

VOL. XXXVI

NO. 8

THE HONORS REPORT

MAY 2022



Have a great summer!
The May edition includes:

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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

SAVE THE DATES!

All service hours for the 2021-22 academic year must be turned into D2L Assignments by May 31, 2022. Be sure that you have fulfilled your minimum of 10 service hours!



SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

Below are the names and majors of the May 2022 Honors College graduating class. Congratulations, everyone!

Elena Antonucci

Psychology

Taylor Bemisderfer

Art; Art Secondary Education

Matthew Bisko

Economics

Laurel Blanchard

Meteorology

Riley Boike

Government, Policy, & Law

Kassandra Castaldi

Chemistry

Emily Chatburn

Psychology

Colin Coggins

Molecular Biology

Rebecca Elms

International Business Administration

Elizabeth Esperanza

Psychology

Cameron Gonteski

Meteorology

Christa Gumbravich

English Writing; Speech

Communication

Kelsey Heckert

Mathematics

Hannah Jackson

English Secondary Education

Cedrick Kazadi

Information and Technology

Justine Lemon

Early & Special Education

Annelise Lorentzen

Music Industry

Josh Marzak

Music Industry

Hannah Miller

Mathematics Secondary Education

Laura Olchewsky

Early Childhood Education

Benjamin Perlis

History

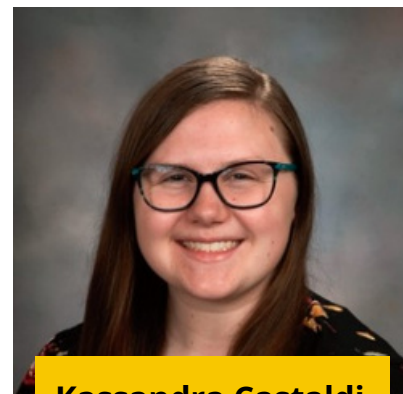
Michael Raucci

Molecular Biology

List continued onto next page

Kassandra Castaldi will graduate with a major in Chemistry and a Minor in Mathematics. Kassandra's thesis was about new triazole based N-heterocyclic carbene complexes of iridium. Her favorite Honors class was her perspectives course, Chemistry of the Atmosphere. Kassandra says, "Since it was more of a meteorology class than a chemistry class, it was outside my comfort zone, but Dr. Clark was an awesome professor and made it a lot of fun!" While at Millersville, Kassandra has been a member of the University choir, a flutist in the Marauder Marching Band & Concert Band, a chemistry tutor, a Chemistry Department Laboratory

Assistant, and a Physics Department Student Assistant. She has also been a member and Treasurer of the Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity and a member, Fundraising Chair, and Vice President of the American Chemical Society Student Chapter. Kassandra has been awarded the Gerald S Weiss Chemistry Scholarship, the Dr. Edward Rajaseelan Excellence in Chemistry Scholarship, a APSCUF-MU Scholarship, the American Chemical Society Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry, the Neimeyer-Hodgson Research Grant, the Henry Bitner Science Prize, and the James E. Koken Science Scholarship, and was nominated for the Syed Ali-Zaidi Award. She expects to graduate with Department of Mathematics Course Honors. After graduation, Kassandra will be starting her PhD in Chemistry at Yale University.



Kassandra Castaldi

Colin Coggins will graduate with a major in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology and a minor in Biochemistry. His thesis is about the effects of Hypoglycemic Events on Cognitive Function in C57BL/6J Male Mice and Dr. Brent Horton is his thesis advisor. Colin's favorite part of living in Honors housing was being able to make new friends who were actively involved in the same classes and who had similar academic drive. His favorite Honors class was History of Ideas because it helped him to better his time management skills. During his time at Millersville, Colin was a chemistry tutor and an animal care student worker. He was also heavily involved in a research project which involved being trained in animal care and also allowed him to greatly enhance his writing skills, since he had to write many research proposals for various grants. After graduation, Colin will be entering the accelerated nursing program at DeSales University, where he plans to graduate in 2023 and become an RN. From there, he plans to pursue his dream career as a nurse practitioner, specializing in pediatric endocrinology.



Colin Coggins

SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS CONT.

Lydia Ricks

Psychology

Katherine Riley

Mathematics Secondary Education

Maggie Ross

History

Jeremiah Shillingburg

Applied Engineering, Safety & Technology Secondary Education

Ian Smith

Manufacturing Engineering Technology

Leilani Smith

Marine Biology

Marissa Tripus

Oceanic Science & Coastal Studies; Meteorology

Owen Wallace

Biology - Botany

Coleman Wheeler

Government & Pre Law

Trinity Young

Biology - Animal Behavior

Rebecca Elms will graduate with a major in Business Administration with a concentration in International Business and a minor in Economics. Rebecca's thesis is called "The Significance of Pharmacy Benefit Managers in Insulin Pricing." She explains, "In my study I conduct a least squares regression analysis to determine the significance of Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) when it comes to insulin pricing in the United States. PBMs only exist in the United States and we have some of the highest prices of insulin compared to other countries. Thus, I decided to do this cross-country analysis to determine the significance of PBMs on United States insulin pricing." Rebecca's favorite Honors class was Explorations in History of Ideas with Dr. Maxwell, because "the fact the class required a lot of discussion was what made it so fun." Throughout her time at Millersville, Rebecca has been involved in the Marauder Fund Student Investment Association, where she currently serves on the executive committee as Vice President of the Consumer Sector, and in the Iota Delta Chapter of Millersville University's International Honor Society in Business Delta Mu Delta. Rebecca will be graduating Magna Cum Laude with departmental honors. After graduation, she plans to move back to her home of Pittsburgh to pursue a career.



Rebecca Elms



Cameron Gonteski

Cameron Gonteski will graduate with a major in Meteorology and minors in Environmental Hazards & Emergency Management and Mathematics. Cameron's thesis is titled, "An Analysis of the Memphis County Warning Area Tornado Climatology and its Implications on Local Emergency Preparedness." She says, "This allowed me to make key recommendations for tornado preparation based on the hazard mitigation plans already put in place." About living in Honors housing, Cameron remarked, "I really enjoyed being in a community of like-minded people. It's helpful to be with other students who have the same Honors classes as you so that you can collaborate with them. Even if you know no one else on campus, you most likely will have a friend living in the Honors College with you." Cameron said that her favorite Honors classes were meteorology classes completed with Honors by Contract, because they allowed her to complete additional research on her interests. While at Millersville, Cameron has been a member of the Honors College Student Association, a Student Lead Researcher for

the Meteorology Department, a member and the Treasurer of the Millersville Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society, and a member and the President of the Millersville Student Chapter of the International Association of Emergency Managers. She also founded and led the Millersville Weather Balloon Team and was named the 2020 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Ernest F. Hollings Scholar, the 2020 Tim Samaras Scholar, and the 2021 American Meteorological Society Senior Scholar. After graduation, Cameron will begin a position as a Meteorological Operations Specialist at the Weather Company under IBM in Massachusetts.

Benjamin Perlis will graduate with a degree in History. His thesis was on the history of the Visigoths in the early middle ages. Benjamin's favorite class was Vikings, which he completed for Honors credit through Honors by contract. Benjamin says about the class, "it gave me the chance to read the Prose Edda and learn more about Norse myth." While at Millersville, Benjamin was awarded with the Dr. Abram Foster Scholarship for Excellence in History. After graduating, Benjamin plans to seek a teaching position in a classical Christian school.

Kelsey Heckert will graduate with a mathematics major and a sociology minor. Her thesis was titled, "Conducting Factor Analysis in R vs SPSS," and her thesis advisor was Dr. Robinson. Kelsey's favorite part about living in Honors housing was meeting new friends and the inclusive atmosphere. Her favorite Honors class was psychology with Dr. Rush because she enjoyed learning about human behavior at a more advanced level. Kelsey was a student athlete on the tennis team, a three-time Intercollegiate Tennis Association Scholar Athlete, and a 2022 Distinguished Scholar Athlete Award nominee. After graduation, Kelsey plans to attend graduate school beginning in the 2022-23 school year.



Benjamin Perlis

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SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS CONT.



Justine Lemon

Justine Lemon will graduate with a degree in Early and Special Education. Her thesis topic was "Special Education Teacher Attrition and Burnout." Justine's favorite part of living in Honors housing that I enjoyed was the ease of connecting with classmates for support. Her favorite Honors class was English Composition because it helped her set the groundwork for her thesis. While at Millersville, Justine has been a Student Supervisor at The Anchor, a member of the Millersville Cheerleading Team, a tutor for Study Buddies and other programs, and an Educational Support Coach for Integrated Studies. She will also be graduating with Departmental Honors. After graduation, Justine plans to return to school for a graduate degree while working as a Special Education teacher and coaching cheerleading.

Annelise Lorentzen will graduate with a degree in Music Industry with concentrations in management and production. Annelise's thesis was researching and creating a business plan and marketing analysis for the development of a music industry website called "Music Industry Connect." Annelise says that living in Honors housing was "an amazing

experience," explaining: "One of my favorite memories was when my roommate threw me a surprise party for my 18th birthday as well as had all of my friends write 'happy birthday' on their whiteboards across the entire building. The sense of community was just amazing." Her favorite Honors class was History of Ideas with Dr. Maxwell, because she loved the class discussion and the active participation. While at Millersville, Annelise has been the Librarian, Concertmaster, Vice President, and President of the orchestra. She has been a member and Secretary of Marauder Music, a mentor in the Music Exploration and Mentoring Program, a member of Omnicron Delta Kappa, and an intern for both Reservoir Media Management and Musicians Practice Glove. Annelise also worked on campus for the Winter and Ware centers as a stage manager, house manager, and tech. She has been awarded the Glorious Sounds of the Season Scholarship twice and the National Association of Music Merchants President's Innovation Award twice. Annelise has participated in the Pre-Modern Jukebox trip to Europe, went to Anaheim for the National Association of Music Merchants, and will be participating in trips to Nashville, Anaheim, and Europe this year. After graduation, Annelise's goal is to work in some part of the music industry, preferably in music publishing as she did for her first internship. She would also like to possibly attain a law degree focused on copyright. For now, she will be taking a small gap after college and spending some time traveling.



Annelise Lorentzen

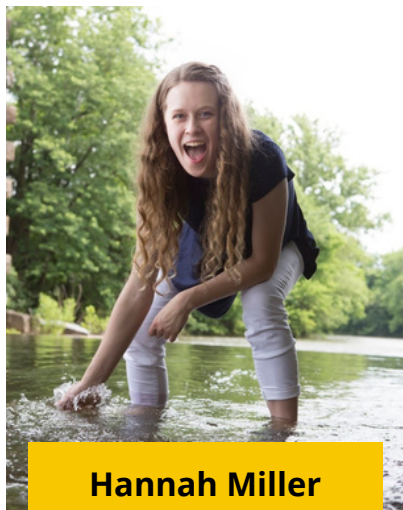
Josh Marzak will graduate with a degree in Music Industry with a concentration in Music Production. His thesis was titled "Modern Academic Integration in Music Production and Performance" and his thesis advisor was Dr. Barry Atticks. Josh's favorite part of Honors housing was the community, which he described as "encouraging and really got me through the challenging transition to college life." Josh's favorite Honors class was History of Ideas. He says, "Not only is Dr. Maxwell one of the greatest professors I've had at Millersville to date, but his demeanor, course content, personality, teaching style, and course structure was impeccable. The content challenged my world view in a healthy way and allowed me to consider a new perspective on history and thought." While at Millersville, Josh was a member of the HCSA, the John Newman Association, Chromatic, and the Student Government Association. He also founded his own organization, ROADS, which won a 2022 Millersville Student Leadership Award. Josh has been employed as a student worker at the Housing Department, the Information Desk, Archives and Special Collections, as a Peer Mentor for UNIV 103 students, as an Orientation Leader for Honors O-Groups, on the Orientation Planning Committee, as



Josh Marzak

the student assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management, student assistant to the Vice President of Finance & Administration, and student assistant to the President of the University. Josh has served as the Faith & Spirituality Representative and Sustainability Representative in Student Government. Josh has recently accepted a job with the Pennsylvania College Advising Corps, where he will mentor high school students at Donegal High School. He hopes to continue to be involved at Millersville by completing the steps to become an officially recognized Campus Minister, continue to serve as an adviser to ROADS, and volunteer for the Hub in youth ministry.

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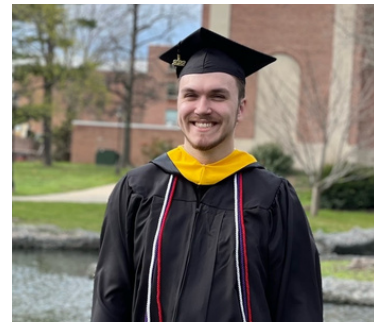


Hannah Miller

Hannah Miller will graduate with a degree in Secondary Mathematics Education. Her thesis topic was looking into the mathematics behind games, specifically the game *Spot It!*, and is titled, "Using Games as an Educational Resource to Teach Mathematics." Hannah's thesis advisor is Dr. Janet White. Her favorite honors class was English Composition. Throughout her time at Millersville, Hannah has been a part of Millersville Navigators, a campus ministry where she has spent most of her time and found a Biblical community. After graduation, she hopes to get a job in the nearby area teaching middle school mathematics.

Michael Raucci will graduate with a degree in Molecular Biology. For Michael's thesis, he created an animated short film about plant pathology. His favorite part of living in Honors housing was having Domino's nights with his friends in the common lounge on

Saturday nights. He also enjoyed holiday door decorating. Michael's favorite Honors class was a Perspectives course, Psychology and Creativity in Art, Music and the Written Word. While at Millersville, Michael was involved in the Honors College Student Association, the Fencing Club, and AniMU. After graduation, he plans to look into research and development in mushroom growing while independently working on creative projects of his own such as animations and game development.



Michael Raucci



Lydia Ricks

Lydia Ricks will graduate with a degree in Psychology. Her thesis is titled "Designing a Dementia Prevention Program for Young Adults." Lydia's favorite part about living in Honors housing was the camaraderie. She says: "my favorite part about living there was meeting some of my closest friends and being surrounded by people who motivated and inspired me." Lydia's favorite Honors class was Introduction to Film, where she found one of her favorite movies, *Silence of the Lambs*, and learned to appreciate cinematography. While at Millersville, Lydia was involved in the Honors College Mentoring Community, Omicron Delta Kappa, Weekly Smile, and Psi Chi. She was awarded the Paul and Caroline Beideman Honors College Fellowship Endowment and an Honors College Scholarship. After graduating, Lydia plans to attend Millersville University for her M.S. in Clinical Psychology to become a Geriatric Counselor.

Marissa Tripus will graduate with degrees in Meteorology and Oceanic Science & Coastal Studies with a concentration in Physical Oceanography. Marissa's thesis topic is "Marine Heatwaves in the Northeast Pacific Ocean." Her favorite part of living in Honors housing was being able to meet peers before classes had even started and being just down the hall from her friends, which made working on projects and assignments together a lot easier. Marissa's favorite Honors class was History of Ideas. She says, "While in the class, it seemed like a lot of work. But, looking back at it now, it was one of my favorite classes of college. I have not taken another class where you were rewarded for disagreeing with each other. This class was a different way to learn the material, but I personally loved it so much more than other classes I had to take." While at Millersville, Marissa participated in the Honors College Student Association, Relay for Life, the Millersville University Marching Band, the American Meteorological Society, and the Ocean Science Club. She was awarded the Georgia Tech School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Research Experience for Undergraduates, the James and Judith Hower Scholarship in the Earth Sciences, the Hoffman Family Endowment for Honors Student Programs, the Rachel Carson Field Scholarship, and the Liddell Award, and was nominated for the Barry Goldwater Scholarship. After graduating, Marissa will pursue a graduate degree in Oceanic Sciences at University of Wisconsin - Madison. Her goal is to become a researcher in high latitude climate systems, investigating the climate system's impacts on the polar regions of the globe with a focus on the Southern Ocean.



Marissa Tripus

Congratulations to all of our seniors! Best of luck in the future!

POINTS OF PRIDE

by Claire DeVinney

Honors College student **Elias Peluso**, a junior Robotics and Control Systems Technology major, was awarded the EPPIC Values Award at the 2022 Millersville University Student Leadership Award ceremony. This award recognizes students who embody Millersville's core values: exploration, professionalism, public mission, inclusion, integrity, and compassion. Congratulations, Elias!

A team of students including Honors College second-year student **John Reidinger**, a business major, won the Student Café Competition. The team formulated a plan for renovations to the 'Ville Perk Café, which was presented to two panel of judges and a student vote. They were asked to create a concept that would build community on campus and improve student life. The team will continue to work with 'Ville Perk Café staff to implement their renovation plan, and they have been awarded a \$5,000 scholarship in recognition of their accomplishment. Congratulations, John!



Elias Peluso with his award (top); Student Leadership Awards ceremony (left)

THANK YOU TO SPRING HONORS PROFESSORS!

by Camryn Gurecki

Dr. Timothy Trussell

Introduction to Archeology

Dr. Christopher Stieha

Honors Biology 108 Seminar

Dr. Jeremiah Mbindyo

Honors Chemistry 2 Seminar

Prof. James Machado

Fundamentals of Speech

Dr. Sandra McPherson

Principles of Macroeconomics

Dr. Kaitlin Mondello

Explorations in World Literature

Dr. Lynn Marquez

Physical Geology

Dr. Richard Glenn

Constitutional Law

Dr. Cynthia Taylor

History of Mathematics

Dr. Philip Tacka

Language of Music

Prof. Rachel MacIntyre

General Psychology

Dr. Hannah Osborn

Psychology of Racism

Dr. Heather Girvin

Family Violence

Dr. Clarence Maxwell

Explorations in History of Ideas

The Honors College would like to thank all professors who taught Honors courses in the Spring 2022 semester! Thank you for working so hard to contribute to our students' success!

Dr. Mbindyo shares his experience teaching Introductory Chemistry 2 Seminar.

"It has really been nice to teach the class in person, on campus this semester. The course is very interactive. It allows students to dig deeper and wider on topics discussed in General Chemistry, and how we interact with chemistry every day. It is taught in a way that it is accessible to all science majors that take CHEM 112, which can be taken as a corequisite. Each student gets to say something in every class or interact with a peer. This helps develop communication skills, collaboration, friendships and community. I have enjoyed teaching the class. The Honors students are well prepared, self motivated, and participate actively. We get to learn about cutting edge developments in chemistry, from exploring sustainable, chemistry driven solutions to climate change, the role of microscale and nanotechnology in advancing current and futuristic electronic devices to the chemistry of vaping and health. We incorporate discussions of how chemistry is relevant in current events such as nuclear energy and safety, the Flint water crisis, and fracking, among others. Overall, the class allows students to explore chemistry in ways that are highly engaging compared to a normal lecture setting, and promotes critical thinking and other skills that are greatly beneficial as they pursue learning and future careers. For the current class, it has been a great pleasure having you in the class. Keep challenging yourself by pursuing Honors courses. The rewards for your career will be outstanding. Have a great summer!



Dr. Jeremiah Mbindyo

RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENTS AT THE HONORS COLLEGE BANQUET

7

by Elias Peluso; photos by Elias Peluso and Kyle Nazarchuk

As another academic year comes to a close, it is vital that we address the hard work and dedication of our friends in the Honors College. To present awards for academic achievement, the Honors College Spring Recognition Banquet was held on Sunday, April 24, in Lehr Dining Room.

The meal was provided MU catering, and the semi-formal event was preceded by an introduction by our very own Dr. Thyrum. Guest speakers included provost Dr. Gasparich and student Laurel Blanchard. Dr. Thyrum then recognized students for the following achievements, awards, and scholarships:

- Seniors graduating from the Honors College
- Distinguished honors and thesis projects specified
- Students of all levels recognized for outstanding GPA
- Class of 1947 Endowment
- Paul and Caroline Beideman Honors College Fellowship Endowments
- Susan P. Leuk Honors College Graduate Study Award
- Honors College Community Service Heroes



Dr. Gail Gasparich, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (above);
Dr. Thyrum (below)



Students honored for academic achievement (top);
Laurel Blanchard, Meteorology major and spring '22 graduate (left);
student volunteers Chandra Dhimal, Brenna Zarkovich, and Julia Glatt (right)

Through all our perseverance and dedication, it is wonderful to know how much our accomplishments are valued by those surrounding us. Congratulations to our spring 2022 Honors College graduates!



HONORS TRIP TO NYC

quotes collected by Bronte Spidaliere

"Wicked is my favorite Broadway show for sure - the music, the characters, the plot...I love it all! The last time I had seen it, I was about 14 years old, so it felt nostalgic to be back in the Gershwin Theatre watching it again. Prior to the show, my roommates and I took a trip to the Museum of Modern Art and ate lunch in the courtyard. I'd say it was a successful outing for only \$2, thanks to the Honors College!" - **Alanna Bezas**



**Wicked playbill (top);
Alanna and friends at
the MoMA**



**Daniel and USS *Intrepid*
aircraft carrier**

"Elva and I spent the day exploring many distinct parts of the city, starting the morning in Central Park and at St. Catherine's Church, enjoying a nice lunch in Little Italy and Chinatown in Lower Manhattan, and spending an eventful evening in Harlem, Soho, Times Square, and more areas. We took the subway throughout 3 boroughs and walked over 10 miles. I was overjoyed to serve as her personal tour guide, since it was her first time visiting NYC! It was a very memorable experience, so thank you to Elva and the Honors College for the opportunity to spend the day in one of my favorite American cities." - **Bronte A. Spidaliere**



**Elva Hoover pets a
carriage horse**

"On the trip I got to visit NYC for the first time. I got to go see *Intrepid*, which was something I had wanted to do ever since I was little. I really enjoyed visiting Times Square as well, and I am a huge Spiderman fan, so visiting his home was super cool." - **Daniel Bowman**

Great work this semester, Honors College! Congratulations to our graduates. Good luck with final exams, and have a great summer!