

The Honors Report

January 2019

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

Dr. Thyrum's Spring 2019

Office Hours:

Monday: 11-11:45 am - Franklin House

Monday 1:10-2:40 pm - 120 Luek Hall

Tuesday: 10:00-10:45 am - 120 Luek Hall

And 12:15-1:00 pm – 120 Luek Hall

Wednesday: 10:00-11:30 am – Franklin House

Thursday: 10:00-10:45 am – 120 Luek Hall

Friday: 10:00 am-11:45 am – Franklin House

Other times available by appointment!

Call: 871-7552. Dr. Thyrum's office hours may be subject to change at times.

Director's Corner

Greetings! Welcome to the Spring '19 semester.

I hope everyone had a restful, enjoyable break and is ready for a new semester.

I'd like to call your attention to information in this newsletter regarding the thesis. 1) The Thesis Workshop and Thesis Q and A both will be held on our Thesis Day – February 12 (see our Calendar of Events at the end of this newsletter) and are important steps for successful completion of the thesis. 2) Be sure to read the helpful "Thesis Tips" shared by our current students. Thank you to everyone who contributed their wisdom!

As you start thinking about your thesis, or during any step of this process, please feel free to consult with me. I want to support your efforts and provide assistance along the way. Another helpful source of information is found on our webpage:

<https://www.millersville.edu/honorscollege/thesis/index.php>

Remember, you are not alone in completing the thesis. There are many supports available to assist you through this challenging, but very rewarding, endeavor.

Best, Dr. Thyrum



Thesis Workshop

The spring thesis workshop will also be held on Thursday, February 12 at 4:00 pm in Rm 108 Luek Hall with Dr. Thyrum, faculty from our Library, and students who have completed the thesis. All Honors students must attend a thesis workshop so you can learn how to approach the thesis, how to request a thesis adviser, how to set up the thesis and other important information. **This workshop is required for sophomores**, but all students are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be on hand for participants!!



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Thesis Q & A Session

Dr. Thyrum will be hosting a Thesis Q & A session (formerly known as the "Thesis Jam Session") on Tuesday, Feb 12 from 12:05-1:05 pm in Rm 118 Luek Hall. **This session is for students currently working on (or just beginning) their thesis** and is a time to come together to share common questions/answers with regard to working on the thesis. Please come to discuss your thesis experience and ask questions!

Fall Recognition Banquet

The Fall Recognition Banquet was held on Sunday, December 9 at 1:00 pm. For all our new students, the Recognition Banquet is a time when graduating seniors are recognized along with students who have achieved high academic standings. It was a very special event (with delicious food). The guest speaker was Dr. Kat Walsh, a faculty member from Social Work and the leader of MU's Faculty Senate. She gave a rousing and enthusiastic speech! Pictures of the banquet were posted on the Facebook page. Three seniors were recognized for graduating in December 2018: Erin Jones, Michael Lockwood, and Bryanne Minnella. Plan to attend our next Recognition Banquet on May 5, 2019 at 1 pm in Gordinier – Lehr Dining Room.



Follow us on



“Ville_Honors” (Twitter and Insta)
 “Fall 2018 MU Honors Students” (FB)
 “Millersville HonorsCollege” (FB)



Franklin House

Franklin House is available for all Honors students during the day as a place to unwind between classes. We offer a quiet environment with comfortable furniture for small group gatherings. If student employees are not utilizing the computer work stations, Honors students are free to use the computers. There is a small refrigerator on the first floor with beverages and snacks available for students while studying.



Honors College Communication

Please make it a habit to check your Millersville email every day. The Honors College, your professors, and other MU Offices will send you important messages. The Honors College relies heavily on email as a way to disseminate important information. In addition, if you use Facebook, please “friend” Millersville HonorsCollege and Honors College Student Association at Millersville and ask to join “Fall 2018 MU Honors Students”. We have an Instagram page and newly created Twitter you can follow as well - “Ville_Honors”. Remember, these are great ways to stay on top of the latest news and announcements!

“Thesis Tips” from our Students



Jordan Traut is currently working on her thesis and offers up this tip to other students: “Although my thesis project is far from finished, I am excited to finally have my committee solidified and an advisor ready and eager to begin working with me on field research. My topic investigates the development and appearance of the flood in the ancient world. I want to explore whether there was one flood origin myth created and then traded across the globe over the span of tens to hundreds of years, or if these stories were written around the same time. The latter would suggest that there actually was some kind of catastrophic weather phenomenon, or a 'great flood from the gods,' that was felt by peoples on both sides of the world. My advisor and I will spend part of the summer looking at primary and secondary source documents at various institutions on the East Coast, including the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard. My ultimate goal is to have a strong understanding of ancient cultures and their most important literary works. Also, I hope to use this thesis as preparation for graduate school. At first, the thought of doing research and writing a thesis was overwhelming. However, after finding the right team of professors to help me, the task was not nearly as daunting as it first appeared. The best advice I could give to a student that feels the same way I did initially is to give yourself a break. You aren't supposed to know everything about your topic or how to write a thesis. That's why you're a student! There are so many people at Millersville and in the Honors College that are happy to help you learn.”



Anne Mitzel shares: My thesis was titled: *Student Perceptions of Technology Use in the Junior High Classroom*. I came up with the idea because I was genuinely interested in what students think about the implementation of technology. Personally, I don't think anyone should do a thesis on something they aren't really interested in, because it is SO MUCH work and you'll burn out if it isn't something you love. Once I came up with the idea, I started researching through the MU library, met with the librarian for my thesis content area (which I also highly recommend). I also tried to be on alert for articles about my thesis topic that I may be introduced to in classes, at conferences, or through emails from organizations I am a part of. I chose to ask my academic advisor to be my thesis advisor because I had a great relationship with him and I knew he would help me succeed. I chose two wonderful professors to be on my committee that I also knew had my best interest in mind, that would support me through this process, and who I knew I would be comfortable with. I started researching for my thesis in March 2017 and was honestly still researching until I defended my thesis in May 2018. As far as writing my thesis goes, my advisor had me write it in sections. During the first semester of my thesis credits, he encouraged me to write my introduction, review of literature, and methodology. I analyzed my data over winter break and

wrote my data and conclusion sections over the second semester. I think I started writing my thesis in late November and finished the beginning of February (I did not work on writing at all over break though!!). It really does not take long to write, that's not the hard part. The challenging/frustrating part is the revision. I probably rewrote entire sections of my thesis 5-6 times. You think you're finished and then you're not. But you will get through it!! My biggest advice would be to work ahead because parts of your thesis are going to take longer than you anticipate. If something seems too easy and it takes less time than you thought it would, start working on your next task. Future you will thank you!

Joe Wright offers this tip: My thesis in *Solid State Metal Foams* is directly related to my capacity as a research assistant in the Nanoscale Materials Lab in Osburn Hall. The paper itself details the changes necessary to achieve conventional ball mill oxide-dispersed copper results when using a planetary mill. Through experimentation, the influence of multiple variations on the "recipe" was examined. Dr. Mark Atwater is my research adviser, as the work is funded through his NSF grant. I was able to complete the thesis after two years of working in this lab for Dr. Atwater. It is this experience that has cemented my choice of Materials Science as my desired field of graduate study.



This tip is offered by **Mary Gilbert**: Before I even began thinking about my thesis I was fortunate to earn a position in the McNairy Library Research Fellows program as an

Earth Science Research Fellow. As a Research Fellow, I learned how to find a research advisor, how to determine a research topic, and how to begin conducting research. Through this wonderful program, I was able to develop and begin work on a research project which ultimately morphed into my Honors thesis.

My first step in developing a research project was to reach out to a professor with research interests similar to mine. When I first met with my professor, I brought a list of general areas of my research interests. Discussing these general research areas with my professor helped me pinpoint the specific area of research that most interested me. I then conducted a preliminary literature review of current research in my specific area of interest. This step allowed me to narrow down my research topic even further until I had a clear research question. The simplest way to develop a thesis topic is to take a broad area of interest and narrow it down little by little until a more specific research question becomes clear.



From **Bryce Rinehart**: One of the most challenging parts of the thesis for me was deciding on a topic and picking an adviser. In my experience, it's best to start with a general topic idea first, and then choose your adviser based on that. For example, I knew I was interested in student motivation, so I went to Dr. Sandra Deemer, because I

knew that was an area of interest for her. Of course it's also helpful to choose an adviser you have a comfortable relationship with, and who you trust will guide you in the way that you need; if you're someone who needs strict deadlines and a clear framework, make sure to choose an adviser who can provide that for you. Additionally, if you plan to work with human subjects, remember to talk with your adviser about submitting an Institutional Review Board (IRB) Protocol as soon as possible, so that you can begin collecting data when you're ready, rather than waiting for the IRB. With regards to research, the MU Library resources, including databases like Academic Search Complete, are a great place to start, and if you find yourself struggling in this area you should definitely go meet with the relevant subject librarian or research assistant at the library. Overall, it's important to remember that the thesis is doable, and the most important thing you can do to manage your stress is to start early and work consistently. There might be times when you're not sure where to go next, or you just get scared of messing up so you stop working altogether, but the best thing you can do for yourself is to push forward and ask for help when you need it. Bryce Rinehart '19



And, from Honors alum **Felicia Guariello '14**: Writing a thesis as an

undergraduate was both challenging and rewarding. It was probably the most challenging paper I ever had to write up until that point. It took a lot of time and dedication, but through the process I learned a lot. Completing a thesis as an undergraduate helped me once it came time to write one for my master's degree. Since I had written one before, I knew what to look out for in terms of mistakes I had made the first time around. Also, being a science major, I wasn't the greatest writer around, and writing the thesis really helped me with that. It also allowed me to work a little closer with some of my professors, which helped them get to know me and my talents better, which in turn helped them write better letters of recommendation for both graduate school and job opportunities.



Dr. Wubah and Dr. Clark accompanied MU students to the American Meteorological Society Annual Conference in Phoenix this week. Several Honors students were on the trip to the conference!



New York City Bus Trip Update!

After several attempts and numerous negotiations, we are happy to announce that tickets were secured for the 2:00 pm matinee performance of “Waitress” on Saturday, March 30, 2019! Watch your emails for the first wave of invitations to go out in the near future to those students who have completed at least 3 community service events during the fall 2018 semester AND attended HCSA meetings/events. There will be a limit on the seating available on the coach for the trip as well as tickets for the musical Waitress!

Details of the trip include a coach picking up Honors students at 7:15 am on the morning of March 30th, breakfast on the coach for all students attending, arrival in New York City around 10:30 am with drop off points at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Natural History. From there, you will be on your own until you meet Dr. Thyrum in front of the Brooks Atkinson Theatre, located at 256 W. 47th Street. You will then receive your ticket for the musical.

Please note that, if you sign up for the trip, you are required to attend. Do not sign up and then decide at the last minute that something else came up and you no longer wish to go on the trip or attend the musical. The cost of the trip to you will be \$22.00 CASH payable to Barb in the Honors College office of Franklin House.

Honors College Community Service Requirements

Serve the public good – give back – civic engagement!

Along with Honors College benefits comes responsibilities. MU’s Honors College, like many Honors Colleges at similar institutions, requires students to complete community service - a total

of six (6) community service events/projects for the academic year. You can split the community service events across two semesters (3 each semester), or, if you are energetic and volunteer for events sponsored by the University, other campus organizations, the Honors College, or the HCSA (which all can count for your Honors College community service), you can do more than 3 per semester – but you must ultimately complete 6 events per year. Each event you complete must be a minimum of 1 hour in length to receive credit. Even if an event lasts a few hours, you receive 1 credit for that event. In order to receive credit, submit the Community Service confirmation form (available in Barb’s office, at Reighard Lobby check-in desk, and through email) after you complete the service event and obtain the supervisor’s signature on the form.



!Birthdays!

Birthday greetings to our students celebrating their arrival on this earth during mid-January and early February:

Jan. 14 Reese Graham
 Jan. 15 Mikayla Xander
 Jan. 15 Julia Kerrigan
 Jan. 19 Mary Gilbert
 Jan. 19 Kassie Castaldi
 Jan. 20 Jared Cohen
 Jan. 21 Mackenzie Nealen
 Jan. 22 Laurel Blanchard
 Jan. 25 Misty Matesig
 Jan. 27 Lauren Davis
 Jan. 29 Josh Marzak
 Jan. 31 Bailey Knipe

Feb. 1 Elyse Clay
 Feb. 1 Sydney Mullany
 Feb. 2 Emily Holmberg
 Feb. 3 Isaac Stottlemeyer
 Feb. 5 Jeffrey Calabro
 Feb. 9 Benjamin Perlis

Remember your friends on their special day!

Honors Students on Dean's List!

The Honors College is pleased to acknowledge the following students who were named to the Dean's List for Fall 2018:

Alyssa Ames, Laura Apple, Jadon Barnett, Taylor Bemisderfer, Kasidy Bidelspacher, Connor Billings, Emily Bishop, Matt Bisko, Laurel Blanchard, Ginger Bradbury, Sarah Brubaker, Jacqueline Buck, Kassandra Castaldi, Taylor Chambers, Emily Chatburn, Elyse Clay, Colin Coggins, Jared Cohen, Alyssa Coutts, Kelly Czmar, Emily Dalessandro, Hunter Davis, Lauren Davis, Lindsey Diamond, Emily Dickens, Jacob Dickens, Alexis Elliott, Rebecca Elms, Jocelyn Elzer, Meghan Epler, Elise Esperanza, Erin Fagan, Samantha Ferguson, Leah Freeman, Mary Gilbert, Cameron Gonteski, Kate Graham, Hannah Gricks, Christa Gumbravich, Sarah Hagen, Kristen Hart, Ryan Hartman, Kelsey Heckert, Christopher Higgins, Leah Hoffman, Emily Holmberg, Shawn Hower, Sarah Huyen, Daniel Irwin, Hannah Jackson, Kyle Johnson, Erin Jones, Timothy Keebler, Julia Kerrigan, Bailey Knipe, Maria LaSpina, Haley Lathrop, Rachel Laughlin, Stephanie Leedom, Justine Lemon, Susan Lloyd, Annelise Lorentzen, Ryan Mace, Marina MacGregor, Jonathan Mayes, Courtney McCullough, Jennie McIntyre, Taylor Michael, Hannah Miller, Anne Mitzel, Bridget Murray, MacKenzie Nealen, Laura Olchewsky, Victoria Pappas, Julia Park, Kaitlyn Pekarik, Tara Petrosky, Brianna Progar, Julia Puia, Allison Rake, Michael Raucci, Nikolas Reckner, Madison Rhode, Katherine Riley, Bryce Rinehart, Claire Robinson, Ellie Rohrbach, Maggie Ross, Kevin Santopadre, Maggie Schenfelt, Meagan Schulman,

Jordan Shaffer, Lillie Shaw, Noelle Shellenberger, Jeremiah Shillingburg, Brooke Shimer, Michael Skros, Trent Soto, Iyla Stebbins, Molly Sterner, Noah Stitely, Isaac Stottlemeyer, Emily Suhr, Anna Tepe, Natalie Timko, Jordan Traut, Marissa Tripus, Cross Truesdell, Owen Wallace, Julia Walters, Adam Weiner, Madison Whitcomb, Jessica Whitemore, and Jamie Wittick.

Congratulations to all of you on your academic achievement for Fall 2018!!

Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society



MU is in the process of revitalizing its chapter of Phi Kappa Phi (PKP), an Honor Society that was founded in 1897. PKP is the nation's oldest and most selective multidisciplinary collegiate honor society and can found on over 300 campuses.

Next month, we will be sending out invitations to join to MU juniors (top 7.5%) and seniors (top 10%). If you receive an email invitation, please give it serious consideration by responding, completing the membership form, and attending the initiation ceremony on April 7. The organization offers benefits, in addition to looking great on a resume. There are numerous resources, scholarships and fellowships for graduate study that are available to its members. Question? Contact Dr. Thyrum

**Spring 2019 Important Dates -
Honors College Events and Meetings**

JANUARY:

January 20 – Residence Halls open at 12 pm
 January 21 – MLK Day – no classes
 January 22 – First day of classes
 Drop/Add Period begins online
 January 29 - Last Day to Drop or add a course online
 by 11:59 PM Last Day to submit a request to take a
 course pass/fail or audit (request to Registrar by 4:30
 pm
 January 30 - W grade period begins

FEBRUARY:

February 4 - Registration for Summer classes begins
 (No TAP # needed)
**February 5 - Meet & Mingle: Donuts with Dr.
 Thyrum and Brooke – Reighard Lobby 7:45 – 9:45
 am**
**February 10 - HCSA General Membership meeting
 at 7:30 pm SMC 18**
February 12 – THESIS DAY
 - Honors College Thesis Workshop – 4 – 5:15 pm
 (**required** for sophomores/2nd yr students to help
 prepare for starting a thesis)
 - Thesis Q & A Session – 12:05 (for students who
 are beginning the honors thesis or working on the
 thesis – come and ask questions about the thesis
 process and requirements)
 February 14 – Application for undergraduate Spring
 degree due to Registrar by 4:30 (advisor, dept chair,
 and Dr. Thyrum signatures required)
February 16 - HCSA Social Event - Ice Skating*
**February 23 - HCSA Fundraiser – Sugar Bowl
 Delivery – 5 pm**

MARCH:

**March 2 – HCSA Formal – Lehr Dining Room –
 Gordinier**
**March 3 - HCSA General Membership meeting at
 7:30 pm SMC 18**
 March 5 – Fall Web Schedule online; TAP #s available
 starting today from your advisors & Dr.
 Thyrum for Fall Registration
March 9 -17 – Spring Break

March 22 – HCSA Social Event*
**March 25 – PASSHE Honors Student
 Development Conference at Dixon Center,
 Harrisburg 8:00-4:00 pm**
**March 28 – Honors College Ice Cream
 Social: Registration Q and A - Reighard
 Lobby 4:00-5:30 pm**
**March 30 – UHC Spring Bus trip to NYC –
 Broadway play “Waitress”**

APRIL:

**April 3 - Honors Priority Registration for
 Fall ‘19 courses (see advisor for Dr. Thyrum
 for TAP #)**
 April 5 – Last day to withdraw from a class &
 receive a W grade
 April 7 - Phi Kappa Phi, National Honor
 Society, induction in Bolger/Gordinier
**April 7 - HCSA General Membership
 meeting at 7:30 pm SMC 18**
**April 11 –Elizabethtown College Ware
 Lecture – dinner at 6 pm with Honors
 students at Etown; lecture at 7:30 pm**
**April 16 - Made in Millersville Conference –
 8-4 pm Ganser– UHC students volunteer,
 present or attend**
**April 27 –HCSA Social Event – Turkey Hill
 Experience***
**April 28 - HCSA General Membership
 meeting at 7:30 pm SMC 18**

MAY:

**May 5 – Honors College Spring
 Recognition Banquet – 1 pm – Lehr Dining
 Room in Gordinier**
 May 6 - Last day of classes
 May 7-11 - Finals
 May 11– Commencement
 May 17 – Spring ’19 grades are available via
 MAX after 4:30 pm

***HCSA Social Events - sign up through
 Social Chair – 1st preference given to
 students who attend a minimum of 2 HCSA
 General Membership meetings**