labor Day and Fall breaks, until Thanksgiving break. After the break, all classes will resume online so that the semester can be finished safely.

All meetings that are outside of class, including professor office hours, will be conducted through Zoom or Team meetings. Co-curricular activities sponsored by the university will be following social distancing rules or held remotely. Non-instructional facilities will also follow social distancing guidelines, and facilities on campus will be allowing lower capacities to comply with health guidelines. Further, dining halls will continue to be open this semester, but there will be social distancing modifications and more options for "grab and go" meals.

Further, masks will be provided and the wearing of them, along with practicing good hand washing, social distancing, and disinfecting procedures, will be expected of all students and greatly encouraged. Classrooms and general meeting rooms will be re-arranged to follow the minimum of six feet of distance between people, and entrances and exits will begin to indicate one-way directional flow. Many employees will continue to work remotely.

Additionally, there will be some changes at the Franklin House. Students must enter from the front door, and exit from the side door by the handicap ramp. It will also be requested that students call or text Beth Roberts prior to coming up the steps to the 2nd floor offices.

This semester was planned out prioritizing both the safety of students and faculty and the effectiveness of the campus's learning environment. This upcoming Fall 2020 semester will be another successful year for the students, community, and faculty of MU. Together we will navigate new situations as they arrive and make this the best semester it can be.

Any students who have questions or concerns should reach out to Dr. Thyrum, or Beth Roberts.



MEET THE NEW HCSA BOARD

By Leah Freeman

The HCSA (Honors College Student Association) promotes interaction among students and the intellectual development of its members, while serving Millersville University and the surrounding community. All Honors College members are automatically given membership into the HCSA. Membership in the HCSA complements the academic life of Honors College students with opportunities for various social events and volunteering. Trips and activities are regularly sponsored by the HCSA, and a different charitable organization that the membership votes on is supported through fundraisers.

Community service is a very important part of the Honors College and the HCSA. All Honors students are required to volunteer three times per semester; six times a year. A variety of projects and activities are offered to students of the HCSA to aid with reaching the minimum amount of volunteer hours, along with a number of leadership opportunities.

The current HCSA board members, as of a Zoom election from April 21, 2020:

President: Phobe Tanis



"I am very excited to be the new President of the Honors College Student Association! The HCSA offers opportunities for Honors College students to work within the local community, build relationships with their fellow students, and participate in expense-paid activities on the weekends. As the President, it is my responsibility to plan our meetings and oversee the other board members as they plan events/take care of the students in the club. Every single role on the HCSA board is extremely important, and I am honored to have such a hardworking group of people supporting me. This semester is going to be full of activities that bring everyone closer, as well as promote scholarly opportunities and learning! I hope to fulfill my role as the President and have everyone feel as if they are included and valued through the HCSA."

Vice President: Jessica Whittemore



"The Honors College has greatly influenced my experiences at Millersville and has opened the door to several opportunities as an undergraduate. The program constantly improves to better suit the needs of its students. This year, I will be the Vice President of the Honors College Student Association (HCSA). My responsibilities are to assist the President and organize the spring formal. I look forward to working with the other board members and welcoming new students for a great year in HCSA!"

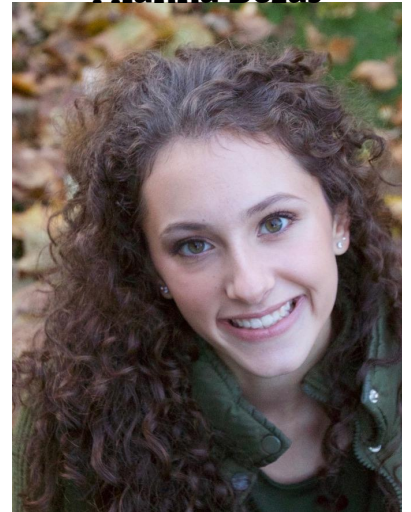
MEET THE NEW HCSA BOARD CONT.

Treasurer: Karla Arestegui



"I'm really excited to be the Treasurer for the HCSA this year! Growing up, my mother was an accountant with a small business so I would always watch her work, and when I got older, I worked with her in her office doing clerical work. My goal for this academic year is to become more involved and build more relationships within the Honors College! Through the Honors College, I've met some really cool people who I wouldn't have ever met otherwise."

Community Building: Alanna Bezas



"The Honors College has enhanced my experience here from the start! There are so many opportunities to grow and become involved, and I am super thankful that, just after one year, I am able to feel included and fulfill leadership positions.

A large part of the Honors College is having that sense of community, and as HCSA's community building chair, I look forward to getting us up out of our seats at the start of each meeting. I'm super excited to join the HCSA board this fall and work with the other members; I think we will make a great team!"

Public Relations: Michael Skros



"I am looking forward to serving as the Public Relations Officer for the HCSA this upcoming year. In this position, I am in charge of posting content on the Honors College social media pages as well as advertising HCSA meetings and events. This club is a great way for Honors College students to serve the community and meet new people, so I enjoy leading the club's outreach to new students!"

MEET THE NEW HCSA BOARD CONT.

Community Service: Cedrick Kazadi



"To me, the Honors College has been a constant motivation to not only do great but also go the extra mile. The program wouldn't be the same without the hard work that our awesome staff, Dr. Thyrum and Beth, put in to ensure we the students are successful, so shout out to both of them. I also enjoy the community that the Honors College provides and the unique experience to work on my thesis. As the new community service coordinator, I'm looking forward to working with the new board and make the best out of our current situation."

Fundraising: Laurel Blanchard

"I have been a part of the HCSA board since my second semester here at Millersville, and I am proud to still be involved with this organization. As for this year, I am looking forward to working with the new board and I can't wait to get started with my position as the Fundraising Chair. Especially with last academic year ending so abruptly and a new normal setting in, I am definitely going to have to get creative with how we approach fundraising for our charity of choice, but I am excited to take on this challenge."



Special Events: Elyse Clay



"As the Special Events Coordinator, I am so excited to plan fun "field trips" for our members and the opportunity to explore some of the attractions in the Lancaster area. I am so excited to work with my fellow HCSA board members to make the most of this uncertain time in our return to campus. The Honors College is a special group of students who are extremely passionate and driven, and I have no doubt that we will find ways to adapt to the changes on campus."

MEET THE NEW HCSA BOARD CONT.

**Secretary:
Alyssa Coutts!**



"My name is Alyssa Coutts and I will be serving as the secretary for the HCSA this year. This will be my second year as HCSA and, while things may have moved online, I am still excited to see what this next semester holds! The Honors College has given me so many opportunities to truly interact and give back with the community and, as a member of HCSA, I feel as if I am able to take it a step further. I look forward to seeing everyone at our zoom meetings!"

THE MENTORING COMMUNITIES AND PEER MENTORS

By Leah Freeman

A new and improved Honors College Mentoring Program has been designed after a grant from the MU Mentorship Office was secured to refine it. From this, the Millersville University Honors College Mentoring Communities Program (MUHC Mentoring Communities) was established, with Michael Skros and Alanna Bezas helping to run the program as Peer Mentors. While Michael is continuing as a Peer Mentor, Alanna is new to the role.

While the program begins with incoming freshmen being paired with upperclassmen based on their academic majors, these pairings then make up a larger group—the Mentoring Communities.



A Message from the Peer Mentors:

"The Mentoring Communities are grouped by academic discipline and will meet twice each semester to share advice and have meaningful discussions with each other. These Communities will also have the opportunity to participate in team-building activities and community service together. Mentors will benefit by developing leadership skills and building relationships with other members of the Honors College. Mentees will have the ability to ask their mentors questions and learn from their mentor's experiences at MU. Mentees will also have the opportunity to meet other freshmen and upperclassmen within their academic discipline. We hope this is a meaningful and advantageous experience for all who are involved!"

–Michael Skros

THE MENTORING COMMUNITIES AND PEER MENTORS CONT.

"Hello, my name is Alanna Bezas and I am a sophomore, majoring in Environmental Hazards & Emergency Management. I decided to apply for the Peer Mentor position last semester to become more involved in the Honors College and help the incoming freshmen adjust to Millersville. As one of the two Peer Mentors, I am able to first-handedly contribute to the Honors College's sense of community and take part in the decision-making and planning that happens behind the scenes. While the freshmen can always come to Michael and me with questions, concerns, or just to chat, having another mentor is something that is very beneficial. I believe the mentoring communities program that Michael revised this year (having mini communities instead of only one mentee per mentor) is going to be a great asset to the Honors College"

–Alanna Bezas

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

Thursday:

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

Friday:

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

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>

THESIS TIP AND MOTIVATION OF THE MONTH!



Brooke Shimer, Psychology major, '21, Honors College and Psychology Departmental Honors Program; Thesis in progress:

"I've been working on my thesis for a little over a year now and it has been one of the most rewarding and valuable experiences I've had at Millersville. I have never worked harder on anything in college, and I take pride in that. If I could give any tips or advice in relation to a thesis, I would say to take your time and embrace the slow developing nature of such a scholarly project. When beginning to brainstorm or speak with professors about ideas, be open to all kinds of new suggestions. You'd be surprised what you and your mentors can create with some insightful conversation."