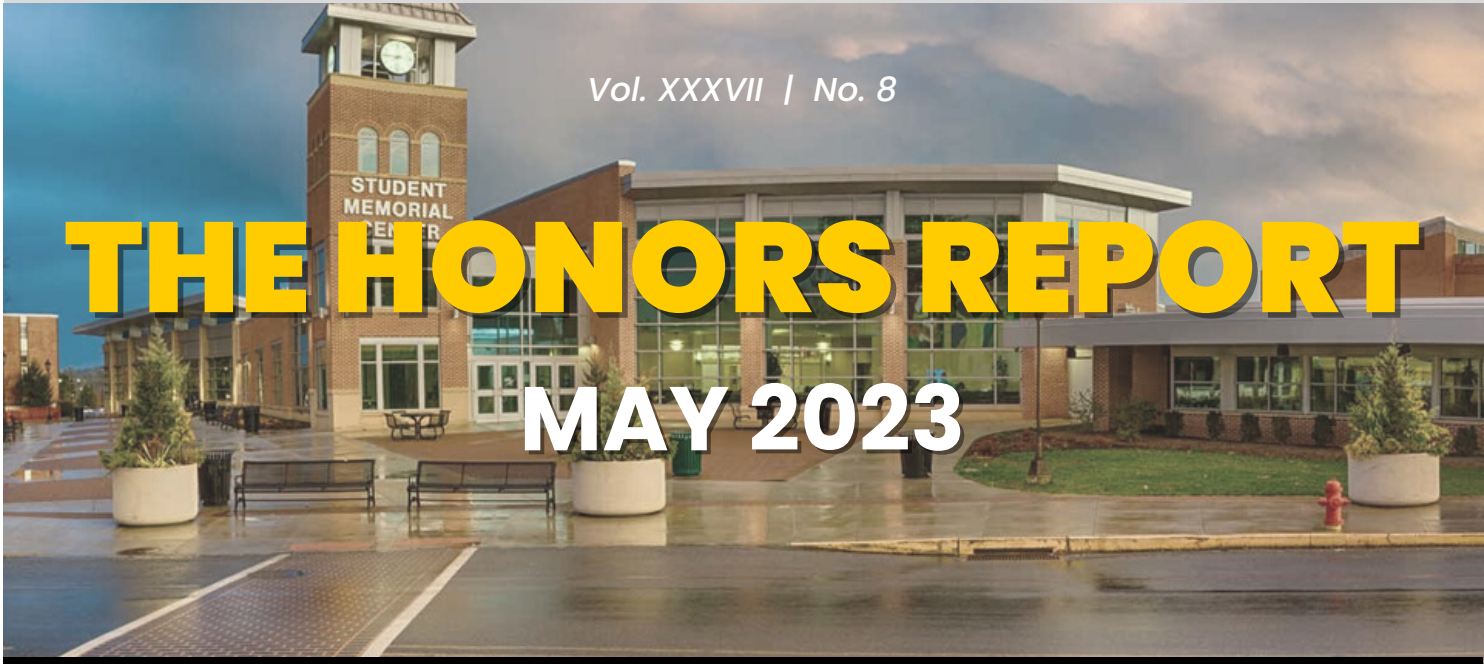


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THE HONORS REPORT

MAY 2023



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The Honors Report is looking to feature Honors College student 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 Dr. Thyrum or Kereah Keller with your ideas.

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Millersville University
HONORS COLLEGE

GOOD-BYE TO DR. THYRUM



Dr. Thyrum

Dr. Thyrum is stepping down from her role as Honors College director after six years. She will return to her role as a professor of psychology.

Along with being an Honors College faculty, Dr. Thyrum is also an Honors College alumni. She graduated from Millersville's original Honors Program.

Dr. Thyrum has worked tirelessly to guide students and to make the Honors College the best it can be. While we are sad to see her go, we are grateful for her years of dedication and wish her the best in all her future endeavors!

POINTS OF PRIDE

by Tatum Dolan

Honors College student Leah Miska was named College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District for her achievements both in the classroom and on the Millersville University women's swim team. Leah is currently a junior expecting to graduate in May of 2024; she has a double concentration in International Business and Marketing with a minor in Computer Aided Drafting and Design (CADD).

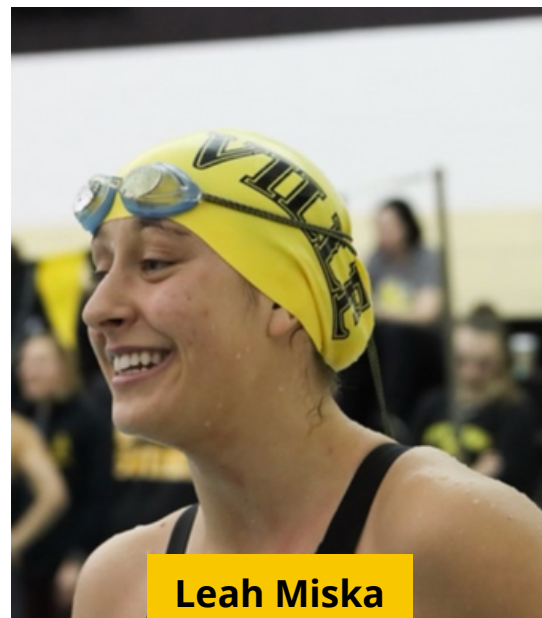
Leah received the CSC Academic All-District award after being nominated by a member of the College Sports Communicators, who receive approximately 20,000 nominations during the academic year across all sports.

The Academic All-District award is given to athletes who display dedication to their sport and education.

In the world of swimming, Leah is considered a "sprinter," as she typically competes in events that are 50-100 yards. Recently, Leah has found success in the butterfly and breast stroke swimming events. This past year, Leah swam in a relay event that broke a pool record, which is an amazing accomplishment.

When approaching new challenges in swimming, Leah considers these opportunities to help her "learn about [herself] as a swimmer."

In her academics, Leah considers herself as someone who "studies best in silence;" thus, she has found great success in using Millersville University resources like the library, the Writing Center, and the Leigh building, a study center for student athletes.



Leah Miska

Article continued onto next page

POINTS OF PRIDE CONT.



Leah swimming

Currently, Leah is an athlete on the Women's Swim Team, a member of the Honors College, the Vice President of the Marauder Fund Organization, a member of the Slip and Score Society, and a student worker.

To any incoming freshman, Leah would advise students to be as involved as possible on the Millersville campus. By being a part of a variety of activities, Leah feels as though

students have no other choice but to organize their schedules. When going to college, students are given the opportunity to continue to find new things that interest them, so they should find something new that they enjoy.

The Honors College would like to congratulate Leah on all of her accomplishments!

KAYLA TRACEY INTERVIEW

interview by Bronte Spidalieri

Kayla Tracey is our new Honors College Peer Mentor! Kayla is a freshman Biology major with a concentration in animal behavior. See Kayla's thoughts on her goals as a Peer Mentor below!

Why Kayla wanted to be a Peer Mentor:

"I like being able to help people. I saw this as a great opportunity to influence others in the Honors College by planning and overseeing events, assisting the director, and taking on any necessary tasks."

Kayla's goals for the Honors College:

"My goal is making the program more community-based and allowing ourselves to connect with others.

We don't always have time to do things together, especially outside of our normal class curriculum."

Kayla's priority as a Peer Mentor:

"Helping the incoming freshman class get to know people in the upper-class program by showing them how the program has benefited them - different opportunities with the living learning community, connections among the members, and all the different experiences they are able to have through Honors College.

Planning and promoting is the overall responsibility of this mentorship program."



Kayla Tracey

interviews by Elias Peluso

What time is it? Summer time! It's our vacation. After another hardworking semester in the Honors College, some of your classmates have shared their exciting plans following finals:

"I will be a working in Silver Springs, Maryland at NOAA's Climate Program Office as their Lapenta Intern. The project I will be working on is 'Data Visualization and/or Information Management for Earth Radiation Budget.'" **-Keelie Steiner, Major in Meteorology, Minors in Mathematics and Emergency Management, Class of May 2024**



"I plan on interning at WeatherWorks and working as a cashier at my local grocery store. Meanwhile, I also plan to enjoy the time with my friends and family at home." **-Josh Kinsky, Major in Meteorology, Minors in Emergency Management and Mathematics, Class of May 2024**



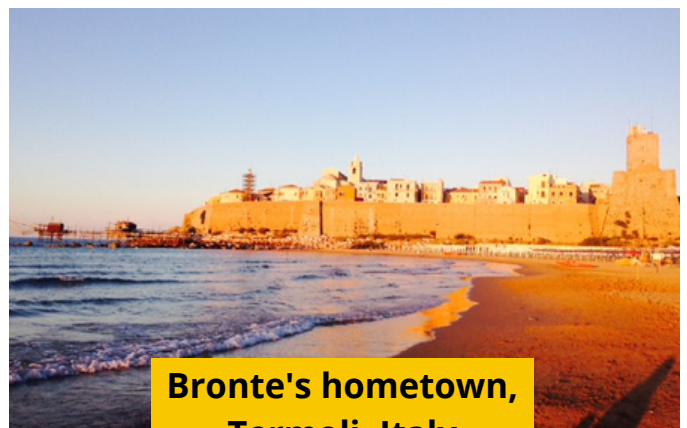
Keelie Steiner



Bronte Spidaliere

"I have a lot planned this summer: I'm taking three art, business, and marketing courses, initiating my thesis, and traveling back home to Italy to tour graduate schools and celebrate with my friends and family. I'm so thrilled for this new wave of opportunities coming my way, as 2023 is a year of achievement and positivity!" **-Bronte A. Spidaliere, Major in International Business, Minor in Psychology, Class of December 2023**

"I'm going to be getting a job at my local Starbucks this summer. I'll also be going to Baha Mar in The Bahamas in June." **-Austin Carroll, Major in Meteorology, Class of May 2026**



Bronte's hometown, Termoli, Italy



Claire Webber

"I will be doing an Internship in South Korea this summer. I will be a marketing and English Tour Guide Intern for a tourism company called Adventure Korea!" **-Claire Webber, Major in Music Industry, Minor in Entrepreneurship, Class of May 2024**

Article continued onto next page

"I will be spending another summer in Tuscaloosa, Alabama as an Outdoor Coordinator for a camp company! I will create lessons for each age group of all five camps each week with a focus on outdoor activities and science." -**Kennedy Ross, Dual Major in Early Childhood Education and Special Education, Class of May 2024**



Kennedy Ross



Rebekah Holmes

"I will be the Archaeology Collections Intern at Plimoth Patuxet Museums in Plymouth, Massachusetts for the summer. I will be working with the Site Archaeologist and Collections Manager to rehouse artifacts for better accessibility and work on digitizing collections for public accessibility." -**Rebekah Holmes, Major in Anthropology-Archaeology, Class of December 2023**



"[I'm going to] relax and catch-up on stuff I couldn't do during the semester. I also have a bunch of notes I didn't get to that I want to finish (I'm not paying for the classes to not get all the notes)." -**Jeremy Gregory-D'Amico, Majors in Biology with a concentration in Botany, Chemistry, and Mathematics, Minor in Physics, Class of May 2024**



Elias Peluso

"Elias Peluso, now that you've graduated Millersville University, what are you going to do next? I'm going to Disney World! (the Disney College Program)." -**Elias Peluso (he/him), Major in Robotics and Control Systems, Class of May 2023**

MEET YOUR LIBRARIANS: TATIANA PASHKOVA-BALKENHOL

Tatiana Pashkova-Balkenhol is the Undergraduate Research and Instruction Librarian at the McNairy Library and Learning Forum. Tatiana is the subject librarian for Music, Office of International Programs and Services, and Social Work. Contact her at tatiana.pashkova-balkenhol@millersville.edu or find her on the library website.

Q: What's your favorite thing about working at the library?

A: "Working with students and discovering something new together."

Q: Current research interests?

A: "Communities of practice; undergraduate student research."

Q: Favorite quote?

A: "'Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that is stupid.' - Albert Einstein."

Q: What's your favorite movie?

A: "I like comedies, TV show series, such as Parks & Recreation; Working Moms..."

Q: Where would you like to travel?

A: "Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Greece, Costa Rica..."

Q: If you won a second home that could be anywhere in the world, where would it be?

A: "A beach house in Greece."

Q: If you have a pet or pets, share something about them?

A: "I have a dog, Brownie, who has brown spots and is sweet like dessert; he is the best communicator and listener."



Tatiana Pashkova-Balkenhol



RESEARCH TOOLKIT

For Summer- Relax or Research? Or, maybe a little of both? Check out these library resources and services over the summer.

Relax

If you need a break during Finals Week or during the summer, visit our Finals Week Activities page (bit.ly/McNairybreak). The page includes links to lots of relaxing activities, whether you like to engage your creative side, challenge yourself with brain games, or practice meditation and mindfulness.

You can also stop by our Leisure Reading section (just past the main desk) to find some fiction to enjoy!



Finals Week Activity Page



Leisure Reading Section

Research

To stay (at least a little) engaged with your Honors Thesis over the summer, make a plan. Specific, actionable goals and a routine will go a long way in making progress. See Atlassian's blog post on making SMART goals bit.ly/3o2VqWt.

Whether you're brainstorming, performing research, or searching for citations, librarians are available over the summer to help you out. You can Ask a Librarian your questions from 11am-4pm Mon-Thurs and 11am-2pm on Fridays. Or, make an appointment bit.ly/MULibAppt.

If you need to meet at another time, feel free to contact your subject librarian directly (find them on the library's website in the About the Library section) or email ResearchHelp@millersville.edu.

interviews by Karina Hossain

Welcome, incoming Honors students! Below, you'll find some tips, tricks, and advice from your fellow Honors students to help you make the most of your Honors experience!

"My best advice is to find that circle of close friends but never be afraid to expand that circle as well. I feel like I am pushed to my full potential when I am surrounded by other students who are focused on both their academic and athletic careers." - **Claire Weaver, Major in Education, Minor in Integrated STEM Methods**

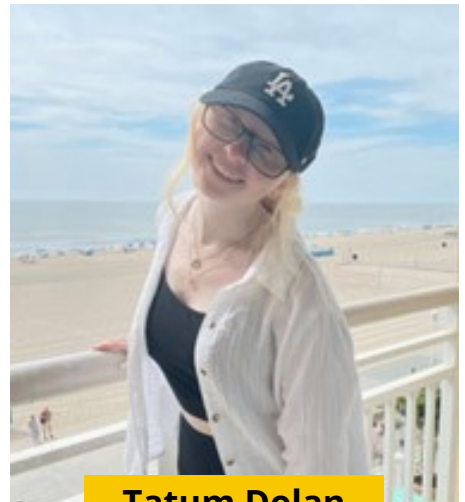


Claire Weaver



Katherine Pelagatti

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"Being a woman in STEM in the Honors College has taught me to work hard for my grades! I would say to stay on top of all of your assignments, but also make sure to take breaks and pace yourself." - **Katherine Pelagatti, Major in Biology with a Pre-Med concentration**



Tatum Dolan

.....
"My advice would be to study just as hard for lectures as you would for a lab. There is always something productive you can be doing, even on the days when you relax. Remember to always study in advance for tests, so you don't get behind!" - **Tatum Dolan, Major in Biology with a Pre-Med concentration**

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"My advice for incoming freshmen would be to make sure to stay organized and get involved as much as possible. I found it helpful to write out a weekly schedule for myself of all my assignments and events to attend." - **Kayla Harchuska, Major in Psychology**



Kayla Harchuska

.....
"I would recommend getting to know your professors at the beginning of the semester. Try not to wait last minute to do work because it will get very stressful." - **Thomas McCrea, Major in Secondary Education in Biology**



Thomas McCrea

Our Honors College spring graduates have worked very hard throughout their academic careers! Below, read about a few of our May 2023 graduates, their Honors College experiences, and their future plans.

Taylor Green will graduate with a major in Digital Journalism and a minor in Strategic Public Relations. Her thesis was titled, "An Analysis of Abbott Elementary Through the Lens of Black Placemaking."

During her time at Millersville, Taylor was involved with the College Democrats of Millersville, where she served as vice president, and with The Snapper as a staff writer. She also worked as a Residential Assistant in the Honors College housing in South Village.

Her favorite memory of Millersville is when Ismail Smith-Wade-El, son of Rita Smith-Wade-El, visited the College Democrats to talk about his campaign and platform when he was running for State Representative. Taylor says, "Not only was it great to meet him, but to learn more about local politics and issues affecting the Lancaster community was very insightful."



Taylor Green

After graduation Taylor plans to continue her work in social media management, because it is a constantly evolving industry and many brands and companies need people who are well-versed in social media operations to improve their marketing development. Congratulations, Taylor!



Lauren Watkins

Lauren Watkins will graduate with a major in Finance and minor in Mathematics. Her thesis was titled "The Need for Financial Literacy in Lancaster County."

During her time at Millersville, Lauren was involved in the Student Investment Association and Marauder Fund, where she served as president. She also founded and served as president of the MU Women in Business Club and was awarded with the Beideman Honors College Endowment.

Lauren's favorite Honors College memory is participating in bus trips with her roommates and forming long-lasting friendships.

Lauren has accepted a job at M&T Bank, where she will work in bank management after graduation. She also has plans to eventually get her MBA. Best of luck, Lauren!



**Great job this semester, Honors College!
Have a fun and safe summer!**