

THE HONORS REPORT

DECEMBER 2020



Good luck on finals, Honors College!

The December edition includes:

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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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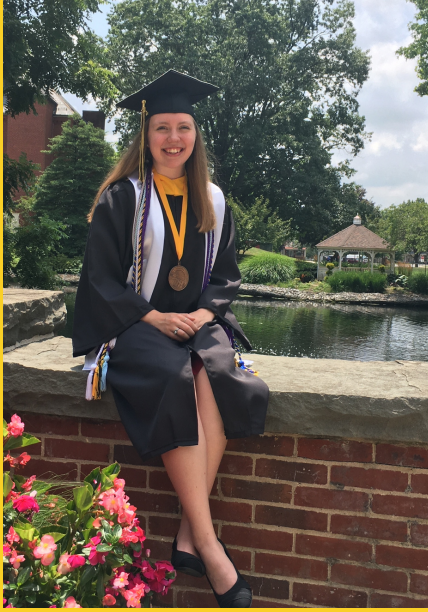
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Millersville University
 HONORS COLLEGE

ALUM SPOTLIGHT: KRISTEN HART



Interview conducted by Madeline Engelman

Alum Kristen Hart, graduate from May 2020 with a major in Speech Communications with an option in Communication Studies and a minor in Graphic Communication Technology, is beginning her career as a graduate, after spending her undergraduate time at Millersville University as an Honors College member, and further aiding the Honors College by working at the Franklin House.

What are your plans for your job at Omicron Delta Kappa since your Disney College Program was postponed? “For my part-time, remote job with Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), I am the Communications Assistant, which means that I have the privilege of running all of our social media counts. Along with this, I draft our quarterly e-newsletters, which are sent out to all ODK members.

Currently, I am in the process of creating and editing a recruitment video which will be sent to all the universities that have ODK circles to aid in their recruitment process.”

How long will you be working at this part-time job? “As of right now, my position runs until June 2021.”

What are some reflections you have about the Honors College? “Being a part of the Honors College was easily the best decision I ever made. I knew going into college that I wanted to be a part of a community, and there is no better example of that than the MU Honors College! Some of my best friends today are the people I met through Honors College events like the Day of Caring, the formal, the bus trips, mentor/mentee activities and the various outings we would go on. When living on campus in the Living-Learning Community, I was able to bond with my roommates, along with the people who lived next door and down the hall! I have so many wonderful memories from my four years in college, and honestly they are all thanks to the Honors College for allowing me to find my people and feel at home in a place that was once so daunting.”

How were you selected for the PASSHE summer study abroad program? “The process was very simple, but super nerve-wracking! To apply for the PASSHE study abroad program, I simply had to fill out an application that included an essay on why I wanted to participate in the program. Once the application was submitted, then the hard part began—waiting to hear back. Fortunately, I was one of two MU Honors College students selected to participate in the program, and I had the opportunity to travel to Kraków, Poland to study at Jagiellonian University, as well as being able to visit Budapest, Prague, Wrocław and Berlin! Since the program includes students from many of the PASSHE schools, I had the ability to meet and bond with a multitude of honors students, many of whom I still keep in contact with! Those were the best, most memorable three and a half weeks of my life! I am so grateful that the Honors College allowed me that unbelievable opportunity!”

Is there anything you would like to add or share with our readers? “I know times are difficult right now, but keep pushing through, and always remember that you can lean on your fellow Honors College friends and peers for support and motivation! Also, take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way. Don’t be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and try something new; you may love it or you may hate it, but either way you’ll have a story to tell!”

THESIS INTERVIEW: EMILY HOLMBERG

Interview conducted by Leah Freeman

Emily Holmberg, class of May 2021, majoring in Early Childhood Education with minors in Integrative STEM Education Methods and Mathematics, has been very involved within the University. She has had board positions in the Early Childhood Organization, Math Educators at Millersville University, Kappa Delta Pi Education Honors Society, in addition to serving as an Honors College Mentor and a Math Assistance Center tutor. Emily is a member of the Honors College Student Association and the Honors College Early Childhood Mentoring Community Coordinator and has been a member of the Student Pennsylvania State Education Association, Relay for Life, and the concert band.

In the final stages of her thesis, she will be defending it December 7th.

What professors did you work with in completing your thesis? "Dr. Jennifer Burke from the department of Early, Middle, and Exceptional Education has served as the advisor for my thesis. Dr. Erin Moss from the department of Mathematics and Dr. Jennifer Shettel from the department of Early, Middle, and Exceptional Education are also serving on my committee."

Would you please explain your thesis? "My thesis investigates children's gender stereotyping of STEM professions, and the role education can play in addressing these stereotypes and the pervasive gender gap among STEM occupations. Specifically, my research question is: 'What impact, if any, do two weeks of STEM lessons about computer programmers have on third graders' career aspirations and gender stereotyping of the profession?'"

My research topic and question unite my passions as a woman studying Early Childhood Education with minors in Integrative STEM Education Methods and Mathematics. I began my research in the spring of my sophomore year and developed my research question that summer."

How did you go about working on your thesis? "After solidifying my research question, I reached out to a third grade teacher I had worked with previously to find out if I could implement my unit in her classroom, and I developed the unit of curriculum during that summer as well. Then, I reached out to the principal of the school and assistant superintendent of the district and received approval to teach my unit. Since I worked with students, I also went through Millersville's IRB for approval to conduct my study."

The unit I created consisted of ten lessons that focused on computer programming. Throughout the ten days, my students learned about the career of computer programming, created their own computer programs, and read about women who made significant contributions to the field of computer science. The students completed several surveys and drew pictures of STEM career workers during the lessons as well.

I taught this unit in January of 2020 and analyzed the results of the students' drawings and surveys throughout this past year. My final paper has taken the form of a case study. It highlights two girls in my class who appeared to have very different responses to the unit. While both students demonstrated strong masculine stereotypes of all STEM occupations assessed at the beginning of the unit, one of the girls drew a female computer programmer at the conclusion of the unit."



Interview continued onto next page

THESIS INTERVIEW: EMILY HOLMBERG CONT.

"I analyze why only one of the two students' perceptions seemed to shift through the lens of the gender schema theory using the dual pathways model."

How have you witnessed MU encourage student creativity, research, and scholarship among students?

"Millersville professors are very encouraging of student research. At first, I felt intimidated to approach a professor about serving as my thesis advisor. The more I have gotten to know the faculty, however, the more I realize that they love to support student scholarship. My thesis advisor, Dr. Burke, suggested that I take my project a step further by sharing my findings at a conference and writing them up into an article. We applied and were accepted to present at the National Association for the Education of Young Children annual conference this November at the 2020 National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference in Anaheim, CA. The conference was moved online due to the coronavirus, and I unfortunately did not present in this alternative format. I hope and plan to reapply to present at this conference next year instead.

Since I have an Integrative STEM Education Methods minor, I also found out about the opportunity to present at the ITEEA National Conference from my minor advisor, Dr. Brusic. I applied to present my work at the conference last fall, and I shared the curriculum at this conference back in March.

As of right now, I have not pursued writing an article based on my study, but I hope to after defending my thesis.

Overall, I find that Millersville faculty highly encourage students to engage in research, which motivates and inspires me to pursue scholarship opportunities outside of my classes and present at professional conferences."

HONORS COLLEGE'S 7 DECEMBER GRADUATES

By Elena Antonucci

Among the Honors College students graduating this month is mathematics major **Annie Tepe**: an ambitious young woman, Tepe plans to use her degree to become an actuary following her graduation. This career path requires passing a grand total of ten challenging exams, which she hopes to complete within a quick five-year time span. Tepe is excited to take this next step, and says that choosing to prepare for this journey at Millersville University and as a member of the Honors College were some of the best decisions she has ever made. The friends she's made and the experiences she's had along the way will be cherished memories as she continues toward her goals. We at the Honors College wish her the best of luck!



HONORS COLLEGE'S DECEMBER GRADUATES CONT.



Interview conducted by Hunter Davis

By Leah Freeman

Leah Hoffman will be one of the Honors College students graduating this month with a dual major in Spanish and English, along with a concentration in Writing Studies. She has enjoyed immersing herself in the Honors College, which “created a solid network of students with goals and work ethics akin to my own and provided me with social, professional, and academic opportunities throughout my time at Millersville.” She further enjoyed most working with the International Students as a global Ambassador: “My fondest memories were being an Orientation Leader for my first group of students and being able to welcome them both to the country and to Millersville.” After graduation, she hopes to return to Peru, when borders open, to teach abroad and complete her certification back in Cusco, where she had studied in her junior year. Until then, she plans to find volunteer work that will engage her with Lancaster’s Christian and Hispanic communities. Honors College wishes Hoffman good luck with her pursuits after college!

By Natalie Flory

Julia Puia will be graduating at the end of this Fall semester as an Early Education and a Special Education major. She will be certified to teach K-4 and special education K-8. When asked about her after college plans, Puia said she will begin applying for jobs in local school districts. She connects that her ideal job would either be in learning support, emotional support, or as a second grade general education teacher. In reflection on Millersville and the Honors College, Puia says, “I have made some of my closest friends here at Millersville. I am grateful for all the opportunities being in the Honors College and a student at Millersville has afforded me.” We wish her the best in her future as an educator!



HONORS COLLEGE'S DECEMBER GRADUATES CONT.



By Elias Peluso

Kelly Czmar is an Honors College senior graduating a semester early this December. She is a dual major in Early Childhood Education and Special Education. On top of this, she has a minor in Integrative STEM Education Methods. Further, she feels her positions serving on student organizations such as the Honors College Student Association, Early Childhood Organization, Student PSEA, and Kappa Delta Pi (the education honor society) have helped her develop “leadership skills” that aided in her becoming the person she is today. Utilizing all that she has learned here at Millersville, she hopes to gain a contracted teaching position for kindergarten students in the near future. “My experience at Millersville has been truly incredible, and I am so grateful for everything that has come out of it. The Honors College is a truly great community of people. The Living-Learning community has such a nice atmosphere, and living there made being away from home much easier. I am also incredibly grateful for the opportunity to write a thesis. It was a lot of work, but it is such a great accomplishment to be proud of! I will miss Millersville a lot when I graduate, but I am excited for the next part of my journey...” We all wish Czmar the best of luck this December and for years to come!

By Michael Skros

Karrah Keck will be graduating this December with a B.A. in Communications: Public Relations and a minor in English! Karrah was an active member of the Honors College and regularly attended Honors College events. Her favorite memory is living in Reighard Hall with other Honors students. She hopes to get a full-time job after graduation. Keck has been a friendly face for many underclassmen, and the Honors College wishes her the best of luck in her future!



HONORS COLLEGE'S DECEMBER GRADUATES CONT.



By Leah Freeman

Laura Apple will be graduating this month with a dual major in Early Childhood Education and Special Education! Laura plans to stay in the area, with a teaching position at a local elementary school. When it comes to her experiences with the Honors College, she says she “had such an incredible experience” and is glad she joined. She further says: “I lived in Reighard my first two years, and the memories I made there are unforgettable. The classes I took helped me grow as a person and working on my thesis has been such an amazing learning experience.” The Honors College wishes you good luck with your aspirations outside of the university, Laura Apple!

Finally, we have **Marina MacGregor** graduating this December! The Honors College wishes you the best as you confront your graduate career!

THE URN WITH JACKSON FOGEL

"I'm always grateful for the opportunities in the Honors College, such as working for the Honors Report and the University Research Newsletter. Both offer incredible chances to work with my community, with my campus, and with my peers. That kind of experience is invaluable, and I'm so lucky to have it." -Jackson Fogel

By Leah Freeman

Jackson Fogel is a sophomore working toward an English BA and a History minor with interests in Spanish and Linguistics. While being the Vice President of the English Club, he also serves as one of the editors of the University Research Newsletter (URN).

The newsletter's purpose is to share information about scholarship among our students and faculty and its impact on our university. The University Research Newsletter is sponsored by the Office of the Provost with the Honors College being responsible for crafting and editing the newsletter. Dr. Elizabeth Thyrum is the faculty editor.



Article continued onto next page

THE URN WITH JACKSON FOGEL CONT.



The URN further provides Honors College students with an amazing opportunity in writing and editing: students are commonly hired to participate in the URN's publication process as student editors. The current editors are serving their second

semester, and are currently searching for students who are interested in taking over their positions in the future. For more information, feel free to contact Jackson (jdfogel@millersville.edu) or fellow editor Leah (lpfreema@millersville.edu).

ZOOM OFFICE HOURS CALENDAR

Monday:

Beth: 9-11am
Alanna: 10-11am
Dr. Thyrum: 1-2pm
Michael: 3-4pm

Thursday:

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

Tuesday:

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

Friday:

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

Wednesday:

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

ZOOM MEETING ROOMS:

Dr. Thyrum's Personal Room:
<https://millersville.zoom.us/j/2946295508>

Beth's Personal Room:
<https://millersville.zoom.us/j/5912081934>

Alanna's Personal Room:
<https://millersville.zoom.us/j/7708911082>

Michael's Personal Room:
<https://millersville.zoom.us/j/4720493672>

THESIS TIP AND MOTIVATION OF THE MONTH!

Jordan Traut, English and Anthropology major, '20, Masters of Arts English, '22, Honors College:

"The best advice I would offer honors students beginning their thesis process echoes the words of wisdom I was told as a freshman: advocate for yourself unapologetically. If your first thesis advisor isn't giving you the creative and academic freedom your project demands then you should search for another one. I changed my advisor three times before finding the right person to mentor me in the way I needed. If you think attending a special conference or buying an important book is essential to your learning journey, don't hesitate to find the right scholarship or grant to pay for it. If you need additional help, do not be embarrassed to ask for it. This is your thesis, after all—and probably the first academic publication with your name on it, so you are allowed to make it however you want!"

