

VOL. XXXV

NO. 6

THE HONORS REPORT

MARCH 2021



Spring is on the horizon! Keep working hard!

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Announcement: Honors College students, be sure you are submitting your **volunteer hours to D2L!** To do this, go under "Assessment" and then "Assignments" in the University Honors College D2L. You can click "Honors College Service Documentation" and submit a photo or scan of your signed Community Service Form (located to be printed or downloaded in "Content", and then under "Community Service Requirement Information Form, and Service Opportunities"), along with photo proof of the event and your contribution, if possible. If you completed an Honors College or HCSA event, you don't need documentation, just enter the name/date/length of the event.

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Millersville University
 HONORS COLLEGE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT FALL 2021 REGISTRATION

Don't forget! Honors students have the benefit of priority registration, which will be **Wednesday, April 7 at 6 am.**

From now until the April 7, it is crucial you seek advisement from your academic advisor(s). You may also meet with Dr. Thyrum for advisement related to the Honors College and your honors curriculum.

Dr. Thyrum will be reaching out to sign-up for group advisement sessions held for honors students in the same year. Anyone who has an Honors College Scholarship is required to meet with Dr. Thyrum prior to registration.

Please begin thinking ahead about your advisement needs. Please explore the article below for tips on getting the most from your advisement meetings, and utilize the Zoom Office Hours for assistance from Dr. Thyrum, Beth, and our peer mentors, Michael and Alanna. Don't forget - you need your **TAP** number in order to register on April 7 for your fall courses.

We will have our virtual **Registration Ice Cream Social on March 31 at 7 pm**

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR ADVISEMENT APPOINTMENT

By Leah Freeman

While it is required that Honors students see their advisor for their major and(or) their Honors advisor, Dr. Thyrum, at least once a semester, students should not see this appointment as another event filling up their schedule. Advising appointments do not have to happen only once a semester in order to receive a TAP number. Students should utilize their advisors and reach out for meetings anytime they feel like one would be helpful. That is why advisors are here: to advise you on the decisions you plan to or are in the process of making! A student could email their advisor anytime, but if there is a topic they want to discuss that they feel will take more of a back-and-forth discussion—such as planning for a thesis or project, scheduling future classes, navigating the degree audit, etc. Students should be sure to utilize their advisor's office hours or reach out to them about planning a Zoom meeting. To get the most out of your advisement meeting, prepare what you want to discuss with your advisor—especially if this is the one appointment a semester you plan to meet with your advisor.

Statement from Beth Roberts, Honors College

Administrative Assistant:

“Review your degree audit, the blue sheet [your curriculum sheet for your major], and a four-year plan for your major prior to your advising appointment, so you have an idea of what you want and need before you meet with your advisor.”

“Honors students really should meet with both Dr. Thyrum and their major advisor for registration advisement.”



Advice from Dr. Elizabeth Thyrum, Director of the University Honors College:

“In order to prepare for the advising appointment, students should start by reviewing their degree audit to ensure all their courses are appearing on it appropriately. Students should also access the web schedule to identify courses they might be interested in taking for the upcoming semester. (Note: Schedule builder isn’t always the best way to go because it doesn’t always access or include courses with lab times.)”

“It’s also great to consider other ways you can work towards enriching your experience at Millersville, such as employment, internship, study abroad, research with a professor, joining a club in your major, etc. Your advisor might ask you about your plans. They might also inquire you about your plans for the upcoming summer break. Be prepared to share information about that.”
 “Please appear at the appointment ready to take notes and share your list of courses that you’re considering taking.”

“Share any concerns you have about anything that might be affecting your performance or experience at Millersville. Professors care, and we want to assist and guide you however we can!”

ZOOM OFFICE HOURS CALENDAR

Monday:

Beth: 9-11am
 Michael: 11-12am
 Dr. Thyrum: 1-2pm

Tuesday:

Beth: 9-11am
 Michael: 12-1pm
 Dr. Thyrum: 12:15-1:15 pm
 Alanna: 3-4pm

Thursday:

Beth: 9-11am
 Dr. Thyrum: 12:15-1:15 pm
 Alanna: 3-4pm

Wednesday:

Beth: 9-11am
 Dr. Thyrum: 1-2pm
 Michael: 2-3pm

Friday:

Beth: 9-11am
 Dr. Thyrum: 1-2pm
 Alanna: 4-5pm

ZOOM MEETING ROOMS:

[Dr. Thyrum's Personal Room:](#)
 (meeting ID 294 629 5508)

[Beth's Personal Room:](#)
 (meeting ID 591 208 1934)

[Alanna's Personal Room:](#)
 (meeting ID 770 891 1082)

[Michael's Personal Room:](#)
 (meeting ID 472 049 3672)

LINKEDIN INFORMATION SESSION

By Michael Skros

On February 1, the Honors College hosted a LinkedIn Information Session. Margo Sassaman from Millersville's Office of Experiential Learning & Career Management presented via Zoom about setting up a LinkedIn Profile, networking with other users, crafting a resume, and applying to internships.

The presentation demonstrated the importance of every Honors student creating a LinkedIn account in order to increase their professional presence online. LinkedIn allows users to connect with others in their profession and search for job opportunities. The Honors College has its own LinkedIn Group ("Millersville Honors College") that you can join in order to connect with other Honors students, as well as Honors College alumni. Please join our group!

Thank you to ELCM and Margo Sassaman for speaking with us about LinkedIn!

HONORS STUDENTS COPING DURING QUARANTINE



Elias Peluso, Sophomore, Class of Spring 2023, Bachelor of Science in Robotics and Control Systems Technology
Has been enjoying the snow!

Leah Freeman, third-year student, Class of '21 or '22, English- Concentration in Writing, ESL/Linguistics and Psychology minors

"During quarantine, I picked up reading again! I have missed it and probably have not read for fun before this since high school... It took a long time to discover what kind of books I like, but it was worth it! Reach out to me if you need any book suggestions!"



Bronte Spidaliere, sophomore, Class of 2023, Psychology major
Has been enjoying cuddling on the couch with her cat named Bijou.!

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT INTERVIEW: DR. CLARENCE MAXWELL

Interview conducted by Madeline Engleman

Dr. Maxwell is an assistant professor for Latin American and Caribbean History. He is the coordinator for the Atlantic World Studies major as well as co-director of the MU Atlantic World Center with Dr. Timothy Trussell. We thank him for his dedication to the Honors College through his teaching SSCI 203H - Honors Exploration of the History of Ideas.



Q: When did you begin your time as a faculty member at Millersville University?

A: "August of 2005. Hearing it now, it seems like a very long time ago, but it feels like I just started."

Q: Where did you get your degrees and education from?

A: "My first degree was a BA in English, I received that from Saint Leo College (now University) in Florida. My second degree, a BA in International Relations, was from Keele University in England. I got my MA in Historical Research at the University of Hull in England. I received my last degree, a Ph.D. in Caribbean Studies, from the University of Warwick, which is also in England."

Q: When did you realize you wanted to work in the department you currently work in?

A: "There was a position open for a Caribbeanist. I had been studying and living in the UK for so long and wanted to come back to the United States for more than the occasional visit. I wanted to live here. My mother studied at Millersville in 1955, 50 years before I came to work here, so I guess I am also sort of a legacy. That's how it connects for me."

Q: What are your teaching methods during these past semesters with the changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

A: "The main change is that the tutorials [in class discussions of the readings] are now held on discussion boards online. This is challenging because this class is based on interactional, argumentative methodology. Also, most of my classes are asynchronous, and I only meet with them once a week, so there is very limited interaction. All of my lectures that would be in person and starting off the conversations in the tutorials are now online as well. Once everything with COVID is over I am hopeful it will go back to the usual."

Article continued onto next page

DR. CLARENCE MAXWELL CONT.

Q: What do you enjoy most about being an Honors College professor?

A: "Everything. I love the student interaction; you get to maintain a close connection with the honors students. The material is not easy; it's intellectual, and it really challenges the students to think. Another thing I enjoy is that I am re-learning as the students are learning for the first time. I am re-reading the materials as the students bring up new perspectives that I had not thought of or seen before. I also enjoy working with the director of the college, Dr. Thyrum, who is fantastic to work with. The Honors College has always had great directors. Working with the Honors College has been a highlight in my career at Millersville. Another highlight has been being able to collaborate with Dr. Trussell, Dr. Prabhu, and others to set up the Atlantic World major and an Atlantic World Center that I mentioned before. Overall, being an honors professor teaching honors students and honors curriculum has been difficult in a good way."

Q: Is there anything you would like to say to the honors students?

A: "Keep curious. Keep mentally engaged and keep questioning."



Images from: <https://bernews.com/2021/02/bhm-dinner-to-honour-dr-clarence-maxwell/>

Also, we would like to recognize Dr. Maxwell for his recent recognition at a Black History Month dinner on Friday, February 26, where he had the honor of presenting on Black Bermudian history and its influences on the Atlantic World. Thank you for being a fantastic Honors College professor!

MASK-MAKING EVENT AND INTERVIEW WITH KATIE PHEYSEY

By Elias Peluso



Sophomore Katie Pheysey (pictured above) organized the mask-making event.

I had the pleasure of interviewing sophomore Honors College student Katie Pheysey about her recent feat of jump-starting a new community service event. On February 9, Katie hosted Millersville's first face mask-making event. During this session, five volunteers gathered socially distant in the Franklin House. However, this single event is not the scope of this service activity. Volunteers can help from home, on their own time, and no sewing experience is required. Masks can be dropped off at Franklin House.

Go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-make-cloth-face-covering.html> to find out how to make a proper mask.

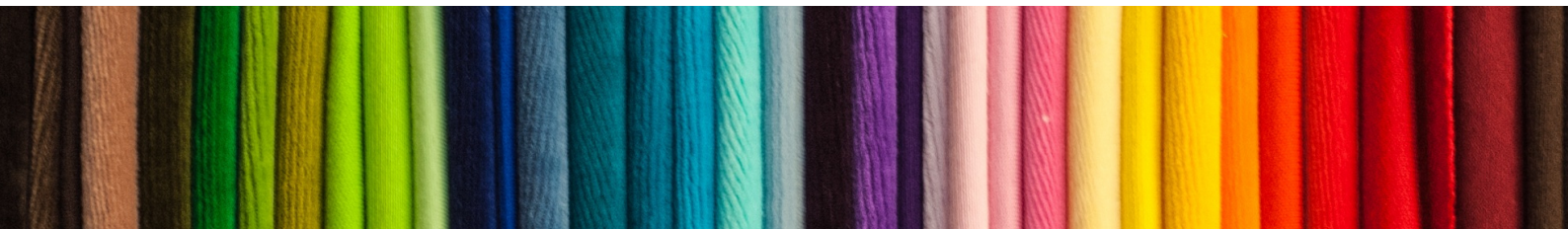
Anyone interested may contact kdpheyse@millersville.edu for more information. The highlights of the interview are detailed below:

Q. "How did you come up with this event idea? What was your inspiration?"

A. "We were running low on [community service] ideas at the time because it was the first full semester we were all online. It was like: 'How do we [volunteer]?!' I just thought to myself. 'What can I do at home and still make an impact?' I think we all did our volunteering at 'a place.'...We can't really do that if places are closed down. So, then I thought to myself...'What are my skills, what can I contribute?' I think that answers it pretty well."

Q. "How did you gather the materials?"

A. "In terms of just gathering materials, I really tried to emphasize [to volunteers] 'you have to bring your own stuff.' So that way, there was less of a risk of cross-contamination... That's something that we're going to keep going [for potential future events]; that you have to bring your own materials."



Article continued onto next page

MASK-MAKING EVENT AND INTERVIEW WITH KATIE PHEYSEY CONT.



A variety of patterned fabrics have been cut and are ready to be sewn into masks! (far right)

Volunteers (above) work to cut out mask fabric to be sewn.

Q. "How did the actual event go on February 9?"

A. "Overall, it was really good...the thing that I was most content with was that people seemed to do their measurements really well...there is some wiggle room I've found; if it's slightly off, it's fine, because I think Water Street likes it when you have different sizes to accommodate different face shapes and all. People really put some thought into the materials they bought, and the process of cutting out and measuring. People took this very seriously, and it's a repetitive task...but they did really well with it. I was really happy with that, and everyone seemed to be happy with it."

Q. "Is there anything you'd like people to know about this event?"

A. "This is an event, but the event is part of a larger project. What I mean by that is, even if you couldn't come to the event for whatever reason...whatever it may be, there are still ways you can participate. One of the great things about this type of activity is that it is something you can do from home."

Thank you, Katie, for your contribution! And thank you volunteers for your participation in this event!

ADAM LOVING COMIC BOOK

By Leah Freeman

Adam Loving, Art Education Major, '21, recently published the comic book he created for his thesis called *Renaissance Men*. Within it, he highlights some of the major events of the Italian Renaissance through narration by Giorgio Vasari, who is considered to be the first art historian.

His inspiration came from his experience studying abroad in Italy in 2019.

"I came home and was reading some comic books as I was compiling all of my art history notes together, and the two ideas just came together in my head," said Loving.

However, everyone meets obstacles, and Loving has looked back on one of his biggest struggles he faced when working on this creative project.

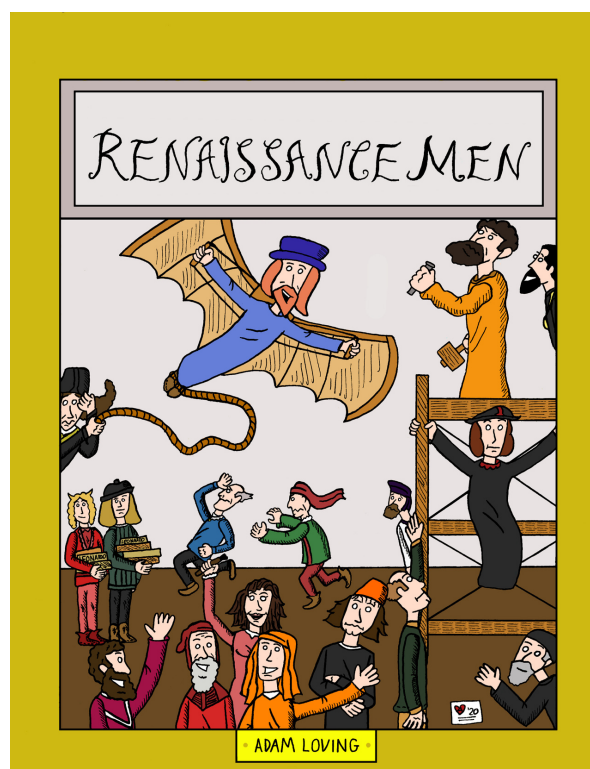
"Time," said Loving. "It's always time that's such a big obstacle. I started drawing the pages in June and pretty much worked on it nonstop for at least eight hours a day until I had physical copies in my hand. I just tried my best to keep a schedule to try and balance when I needed to work, and when I knew I needed to step away from it."

During the process of creating his thesis, Loving had won the Nolt Family Scholarship Endowment in early May 2020. This Millersville award helped pay for supplies, research materials, and publishing fees.

Loving also feels his thesis committee, and many others were also a big help in tackling this project.

"My thesis committee helped by giving me great feedback to make my book the best it can be," said Loving. "[Along with] friends, family, and anyone else that showed interest in my project, and who put the pressure on me, in a good way, to want my book to look its best."

Loving credits his success in completing his creative project and Honors thesis, overall, to his own interest in the topic. He offers the following advice to those beginning their thesis exploration: "...pick a thesis topic that you have an interest in...I have heard a lot of stories about people struggling to find the motivation to finish their thesis because they had little interest in what they were researching."



The cover of Adam's published book, *Renaissance Man*

HUNTER DAVIS POETRY COLLECTION



Honors student Hunter Davis, Class of 2022, French and Spanish Education major, talks about a poetry collection that he has been working on. The collection is now published and available on Amazon in paperback and ebook. Congratulations, Hunter!

“Pinstripes, Brandy Queen, and the Rabbit Behind the Patio” is a collection of poems that I’ve been working on with my friend, David Wentzel, for a couple of years. There’s no message in the book, hidden or otherwise, and there’s no real rhyme or reason behind it— just that writing is a pastime for us, and we’ve done a good bit of it.

“We started this book when I was maybe 17 (David would’ve been 16), and so you’ll find a lot of that sort of angsty teenage element that’s all about realizing that everyone experiences things that one might call hardship, not just you. In the same vein, there’s a decent smattering of young idealism in there, and dealing with getting older is often summarized by coffee and cigarettes. But little by little, the further elongated you get from that sense of having inherited adulthood, the triumphs become less triumphant, and the little losses in life become less solitary, and I think there’s a healthy dose of that in there too.

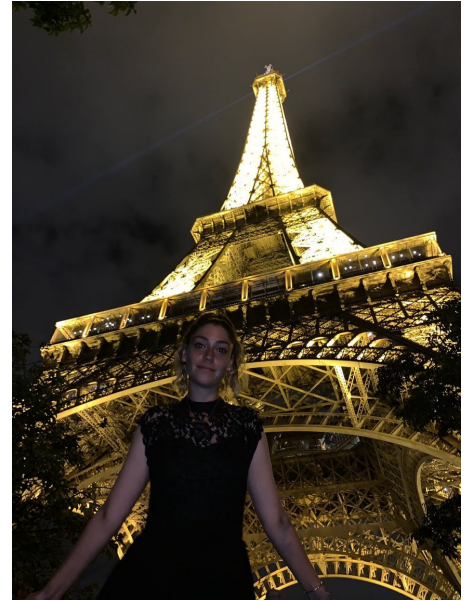
“If I had to summarize it, I’d just say it’s our raggedy testament to a shared love of words, to growing up, and to half-decent imagery we came up with sitting on old railroad cars in our tiny corner of Pennsylvania.”



THESIS TIP AND MOTIVATION OF THE MONTH!

Leah Freeman, third-year student, '21 or '22 graduate, English BA with a Concentration in Writing, ESL/Linguistics and Psychology minors, Thesis in progress:

"I am currently working on a creative project with a research afterword on the feminist genre for my Honors Thesis and for my Departmental Thesis! I have a great committee—Drs. Emily Baldys, Judith Halden-Sullivan, and Timothy Meyers. In taking my first independent study credit to work on my thesis, I am meeting with my thesis advisor, Dr. Baldys, biweekly about my progress, and the rest of my committee I am meeting or updating bimonthly. Hopefully, this gives you an idea of how to start scheduling your own independent study.



"Also, believe it or not, I have never had Dr. Baldys as a professor! I never even met her in person—but I needed an advisor. I looked into English professors and saw her professional studies were similar to what I was looking to study. So, I reached out to her! Do NOT worry about finding a committee because you can reach out to anyone and as many people as possible if needed! So, no need to fear reaching out to any professor."

Attention:

The **Honors Report is looking for student writers** for upcoming issues! If you would like to help us cover Honors College events, interview honors faculty, and have a student writer position to add to your resume, we would love to have you join as a student writer.

If you have an interest or questions, please email our head editor, Natalie Flory at ngflory@millersville.edu.

