

VOL. XXXVI

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THE HONORS REPORT

DECEMBER 2021



Good luck on Finals! We are sure you will do great!
The December edition includes:

SECTION	PAGE(S)
Reminders.....	2
Mentoring Communities Day Highlights.....	2
Recognition Banquet Highlights.....	3
Congrats! Graduating Senior Features.....	4-5
Dr. Maxwell Honored.....	6
What are we looking forward to on Winter Break?.....	6-7
Storm Chaser and Honors Student: Sam Leppo Feature.....	7-8

The Honors Report is 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.

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Millersville University
HONORS COLLEGE

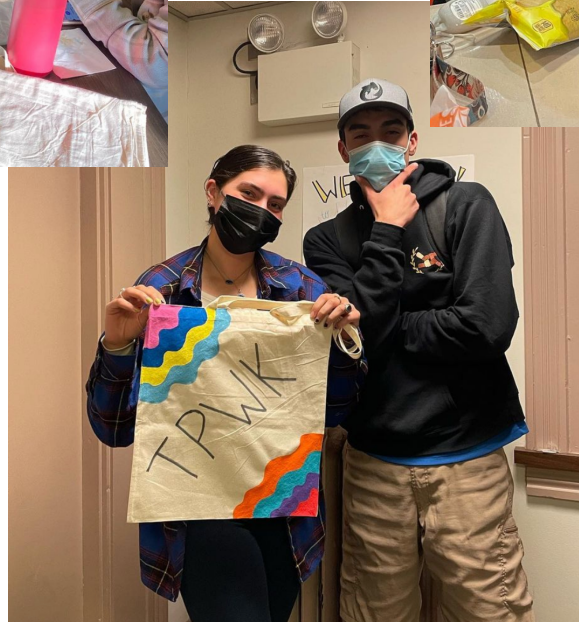
REMINDER

Don't forget finals will occur from December 7 to December 10. Check out the finals schedule on the MU website to confirm your final exam times. Finish up strong, and best of luck!

MENTORING COMMUNITIES DAY

by Natalie Flory

On Wednesday, November 17, the Honors College held its first-ever Mentoring Communities Day! The day included many fun activities for students to participate in. The day kicked off with Pretzels on the Porch where students had a chance to grab a pretzel and a drink and hang out together on the porch of Franklin House. Then students gathered inside and decorated tote bags! The bags turned out fabulously! Some students then went to Tropical Smoothie Café to support the Honors College Student Association fundraiser for Clare House. The day concluded with the opportunity for students to go to the MU Basketball games with their mentor or mentee. All around, it was a great day to spend with fellow honors students and to celebrate the Mentoring Communities program!



RECOGNITION BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS

by Claire DeVinney



The Fall 2021 Honors College Recognition Banquet occurred on November 21 to acknowledge Honors College students graduating in December, as well as students with exceptional academic records. As this was the first banquet in 2 years, graduates from the three previous semesters were also recognized. Students planning to graduate at the end of the semester who were honored at the banquet included Jonathan Wilkins, Michael Skros, and Leah Freeman (pictured in order on left).

Dr. Thyrum greeted guests and Dr. Wubah provided a formal Welcome message. As part of his Welcome message, he announced plans to create a "Young Alumni Day" for current and former students who are pursuing similar career paths. The Dean of Student Success and Associate Provost for Academic Support Services, Dr. Finley-Bowman, gave the keynote speech. She focused on ways to conceptualize and reach success as a student. Michael Skros described his experience in the Honors College and how he benefitted from his Honors thesis. Finally, each 2nd through 4th year student who have maintained a cumulative 3.8 GPA or higher were recognized and received certificates. We thank everyone who helped make the banquet a success and appreciate our students who attended. The next Honors College banquet is planned for April 24, 2022. Mark your calendars - we hope to see you there!



On the left, Dr. Wubah gives a Welcome message. Above, previous grads pose with Dr. Finley-Bowman (left) & Dr. Thyrum (right). On the right, Michael Skros speaks about his experience with his thesis.



Entries edited by Natalie Flory and Camryn Gurecki



Leah Freeman

Leah Freeman will graduate with a BA in English with a concentration in Writing Studies. Leah also has two minors, one in ESL/Linguistics and one in Psychology. Leah recently defended her thesis, which was a creative project based on research on feminist fiction, feminism, and ecofeminism. With help from Dr. Emily Baldys, Leah wrote an abstract novella about a flower who turns into a person, which is a metaphorical take on feminism and the woman as connected to nature and the environment.

Leah was very involved in the Honors College, having served previously as the lead editor of the Honors Report (she has stayed on as a writer) and as an editor for the University Research Newsletter. Leah has served as the Volunteer Coordinator for the HCSA. She also interned as an editor and project manager for the Made in Millersville Journal. In addition, she is the secretary for MU's ODK Honor Society Circle and is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

Leah comments, "Millersville, especially the Honors College, has opened me up to so many opportunities to work and gain experience in my field and participate in college life in a way I would have never expected of myself in the past. I truly gained a lot from the experience!"

In her upcoming future, Leah plans to stay in the area for about six months. Following that she hopes to move to Massachusetts to pursue graduate studies in English. Leah is excited to see where life takes her. **Leah, we wish you the best!**



Daniel Irwin will be graduating with a BA in English with a Concentration in Writing Studies. Daniel also minored in General Applied Engineering and Technology. Daniel's thesis work was completed with help from his advisor, Dr. Mando. The project was titled "Unforeseen Legacies: Rhetorically Advocating for Floodplain Restoration." In addition to Honors College involvement, including serving as a student editor of the University Research Newsletter, Daniel is the President of the Millersville Fencing Club. **We wish Daniel the best wherever his degree may take him!**



Daniel Irwin

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SENIORS CONT.



Michael Skros

Michael Skros is graduating with a double major in Emergency Management and Geography along with a minor in Economics. Michael recently defended his thesis entitled, "Advancing Land-Use Adaptations during Disaster Recovery" with the support of his advisor, Dr. Angela Cuthbert. Michael has been a very involved member of the Honors College community, having previously served as the Honors College Peer Mentor for two consecutive years. In addition, he served on the executive board for the International Association of Emergency Managers and the Honors College Student Association. He also is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and Gamma Theta Upsilon honor societies. He was a member of the marching band during his freshman year. Michael has also been a writer for the Honors Report and volunteered with the American Red Cross.

Michael comments, "The Honors College has greatly enhanced my experience at Millersville. I have made so many friends and memories while developing valuable leadership skills and professional connections that have helped me succeed throughout college and beyond."

After graduation, Michael will be moving to Allentown to begin a job as a Health & Safety Specialist with Amazon and plans to begin graduate school within the next year.

We wish Michael the best of luck in his new job and future career!

Jonathan Wilkins will be graduating with a degree in Computer Science and a minor in Mathematics. Jonathan's thesis was entitled "Solving Nonograms with Constraint Satisfaction." On-campus, Jonathan played in the drumline of the MU Marching Band, was the Vice President of the Rock-Climbing Club, and often volunteered through the Honors College and HCSA.

Jonathan comments, "I believe the Honors College helps students become more well-rounded in terms of critical thinking, teamwork, and communication, and helps them form connections with other like-minded students who are looking to get more out of their higher education."

Moving forward, Jonathan hopes to find a position in the Software or Web Development field. **We wish him the best!**



Jonathan Wilkins

We offer our congratulations to Arpan Akbar & Lindsey Diamond on their December graduation! And, thank you to all of our December graduates for the many ways they have contributed to the success of the Honors College. You will be missed!

DR. MAXWELL HONORED

by Joseph Favoroso



Biannually, on her birthday and on the New Year, the Queen of England hosts an awards ceremony, granting her subjects awards and titles. During her official birthday celebration in June, our own Dr. Clarence Maxwell was granted the Queen's Certificate and Badge of Honor, awarded to civilians who display "exceptional or outstanding" works of "meritorious services" to the crown or to their community.

Awarded among these badges are the distinctions of Commanders, Officers, and Members of the British Empire, as well as Knighthood and Lordship. "It's a louse on the others," Dr. Maxwell humbly joked. We congratulate Dr. Maxwell's achievements within Millersville and beyond.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FORWARD TO OVER BREAK?

Quotes Collected by Leah Freeman

Question: What are you most looking forward to this winter break?



"This winter break I am most looking forward to being able to take more time to work on my thesis and maybe travel if I can get the time off." -

Hunter Davis, (pictured on the right) major in French Educ., Senior, expected graduation '23

"I am looking forward to seeing my friends/family, my dogs, and relaxing." -**Julia Glatt, (pictured below) major in Environmental & Spatial Sciences, Freshmen, expected graduation '25**



"I am most looking forward to spending time with my friends and family and celebrating the holidays! I'm also looking forward to eating homemade food again!" -**Natalie Brown, (pictured above), major in Science Writing, Freshman, expected graduation '25**

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WINTER BREAK CONT.



"My husband and I are going to Minnesota in December for a short vacation. We are going to see a Vikings game, run in the Reindeer Run 5K, see a For King & Country Christmas concert and learn to cross country ski." **-Beth Roberts, Honors College Administrative Assistant**

STORM CHASER AND HONORS STUDENT: SAM LEPPA FEATURE

Interview Conducted by Claire DeVinney

Sam Leppo is a junior Meteorology major in the Honors College who tracked and followed Hurricane Ida. He reflects on his experiences below.

Q: Hurricane Ida happened late this summer, and you were in New Jersey working on a meteorology project. Can you talk about how you came to be there and what kind of work you were doing?

A: "It actually was a thing that a couple of friends and I decided to do. We were looking at some data and some models, just seeing what was going on. We actually weren't going to go out to New Jersey at first. We started around Rising Sun, Maryland, and then we saw that there was a chance for some more storms out in New Jersey later that night, so we made the drive and we ended up chasing the tornado."

Q: What kind of effect did you see the hurricane have on the area?

A: "There was a bit of flooding. The tornadoes and the storms that spawned from the hurricane were the biggest things. The outer bands of the hurricane were spawning some storms, and with those storms, we were getting some tornadoes, and there was an EF3 (severe level tornado) in the area we were in. There was a lot of wind damage. There were some roofs that were taken off of houses. There was one house that was completely destroyed and a lot of power lines down."



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Images of the damage Sam and his friends saw

Q: You ended up helping residents who had suffered home loss or home damage. How did you get involved in that, and what kind of work did you do?

A: "We ended up there before any emergency personnel because we were tailing the tornado. We were driving right behind it and ended up in the neighborhood. At first, we were driving around checking on everyone and making sure everyone was okay, which it seemed like most people were. A lot of people weren't home at the time. There was a



kid we were talking to that was on his way home from football practice. His car got lifted and dropped, and he said that he experienced weightlessness for a second. His car was badly damaged—the trunk was flipped over the back. We ended up giving him a ride home."

Q: What did you learn as a meteorologist and as a student from your experiences?

A: "On a personal level, I would say that this is something every meteorology major should experience. Obviously, be safe about it. Have a crew together and a good navigation system. I had four buddies in the car with me that were telling me which way to go and what direction to head, just to stay safe. Learn to stay on the southeast side of a tornado. It was worth it, and it was something that every meteorology major should get to experience."

Q: Anything else that you want to share about your experience?

A: "Listen to emergency personnel. Listen to the National Weather Service. If they issue a warning, take it seriously. There were a lot of people we talked to who said that they didn't believe it at first. They ended up being okay, but they did see the storm."