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THE HONORS REPORT

NOVEMBER 2021



Keep up the great work!
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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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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Nov 3 at 6 am- Priority Registration – Make sure you have your TAP # and CRNs ready to go!

Sunday, Nov 7 at 7 pm - HCSA meeting

Thursday, Nov 11 at noon – Pizza for Commuters Luncheon in Franklin House

Wednesday, Nov 17 – Mentoring Communities Day – activities include, with more details coming:

12:00- Pretzels on the Porch – Join us at Franklin House!

2:00-6:00 – Tote Decorating

Sunday, Nov 21 at 1 pm - Honors College Recognition Banquet – Please come out and join us for our Honors College Banquet. At this event, we will recognize our December graduates, graduates from the last three semesters, and the accomplishments of other honors students. A nice time to get dressed up a bit and enjoy delicious food from the hot buffet.



On the left, our honors students enjoy a Pretzels on the Porch event! On the right, the last Fall Recognition Banquet from 2019 - we are looking forward to having this event again!

THESIS TIP

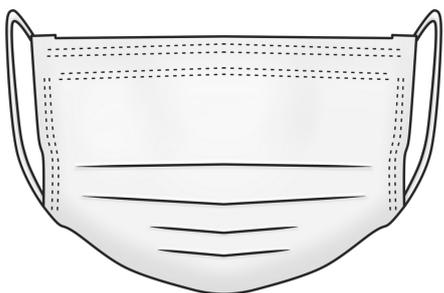
Senior Elyse Clay in Molecular Biology, graduating in Fall 2022, offers a thesis tip to students: "I suggest getting started sooner rather than later to avoid procrastination. But it is also important to choose an advisor that fits your interests and who you are excited to work with. They will be your best resource as you work through your thesis."

MASK REMINDER

by Coleman Wheeler

Here at Millersville, the COVID-19 pandemic has been present at varying levels of intensity for over one and a half years. With the extended pandemic comes the extended need for diligence in protecting our community by following CDC guidelines and University-prescribed best practices to maintain our in-person status.

Among the essential guidelines and practices is the now use of masks by all when indoors at MU. There is no question about the efficacy of masking for protecting those around us from COVID-19. Masking may not be an enjoyable part of a student's everyday life, but we cannot fall victim to pandemic fatigue and disregard masks. Despite this fatigue, it is necessary that we not let our compliance with masking indoors waver.



Tempting though it may seem, vaccination does not permit us to stop masking. The CDC has made it explicit that the fully vaccinated are entirely capable of spreading the predominant Delta variant of COVID-19. The inclination to believe that, upon vaccination, our personal pandemic is over cannot outweigh the fact that the collective pandemic is not. Therefore, if we want to keep our community open and safe, our diligence in complying with masking is paramount.

Keep masking up, honor students, to protect our campus community so that we may remain healthy and face-to-face!

FALL 2021 HONORS ALUMNI PANEL

by Joseph Favoroso



On September 27, alumni of the Honors College were invited to a Q&A panel for current honors students, with a focus on the process of entering and acclimating to graduate school. Most of the attendees were first- and second-year students, looking to filter their options and set a course for their academic career. Seven of the alum spoke virtually over Zoom with one alumni, Chelsey Wirth, present in the room with us.

Article continued onto next page

PANEL CONT.

We had many alums pursuing future research in Meteorology, such as Tim Keebler, a third-year Ph.D. student through the University of Michigan; and former roommates Shelby Fuller and Alyssa Cannistraci, both M.S., who both work in government-funded weather research labs, located in Cheyenne, WY, and Boulder City, CO, respectively.

Alumni have a balance between preparation and flexibility. It is important that students, even in the undergraduate program, have a plan for what they want to do, depending on their career. Joy Thames, a Chemistry Ph.D. student, decided she wanted to go into graduate school during her junior year of the bachelor program, and recommended the same for other STEM majors. Chelsey, on the other hand, worked for about a year and a half in between finishing her undergrad program and starting on her Masters in Public Health through Penn State. Still, though, even with a fleshed-out plan, Alyssa suggested it was important to take advice and listen to different perspectives, to stay open-minded towards alternate paths, even within one's career field. She, for example, once collected data on a tornado by monitoring social media feeds on platforms such as Twitter.

Beyond our academic lives, we learned about the adjustment from campus life to branching out and moving to different schools. Shelby made it a point to join clubs, both for the leadership opportunities and because of their inaccessibility during graduate years, when students find themselves dealing with greater educational, financial, and general living responsibilities.

Anne Mitzel balances many of these responsibilities. Although she is working towards her master's through Penn State's Teaching and Curriculum program, she has managed to find work as a fifth-grade teacher in Manchester, along with coaching the school's swim team and refurbishing her first house.

Grad students also commented on the pros and cons of grad school - whereas many of these large universities did not offer the same level of community we have at Millersville, the diversity in age, culture, and life experience shared among graduate students offered them new experiences and perspectives, as well as the skills to work with people outside their own demographic.

Overall, the members of the panel were glad to have participated in the Honors College and found that the time management skills they obtained within it helped them manage different facets of adult life both in and out of the workplace.

We appreciate these alumni who took the time to share their experiences with our honors students! We wish them the best as they continue in their careers and in graduate school!

WASHINGTON D.C. HIGHLIGHT

by Camryn Gurecki

On Saturday, October 2, members of the Honors College, joined by Dr. Thyrum, woke up bright and early to catch the bus down to Washington D.C. Upon arrival, students were given the unique opportunity to independently explore all that the nation's capital has to offer, from stunning monuments to fascinating museums. For many students, this was their first time in Washington D.C., and there could not have been a more beautiful day to visit the vibrant, historical, and unforgettable city!

"I am grateful to the Honors College for organizing trips like the one to Washington DC. This was my first time there, and I had an amazing experience. My favorite thing I saw was the Reflection Pool by the Lincoln Memorial because it felt so peaceful." - Kelly Sprenkel

"Beside the Washington Monument, there were over 700,000 white flags as far as the eye could see, one for every life lost in the United States because of the [COVID] pandemic. Some of the flags were decorated with love letters from grieving families; I was in tears reading them. This display should serve as a reminder of the struggle our country is facing." - Brooke Taylor

"It felt so surreal being in a place where so much history has happened and so many important people have been. I was in awe the whole time." -Natalie Brown

"I met a great group of girls, and we had an adventurous day visiting several Smithsonian museums and the Lincoln Memorial. I also ate at the Cheesecake Factory for the first time!" - Bronte Spidaliere



HOMECOMING PARADE - HOMETOWN HEROES

by Elias Peluso

The return from Fall Break on October 13 marked the beginning of one of MU's biggest celebrations: Homecoming Week! Some of the festivities included craft activities, a mind reader, the 8th annual Pridefest, and a drag show, but the biggest event was the annual Homecoming Parade.

On October 16, hundreds of guests lined the 1.5-mile parade route that began at Penn Manor High School and looped around to the Student Memorial Center. This year's theme was "Hometown Heroes," so many of the floats were decorated to show support for essential workers, such as those in healthcare, education, and law enforcement. The Honors College even decorated a parade float, joining the parade lineup to show their support! Here's what some of our fellow classmates have to say about the event:

"I had a great time performing with the band during the Homecoming parade. The streets were lined with eager fans, families, and classmates all around. It was great, being able to see our community come together and celebrate Millersville!" -Joseph Favoroso

"It was my first time walking in the parade and I really enjoyed it, from the 1.5 miles walk, the conversations with peers, watching families campout to see us, and seeing some alumni." -Cedrick Kazadi (He/Him), Class of 2022

"The Homecoming Parade was definitely worth waking up early on a Saturday! I enjoyed watching the parade from Franklin House and cheering on all the organizations as they passed by. It was so cool meeting Honors College alumni too." -Teagan Gallagher (She/Her), Class of 2024

"Elias and I woke up early and headed over to Penn Manor for breakfast together. We served as escorts to 2 inflatables, a policeman and a nurse, and I was given the chance to wave to hundreds of spectators while standing on a green truck." -Bronte Spidaliere (She/Her), Class of May 2023

"The Homecoming Parade was a fun and memorable event. It truly displayed the beauty of the supportive community we are a part of." -Paul Lipinski (They/Them), Class of 2023

Check out photos on the next page

HOMECOMING CONT.



top left- honors students march in the parade

top right - Elias Peluso escorts an inflatable policeman

middle - Karla's car was all decked out for the parade

bottom left- honor students gathered after marching to watch the rest of the parade

bottom right- HC alumni and Dr. Thyrum watching the parade from the porch

NOELLE HTWAR: BALANCING ATHLETICS WITH HONORS COLLEGE

Interview Conducted by Leah Freeman

Noelle Htwar, a sophomore majoring in Early Childhood Education with a minor in STEM, not only goes about her day as a hardworking and exemplary Honors College student but also fits her athletic passion into her schedule. She is also on the woman's tennis team. After all her hard work balancing her schedule in order to achieve academically and athletically, we wanted to recognize her efforts and congratulate her for her successes. Great job, Noelle!

Article continued onto next page

NOELLE CONT.



Q: How do you feel your time at MU, the Honors College, and athletics has affected your college career?

A: "The main reason I chose to attend MU was for their education program, and I am already experiencing the benefits as a sophomore. Last week I started my field placement in a 3rd and 4th-grade classroom and have learned so much already. It's incredible being able to work in a school this early in the program.

The Honors College is such a great resource for students. I really enjoy living in the LLC with students who share the same academic values as I do. Both athletics and the Honors College have pushed me to do the best I can in my classes.

Q: Please briefly tell me about your experiences and feelings with playing Tennis at Millersville and attending championships!

A: "My experience with MU Tennis has been kind of crazy: during the fall semester of my freshman year, we didn't have a season because of COVID. My first official season with the team was in the spring of 2020. It's been so exciting to be part of such a successful team, and I'm really proud of what we have accomplished together. Coming into this season as the 2020 PSAC Freshman of the Year was a bit intimidating, but I feel like my teammates and I have had a really successful fall season. My doubles partner, Julie Wallace, and I won the back draw for ITA women's double—which was a huge win for us! I can't wait to see what we accomplish in the spring."

Q: How do you balance your athletic career, professional career, Honors academic career, and social life?

A: "I won't lie, it can be a bit stressful at times, but I think the most important thing is setting attainable goals and deadlines for yourself. Honestly, I think tennis has given me a schedule that allows me to build everything else around it."

Q: Do you have any tips for students who are struggling with finding that balance?

A: "My advice is to make sure you make time for yourself. Academics are really important, don't get me wrong, but make sure to have some fun too! When studying, take breaks and do something you enjoy—even if it's only for 20 minutes. The key is the balance, but it's going to be different for everyone. So, find what works for you."