

VOL. XXXVI

NO. 7

# THE HONORS REPORT

APRIL 2022



**Spring has sprung!  
The April edition includes:**

SECTION	PAGE(S)
Save the Dates!.....	2
Points of Pride.....	2
Made in Millersville Presenters.....	2-4
Spring Break Fun!.....	4-5
Registration Social.....	5
Study Abroad Experiences and Opportunities.....	5-6
Senior Spotlights.....	7

**The Honors Report is always looking to feature Honor College students' accomplishments! Please submit your "Points of Pride" or nominate a friend to be featured, so we may acknowledge and celebrate these achievements! Reach out to Beth Roberts with your ideas.**

**Consulting Editors**  
Beth Roberts  
Dr. Elizabeth Thyrum

**Student Editor**  
Claire DeVinney

**Student Writers**  
Bronte Spidaliere, Camryn Gurecki,  
Claire DeVinney, Elias Peluso,  
Joseph Favoroso



## SAVE THE DATES!

Honors College ***course registration*** takes place on **Wednesday, *April 6th, at 6:00am***. Make sure you have met with your advisor and received your TAP number!



The spring ***Honors College Recognition Banquet*** will take place on **April 24th at 1pm** in the Lehr Dining Room. ***RSVP to [honors.college@millersville.edu](mailto:honors.college@millersville.edu) by 12:00pm on Friday, April 8th***. Come out to support our graduating seniors!

The ***Made in Millersville conference*** will take place on **Tuesday, *April 12th, from 8:00am to 5:00pm***. Everyone is welcome to come and see student creative and research projects. Look out for an email calling for conference volunteers in early April.

## POINTS OF PRIDE

by Claire DeVinney

Three Honors College students, *Annelise Lorentzen, Noah Manno, and Grace Stancavage*, were awarded with Glorious Sounds of the Season Scholarships in recognition of their exemplary work in musical pursuits at Millersville's Tell School of Music. Annelise, a senior majoring in Music Industry with Management and Production concentrations, says: "This scholarship is helping me finish up my last few classes of college to help prepare me for my future career in the music industry."

Two Honors College students received grants from the Neimeyer-Hodgson Fund to support their research projects. These students are *Arpan Akbar*, a December 2021 graduate with a degree in biology, and *Elizabeth Esperanza*, a senior psychology major.

## MADE IN MILLERSVILLE PRESENTERS

Interviews conducted by Camryn Gurecki

**The annual Made in Millersville conference is a unique experience for Millersville students of all majors and classes to present their projects—whether academic or creative—to the community! In addition to presenting, participants are encouraged to publish an article in the Made in Millersville Journal elaborating on their chosen subject. Attending Made in Millersville can be helpful in the development of ideas for theses, and to learn about how students get started with research. Everyone is welcome!**

**Wyatt Peters: "A New Approach to Disaster Communication"**

**Q: Can you give a synopsis of your presentation?**

A: Crisis and risk communication are topics that have been discussed in the literature for many years. While the topic may not be new, this literature review will examine a sample of existing literature about crisis and risk communication and how it can apply to the whole community. The literature review

Article continued onto next page



## MADE IN MILLERSVILLE PRESENTERS CONT.

discusses what is risk and how risks can lead to disasters, how the different crisis and risk communication theories all relate to how we respond to disasters from a federal, local, and personal level.

### Q: Why did you choose this project?

A: I chose the project because I have always wanted to find a new way to look at disaster communication. I feel in the time of a crisis, communication is key to keeping people safe. I am an emergency management major, so it fits right in my major.

### Daniel Foreacre: "On Building a Mind—Replicating a Neural Network Model of a Human Neuron"



**Daniel Foreacre**

### Q: Can you give a synopsis of your presentation?

A: I am replicating the work done in a paper published in 2021 by David Beniaguev et al. "Single cortical neurons as deep artificial neural networks". The original paper created a Temporal Convolutional Deep Neural Network model in the Python programming language and TensorFlow neural network library from Google and trained it to accurately replicate the output of a Layer-5 Pyramidal Cortical neuron from the human brain. The data used to train and test were generated using the NEURON program which computationally

models neurons. In my replication, I used NEURON to generate my own data set with similar parameters and fed those into the exact model provided by the Beniaguev paper to determine if it would still have the reported accuracy.

### Q: Why did you choose this project?

A: I chose this because the prospects of emulating human brains and human-level AI has fascinated me since I was a kid. As a computer science major, I am specializing in the programming aspect of this research, but I also intend on bringing a multi-disciplinary approach to it by using my interests in philosophy, psychology, neurology, and other fields. After graduating from Millersville this fall, I plan on continuing this vein of research in a machine-learning Ph.D. program, hopefully at Carnegie Mellon University. My dream is to be on the team that one day achieves a human-level AI.

### Laurel Blanchard: "An Analysis of Weather Reels and Their Impacts on the Evolution and Hiring Process in the Broadcast Meteorology Profession"

### Q: Can you give a synopsis of your project?

A: This project analyzes the expectations of broadcast meteorologists, news directors and general news managers on the importance and use of weather reels of potential candidates in the hiring process for a broadcast meteorologist. This study will also discuss how the hiring process has changed overtime. Weather reels in the field of broadcast meteorology are essential when applying for an open position to show the skills and the versatility of the candidate. News directors and



**Laurel Blanchard**

### The following Honors students will be presenting at Made in Millersville:

Laurel Blanchard  
Riley Boike  
Colin Coggins  
Rebecca Drager  
Daniel Foreacre  
Sophia Goodson  
Christa Gumbravich  
Camryn Gurecki  
Hannah Kane  
Laura Olchewsky  
Victoria Peroni  
Wyatt Peters  
Katie Pheysey  
Lydia Ricks  
Katie Riley  
Ian Smith  
Leilani Smith  
Natalie Sprague  
Matthew Teare  
Morgan Towle  
Marissa Tripus  
Tucker Uebersax  
Trinity Young

## MADE IN MILLERSVILLE PRESENTERS CONT.

news managers each view weather reels differently compared with broadcast meteorologists and have different opinions on the order and structure of a reel. An anonymous survey was conducted and sent to chief meteorologists, meteorologists, news directors, and general news managers to gauge their opinions on how each one views weather reels of potential employees. The recipients of the survey are all professionals who have the profession of broadcast meteorologists, news directors and general managers who have had experience of more than 3 years to allow them to have experience making multiple reels, as well as having more of a say in the hiring process. Decisions on a reel are often made quickly, especially when trying to fill a vacant position in a reasonable amount of time. The survey will ask the professionals focused questions on the length, structure, order, and materials that should be included in a candidate's reel. This study aims to determine how weather reels are perceived and used by professionals in the news industry and in the broadcast meteorology industry with a focus on the hiring process and how the hiring process has evolved as technology has advanced.

### Q: Why did you choose this project?

A: This is a project that really has not been done before but does provide quite valuable information! This project ultimately gives insight on what broadcast hiring professionals are looking for when hiring an on-air meteorologist and this information can be used by those getting their first position to those who have been in the business for years and are editing their reel for their next job. As a student meteorologist interested in pursuing a career in broadcast meteorology, I have always wondered what makes a candidate's weather reel impressive to broadcast professionals looking to hire for an on-air position. After making reels myself, I have learned that professionals have standards on what they would like to see in a candidate's weather reel in order to show the versatility and the skills the candidate has to offer.

## SPRING BREAK FUN!

Quotes collected by Elias Peluso

**The semester is nearly complete, keep the momentum going! Hopefully this beautiful spring weather can brighten the busiest time of the semester. While our summer break is quickly approaching, let's take a look back at what our fellow honors students did over our previous break—spring break:**



**Allison Krantz**  
(she/her)  
Major: Meteorology;  
Minors: Emergency Management & Mathematics;  
Class of May 2023  
"Attended the Northeastern Storm Conference in Burlington, Vermont for networking and advancing my education."

**Elias Peluso**  
(he/him)  
Major: Bachelor of Science in Robotics and Control Systems Technology;  
Class of May 2023  
"I reunited with my family at home, celebrating two Nintendo holidays: Pokémon Mewtwo's Birthday, and Mario Day (March 10 = MAR10)."



Article continued onto next page



## SPRING BREAK FUN! CONT.



**Bronte Angelica Spidaliere (she/her)**  
**Majors:**  
**International Business, Psychology;**  
**Class of May 2023**  
 "I spent the week alongside Bushra, one of my closest friends and work boss, at her Moroccan cuisine market stand at Lancaster's novel Southern Market!"

## REGISTRATION SOCIAL

by Joseph Favoroso

On Tuesday, March 29th, there was an Honors registration social held in South Village's Great Room. Many students across years at MU and disciplines visited, both to seek aid in registering for their classes and to aid newer students in organizing their class schedules for the upcoming year. "I see for many students who are coming in," says Elias Peluso, "it is very helpful for them to meet new Honors College students . . . and to speak with Dr. Thyrum directly. When it's one-on-one in a casual environment, I personally think that's the most beneficial." Heading one of these interactions was Alanna Bezas, an Honors College peer mentor. Alanna says: "Last semester I met with a freshman and provided an overview of what a degree audit was, along with other degree requirements. Now I'm prepared this semester to answer any questions anyone has."

For Beth Roberts, "I like coming to the events and meeting students and being in-person." She, too, aided students by answering pressing questions and providing refreshments. The walking tacos she prepared for everyone were unanimously loved. "Beth outdid herself!" says Alanna. If you haven't already gotten your TAP number, either from a one-on-one meeting with an advisor or from this social, please make sure to get it sometime before **registration starts at 6:00 AM on April 6th!**

## STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

by Bronte Spidaliere

**Elena Antonucci is a senior psychology major in the Honors College.**

**Q: Where did you study and for how long did you visit?**

A: Spring 2020 semester (until COVID hit) in Florence, Italy! All in all, I was there for a little over a month out of the four expected months.

**Q: What is your favorite aspect of Italian culture?**

A: My favorite part of Italian culture is family. I like the idea of the ones you love having such a central place in your life! I also like the healthier lifestyle! In my experience, Italy has higher quality food ingredients, cities made for pedestrians, and a focus on living instead of on working.

**Q: What events enhanced your study abroad experience?**

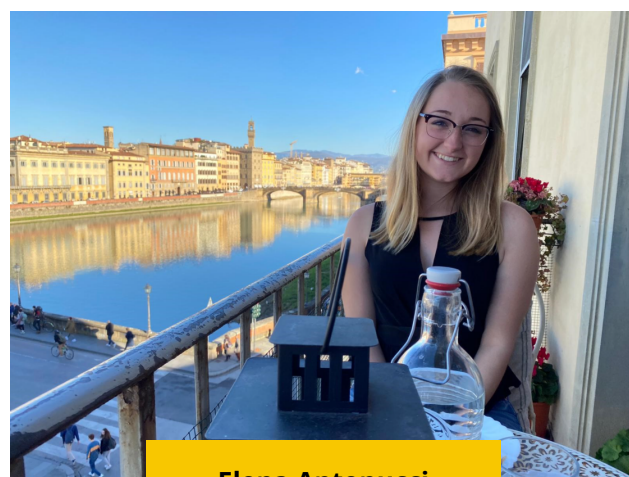
A: The lovely people at ISA made my experience amazing, even though it was cut short. In the face of the growing pandemic, they were communicative and truly cared about the students being affected by their decisions. I also believe my time in Italy was enhanced by choosing to live with a host family instead of in student lodging. This immersed me in the culture, helped me learn the language, and I am still in touch with my host family years later!

**Q: What is an essential lesson you learned studying abroad?**

A: It's important to see the world from other perspectives. In America, we tend to think in an America-centric view, but the world at large is a very diverse. If you step outside of the place you're from (in an authentic, non-touristy way), you'll learn a lot!

**Q: Feel free to share any final message or story pertaining to your study abroad experience.**

A: It's easy to feel like you'll never have the financial means to study abroad. I felt the same way! I had to take out loans, apply for grants, and work long hours. but in my opinion, it all paid off.



**Elena Antonucci**

**Jordan Traut is a graduate student studying English (Honors College alum '20).**

**Q: Where did you study and for how long did you visit?**

A: I stayed for the Fall 2019 semester in Hirakata, Japan with a host family about two train stations away from the school, Kansai Gaidai University.

**Q: What is your favorite aspect of the Japanese culture?**

A: I enjoyed studying the Japanese literature since it's so difficult to find non-European literature being taught in American classrooms. I also appreciated how much mobility I had in Japan. I could go anywhere with my train pass, and I definitely put it to good use. In the United States, our limited public transportation really impacts my ability to travel without a car.

**Q: What events enhanced your study abroad experience?**

A: I was one of three international students at my university to intern as a sports journalist for the official press organization covering the Rugby World Championship, which was hosted by Japan the year I was there. Although I am not a huge sports fan and journalism is not my intended profession, I learned so much about different cultures competing in international sports by interviewing the players after their games.

Another activity I enjoyed was hiking across my prefecture. I even camped on a two-day excursion where the mountain trails would dump me and my Japanese friend out into remote Japanese villages with traditional houses in the old style. On one of my more interesting hikes, I stumbled across a samurai gravesite from 1680. Of course, I didn't know exactly what I had found until I brought pictures back to my host family and they said, "where did you find this?! Where were you?!"

**Q: What is an essential lesson you learned from studying abroad?**

A: I learned humans, while we have our own unique cultural values and experiential histories, aren't that different from one another. When I needed help, I asked for it. People are almost always willing to help you get off at the right bus stop or find your classroom on the first day. Ask for help when you need it and help others when they seem lost. It's the human thing to do!

**Q: Feel free to share any final message or story pertaining to your study abroad experience.**

A: I was in Japan for so long, compared to my trips to other countries, and staying with a family that I called "mom" and "dad," so I felt like I had a whole different life there. I wasn't just a tourist or a visitor or even a student. Sometimes I miss my life there, even though I ultimately decided to make my permanent life here in the United States. It's strange to think that the things I remember the most are the everyday, small things I took for granted in the moment.



**Jordan Traut**

**Regina Sanchez Alcalde is a graduate assistant for the Office of International Programs and Services. She offers advice for students interested in study abroad below.**

**Q: Where can Millersville students study abroad?**

A: Honestly anywhere (within the US governmental travel restrictions). Some examples where students can study abroad are UK, Iceland, Italy, France, Germany, Greece, South Africa, South Korea, Japan, Australia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Sweden, Costa Rica, Chile, you name it!

**Q: Please summarize the planning process for the study abroad program.**

A: There are six stages of the studying abroad process (inquiry, advising, application, getting ready to go, while abroad, and upon return) that begins from student's initial interest all the way to when students return from their study abroad experience. On the Inquiry stage, every student begins the process by meeting with a peer mentor, where they discuss interests, goals, and academics. Then the student begins the "Advising Stage" to learn more about the different programs, academic policies, financial policies, scholarships, to make an informed decision about choosing a program. For the Application stage, the student completes the program's application. During the Getting Ready to Go stage, the student attends an orientation, purchases flight, finalizes housing arrangements, and is in the process of visa paperwork (if applicable). During the While Abroad stage, there is a big emphasis on student's safety and academics. On the Upon Return stage, the student has a welcome back party and receives a graduation cord and other resources to add the study abroad experience into his/her resume. Each student has a peer mentor and an Education Abroad Advisor throughout the study abroad process.



**Regina Sanchez Alcalde**



*Kasidy Bidelspacher* will graduate with a BA in psychology. Her thesis work focuses on the misrepresentation of mental illness in the media and why it is detrimental to the community. According to Kasidy, the best thing about Honors student housing was the connection with other Honors students. Kasidy explains, "I loved getting to know my other Honors classmates while being able to easily do things together like get food, watch movies, study, and do schoolwork." Kasidy's favorite Honors class was Psychology with Dr. Rush, since it was her major and since the class "was very discussion-based and hands on." At Millersville, Kasidy was in Her Campus, a national online magazine where members can write articles about different topics such as food, fashion, current events, mental health awareness, for three years, and she was the club's Social Media Director for two years. In addition, Kasidy served as a peer mentor for both the Honors College and the psychology department. One part of her job was to hold office hours where "freshmen could feel free to stop by and ask questions, get advice, vent, or get help with schoolwork." Kasidy plans to accept a placement in family-based mental health services with Community Services Group, where she interned over the summer. She will provide counseling services and resources to families and clients.



**Kasidy Bidelspacher**

*Cedrick Kazadi* will graduate with a major in Information Technology. His thesis title is "Using Application Programming Interfaces to Streamline Business." Cedrick's

favorite Honors class was History of Ideas, which he called "an interesting and engaging class." As a student at Millersville, Cedrick has been a member of Millersville's club soccer, the Black Student Council, Millersville Concerned Men, and the Orientation Planning Committee. He has presented work at the Made in Millersville conference and been an Orientation leader, the Honors College Community Service Coordinator, and Peer Mentor for the College Assistance Migrant Program. Cedrick has been the Vice President and Political Chair of the Millersville NAACP, and he is the group's current President. After graduating, Cedrick plans to scale his eCommerce business and work in cybersecurity while pursuing a graduate degree in Information Systems.



**Cedrick Kazadi**

*Laurel Blanchard* will graduate with a degree in Meteorology concentrated on broadcasting and minors in Emergency Management and Mathematics. Laurel's thesis was titled "An Analysis on Weather Reels and the Evolution of the Hiring Process of Broadcast Meteorology Professionals." Her favorite part about Honors housing was living with people that valued academics as much as her. Laurel says, "Living in the Honors Living Learning Community allowed for a very easy transition into college and I met some of my closest friends there too!"

Laurel's favorite Honors class was Explorations in World Literature with Dr. Jakubiak because it allowed for creativity and included many types of literature, as well as a presentation at the Made in Millersville conference. Laurel is part of the Honors

College Student Association and the International Association of Emergency Managers, and she is serving as president of the Millersville University Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society. During her time at Millersville, she received the Class of 1947 Endowment Scholarship, the Daniel Engle Scholarship, and the Glickman Family Scholarship. After graduation, Laurel hopes to get a job in broadcast meteorology. She would like to get her Certified Broadcast Meteorologist seal from the American Meteorological Society and be a Chief Meteorologist at a station someday.



**Laurel Blanchard**

**Great work on midterm exams!  
Full speed ahead to finals!**