

VOL. XXXVI

NO. 9

# THE HONORS REPORT

## SUMMER ORIENTATION 2022



**Welcome to our new Honors College students!  
The Summer Orientation Honors Report edition includes:**

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**The Honors Report features news, reminders, and advice for current and prospective Honors College students and their families. The Report can help students stay informed, connected, and help them learn more about the Honors College.**

**Welcome to the Honors Report, and happy reading!**

**Consulting Editors**  
Beth Roberts  
Dr. Elizabeth Thyrum

**Student Editor**  
Claire DeVinney

**Student Contributors**  
Alanna Bezas, Bronte Spidaliere,  
Claire DeVinney, Elias Peluso,  
Jillian Bergin, Natalie Flory,  
Noelle Htwar, Rebekah Holmes



**Millersville University**  
HONORS COLLEGE

## Honors College Fall 2022 Calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Wed, August 3	4:45 PM	Virtual HC Campus Prep	Online
Sat, August 13	10:00 AM	Virtual HC Campus Prep	Online
Thur, August 18	Afternoon Evening	Freshmen Move In LLC Barbecue Picnic for Families	South Village (SV) Quad
Fri, August 19	10:30 AM	Brunch & Scavenger Hunt	SMC 24
Sun, August 21	Afternoon	Walk Your Schedule	Meet by SV Great Room
Mon, August 22		Fall '21 Classes Begin	
Wed, August 31	4:00 PM	HC Opening Reception	Lehr Dining Room in Gordinier
Mon, Sept 5	7:00 PM	Ice Cream Social & Games	SV Great Room
Thur, Sept 8	12:00 PM	Commuter Pizza Luncheon	Franklin House
Sat, Sept 10	TBA morning to early afternoon	Day of Caring	Meet in SV Great Room
Wed, Sept 14	8:30 AM	Donuts in the Dorm	SV 4th Flr Study Lounge
Wed, Sept 14	10:00 AM	Franklin House Open House/Donuts	Franklin House
Sat, Sept 24	TBA	Bus Trip to Baltimore	Meet at SMC
Thur, Oct 6		Mentoring Community Day	
Thur, Oct 13	12:15-1:00 PM 4:00-5:15 PM	Thesis Day Thesis Q & A Thesis Workshop (required for 2nd year students)	Luek Hall Luek Luek
Sat, Oct 22	7:00 AM	Homecoming Parade	Meet at Franklin House
Tues, Oct 25	7:00 PM	Halloween Registration Party	SV Great Room
Fri, Nov 11		Dorm Event - TBA	
Sat, Nov 19 or Sun, Nov 20	1:00 PM	HC Fall Recognition Banquet	Lehr Dining Room in Gordinier

### 1st Year Meetings - Attendance is required for all first year students at one of the three meetings!

Tues, Sept 27	7:00 PM	Honors College 1st Year Meeting	SV Great Room
Thur, Sept 29	3:00 PM	Honors College 1st Year Meeting	SV Great Room
Fri, Sept 30	3:00 PM	Honors College 1st Year Meeting	SV Great Room

### 2nd Year Meetings - Attendance is required for all 2nd year students at one of these meetings!

Tues, Oct 4	7:00 PM	Honors College 2nd Year Meeting	SV Great Room
Fri, Oct 7	3:00 PM	Honors College 2nd Year Meeting	SV Great Room



# WHO'S WHO IN THE HONORS COLLEGE

**Dr. Elizabeth Thyrum** is the Director of MU's Honors College and a professor of Psychology! Dr. Thyrum is an alumna of MU and the Honors College. She assists honors students with: course selection, thesis, general concerns related to being a student, ways to fulfill honors credits, as well as volunteer service credits and opportunities. She is an advisor for all honors students, in addition to the major advisor. Contact: elizabeth.thyrum@millersville.edu, Rm 200 Franklin House.



**Dr. Elizabeth Thyrum**



**Beth Roberts**

**Beth Roberts** is the Honors College Administrative Assistant! She assists students with general questions and some advisement about courses and academics, Beth helps ensure that Honors College events and activities go smoothly. Beth can be found in Rm 201 Franklin House from 8:30am to 4:30pm on weekdays; she can be reached at (717) 871-7552 or beth.roberts@millersville.edu.

Our 2 **Honors College Peer Mentors** build community in the Honors College and help students navigate campus and academic life. Peer Mentors are available to help with understanding degree audits and schedules, finding tutoring, or anything else students need as they study at Millersville University and move through the Honors College.

**Brenna Chernich** is a new Peer Mentor, and is a 2nd yr Early/Spec Ed major. She can be reached at bgcherni@millersville.edu.



**Brenna Chernich**

**Jess Hetrick** is our returning Peer Mentor and is a 3rd Geology major. She can be reached at jmhetri1@millersville.edu.



**Jess Hetrick**

Each Honors College freshman is also assigned an **Honors College Mentor**, who shares their major and can assist students with academic questions and be a friendly face on campus. **Keep an eye out for a message from your mentor over the summer!**

## PREPPING FOR CAMPUS

**Don't get lost!** To help you find your way, download the Millersville campus map, which can be found at <https://www.millersville.edu/directions/files/CampusMap.pdf>.



**Stay connected!** The Honors College is active on social media. Follow us on Instagram at @ville\_honors and join the Fall 2022 MU Honors College Facebook group to connect with your fellow students.

**Jump right in!** MU has many clubs and activities. The Honors College Student Association (HCSA), for example, is open to all students and plans monthly recreational outings and volunteer opportunities. They meet one Sunday evening per month in the SMC. Take a look at the MU organization directory (<https://involved.millersville.edu/organizations>) and consider becoming involved on campus.



# ADVICE FROM HONORS STUDENTS

Current Honors students share their summer opportunities and advice for incoming students!



**Elias Peluso**

**Elias Peluso is a senior majoring in Robotics and Control Systems Technology.**

**What is Elias doing this summer?** "This summer, I am working as a paraprofessional at my elementary school's summer camp program, and I am returning to Millersville early this Fall to resume work as an Admissions tour guide on The Crew. Aside from this, I have not yet engaged in any robotics major-related jobs, but this summer I am beginning preliminary research for my robotics thesis project."

**Elias's advice for incoming students:** "To incoming students, my advice would be this: don't be afraid to ask for help. Whether you're struggling with course registration or simply need help working the oven, I have found that Millersville's community of students is exceedingly friendly and helpful. In addition to this, Millersville offers almost any resource you could need both online and in person. You may be surprised by both the amount and the utility of Millersville's events and offices."

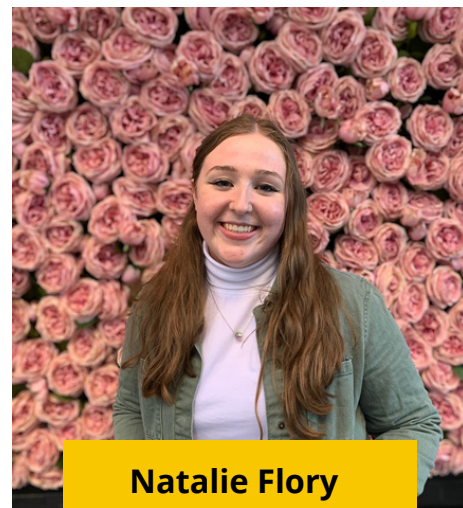
**Elias's advice about the first semester:** "An important distinction I would like to make is that college is not like high school. While most high school classes are strictly cut and dry, college courses are much more diverse in structure depending on the discipline and the professor. To be successful in your first semester, I would establish clear communication with your professors so you understand exactly what is expected of you and what the outcome of the course will be."

**Natalie Flory is a senior majoring in English Education and minoring in ESL and Linguistics.**

**What is Natalie doing this summer?** "I am currently working on my thesis project, which is studying social-emotional learning and instructional strategies in the English Language Arts classroom. In addition to my thesis, I am also taking a summer 2 class in Applied Linguistics to complete my minor."

**Natalie's advice for incoming students:** "Might sound a little crazy but bring rain boots! You will want them! More seriously though, college is what you make of it, so don't forget to step outside your room and make connections with fellow students and professors. Find a club or two to get involved in, and try to push yourself outside your comfort zones little by little."

**Natalie's advice about the first semester:** "Connect with your professors! One of the best things I did my first semester was starting to go to professors' office hours. They are there to help you, but can also be a great resource for your future (and maybe even a thesis advisor)!"



**Natalie Flory**

**Rebekah Holmes is a junior majoring in Anthropology and Archaeology.**

**What is Rebekah doing this summer?** "I am interning at my town museum, working in collection management, photography, researching, and database work. I also am working on small projects and exhibit work. The photo is me with a painting of our town legend, 'The Leatherman.'"

**Rebekah's advice for incoming students:** "Get to know the professors in your major. Having a connection with those in your field will be more helpful and supportive than any club or activity."

**Rebekah's advice about the first semester:** "Go to class and do your work. This is your introduction. It will be an adjustment, but going to class and finishing assignments will get you into a habit—one that your future self will appreciate."



**Rebekah Holmes**

**Noelle Htwar is a junior majoring in Early Childhood Education and minoring in STEM Integration.**

**What is Noelle doing this summer?** "This summer I am working on my thesis! I have decided to write a children's book highlighting families and their diversities."

**Noelle's advice about the first semester:** "Make sure to stay organized! Don't stress about your thesis but keep it in the back of your mind. If there is a topic you're really passionate about, start thinking how you could incorporate that into a thesis. The thesis is a lot more fun if you do something you are passionate about!"

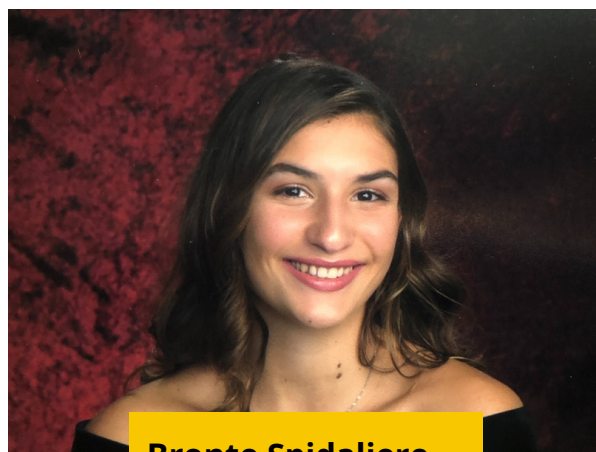


## ADVICE FROM HONORS STUDENTS CONT.

**Bronte Angelica Spidaliere is a senior majoring in International Business and minoring in Psychology.**

**Bronte's advice for incoming students:** "I would say go easy on yourself. Show patience and kindness towards yourself and new faces you'll meet, as all incoming students are experiencing the same mixed feeling of nervousness and anxiousness, as well as excitement, and thrill in this new environment."

**Bronte's advice about the first semester:** "To ensure the successful completion of your first college semester, I recommend writing in a daily planner or journal for all your classes, appointments, events, extracurriculars, and most significantly, self-care time."



**Bronte Spidaliere**

**What is Jillian doing this summer?** "This summer I am doing a few things related to life at MU. First, I have been doing academic research for my thesis project - lots and lots of reading books and journals. My thesis project is focused on early European contact with Indigenous women in the 15th and 16th centuries. I am taking HIST 242: Soviet Union with Dr. Khiterer over the summer. Class just started this week, but I am excited for what's to come. Additionally, I have been working at the Delaware Historical Society and Battleship New Jersey Museum and Memorial over the summer. Fun fact, Battleship New Jersey is the most decorated battleship in US naval history and the largest battleship in global naval history. I wanted to spend this summer diversifying my working experience and be immersed into the professional museum world."



**Jillian Bergin**

**Jillian Bergin is a senior majoring in History and minoring in General Anthropology.**

**Jillian's advice for incoming students:** "I hope all incoming freshmen are open to new opportunities. Personally, the hardest transition between

high school and college was getting involved and finding your people. I hope the incoming freshmen take every opportunity they have and engage themselves on campus. Go to events hosted on the quad, take advantage of the free swag and food, and participate in the floor events your RA hosts."

**Jillian's advice about the first semester:** "During the first semester, it is important to find your special places on campus. Find the place you like to study, where you like to relax, where you and friends like to hang out. Personally, I found the library to be a great place for all of the above."



**USS New Jersey at the Battleship New Jersey Museum**

**Alanna Bezas is a senior majoring in Emergency Management and minoring in Sustainability Studies.**

**What is Alanna doing this summer?** "I just got back from Iceland! I took Dr. Litowitz's Summer 1 (P) course in Energy Sustainability, in which the last 10 days of class take place abroad. Nine other students and I traveled around the country in a 12-passenger van, staying in a new hostel each night. While here, I went on many hikes, played fútbol with local children, toured a glacier, went on a whale watching boat and horseback riding, and even tried fermented Greenland shark...a delicacy only found in Iceland. The sun never sets in the summer, so there were many hours in the day to explore each destination, and bond with the other students on the trip."



**Alanna Bezas in Iceland**

**Thanks for reading! Good luck getting ready for your 1st semester! We look forward to meeting you this fall!**