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THE HONORS REPORT

APRIL 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

SAVE THE DATES!

Honors College Spring Banquet

Saturday, April 22nd

1:00pm

Lehr Dining Room, Gordinier Hall

The Honors College Spring banquet is an opportunity to get dressed up and enjoy a banquet lunch while supporting our spring graduates and students recognized for academic achievement! To attend, **RSVP to Kereah (kereah.keller@millersville.edu)** by Friday, April 7th at 12:00pm.

FALL 2023 HONORS REGISTRATION

Wednesday, Apr. 5th

6:00am

Make sure you have your TAP number and set your alarm bright and early for Honors registration! Dr. Thyrum, Jess, and Brenna will be available by email.

THESIS DEFENSE: A PROFESSOR'S PERSPECTIVE

by Bronte Spidaliere

Every Honors student should attend a thesis defense in preparation for their own, but each defense is different. To get an idea of what to expect at a thesis defense, the Honors Report has collected some advice from the experts: our professors! Below, several faculty members have shared what their thesis defense goals are and what kind of knowledge they are looking for in students.



Dr. Marquez

Our first perspective comes from Dr. Lynn Marquez from the Department of Earth Sciences.

"I have attended a few thesis defenses, probably three to four over time. We [professors] want to make sure that the student understands their project (which differs from student to student), and as the defense proceeds, the questions will become increasingly more detailed.

Sometimes the questions may not be ones the student initially addressed, and that is simply to see if a student can work through a problem. Can students see their project in the context of the discipline? Can they relate it to other ideas? Can they see what the next steps are? A good thesis project shows me that the students have thought about all the steps of the scientific process.

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THESIS DEFENSE CONT.

A solid thesis will have a thorough literature review and include data they collected themselves. The thesis will then provide an explanation for that data and put that within the framework of other's ideas.

Ideally, the students have identified the next steps, meaning 'What is missing? If they had more time, what would the student do to make the project better? What are the follow up questions they need to ask?'"



The next perspective comes from Dr. Christopher Stieha from the Department of Biology.

"The student has invested time and energy into their project or activity. I want to see that they are becoming knowledgeable and aware as they develop into experts in the field.

With respect to their thesis, I want their context, such as an overview of previous work from other scientists. Regarding the actual work they've done, I want to see the understanding of the methodologies and the justification...why did they pursue these techniques and not other techniques? Why did they do A instead of B?



Dr. Stieha

I want a correct interpretation of their results, and what they mean biologically, and from that, how their results fit in the previous context — prior research done by other scientists on that subject.

One of the main questions I ask is 'What is next?' The student researchers have these results and they have communicated these results. Now what is the next question based on what has been learned? If the student didn't confirm their hypothesis, they must figure out an alternative hypothesis to follow. On the other hand, when the hypothesis is supported, how do they delve deeper and understand our natural world better?"



The final perspective comes from Dr. Richard Joseph Behun from the Department of Psychology.

"Because no research is perfect, I like to ask questions about limitations to the study. I also like to ask what the student would do differently if they could start all over and do the study again.

I'm trying to see if they truly understand the process of conducting research beyond just being able to report the methods they used to get the results."



Dr. Behun

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



Elias Peluso

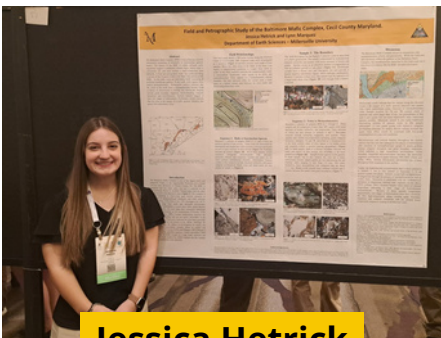
Elias Peluso will graduate with a major in Robotics and Control Systems Technology. His thesis topic is "Design and Development of a Modular Door Actuator," and his research aimed to improve mobility for individuals with physical disabilities by inventing an automatic door for residential use. During his time at Millersville, Elias has been a member of Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society, Robotics Research Team, Helping Paws, Honors College Student Association, Technology and Engineering Education Collegiate Association, and American Sign Language Learner's Club. Elias has also been an Integrated Studies coach, public relations officer for the Asian Student Inclusivity Association, marketing director/social media coordinator and President for Marauder Video Productions, and a writer for the Honors Report, Creative Writer's Guild, and George Street Press. In 2022, Elias was the recipient of the Millersville EPPIIC Values Student Leadership Award. Elias's favorite memories of Millersville include seeing the welcoming environment during his first campus visit, being an orientation leader during the summer of 2021, and forming friendships in ASIA club. After graduation, Elias plans to seek a job in the robotics field, possibly continuing his thesis topic work of creating robotics to aid people with physical disabilities. Congratulations, Elias!



Jade Sambrick will graduate with a major in Early Childhood Education and a minor in Integrative STEM Education Methods. Her thesis topic was "How Illustrations and Other Design Decisions in Picture Books Influence Meaning Regarding Non-Binary Characters," and her thesis literature review will soon be published in Cornucopia Journal. During her time at Millersville, Jade served as president of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education and vice president of National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Her favorite memories include working on the executive board of Kappa Delta Pi to plan meetings and events for members. She especially enjoyed planning and hosting The Educators of MU professional development conference for Millersville students in the fall semester of 2022. After graduation, Jade plans to get a job as a general education teacher in an elementary school teaching any grade between kindergarten and fourth grade. Best of luck, Jade!



Jade Sambrick



Jessica Hetrick

Jessica Hetrick will graduate with a major in Geology. Jessica's thesis topic was "Intrusive Margin of the Baltimore Mafic Complex in Cecil County, MD: A Field and Petrographic Study." During her time at Millersville, Jessica was involved in Honors College Student Association, Geology Club, and Omicron Delta Kappa Honors Society. She also had the opportunity to give a poster presentation at the 2023 Geological Society of America Joint Northeastern and Southeastern Section Meeting. After graduation, Jessica plans to become a Licensed Professional Geologist and work at an environmental consulting firm. Congratulations, Jess!

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Jill Bergin

Jillian Bergin will graduate with a History major and minors in General Anthropology and International Studies. Jill's thesis was titled "Mirrored Lives: The Impact of Two Indigenous Women on European Narratives of Colonization and Conquest of the Americas," and focused on the lives of Pocahontas in Jamestown and Malinche in modern Mexico. During her time at Millersville, Jill was a member of the Millersville Marching Band and served as the marching band captain of weapons during the 2022 season. She was also the President of Millersville's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society and presented part of her thesis at the 2023 Phi Alpha Theta Biennial Convention in Albuquerque. Jill also participated in the Undergraduate Research Workshop at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at

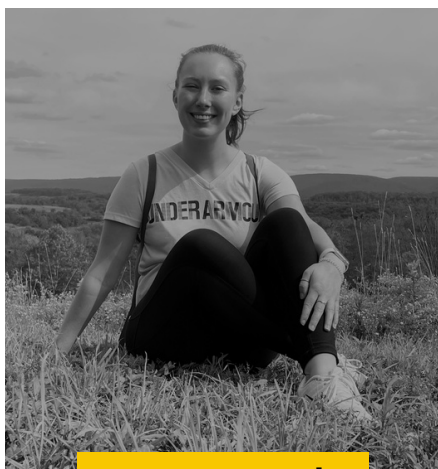
the University of Pennsylvania and published an article titled "Drowned Out: The Evolution of Violence Against Indigenous Women and Its Connection to Indigenous Feminism" in the 2023 issue of Millersville's Engage for Change Journal. Jill was the recipient of several scholarships and worked in the McNairy Library Archives & Special Collections, as an RA for Honors College housing, and in the Undergraduate Admissions Office. Jill's favorite Millersville memories have been getting to meet so many new people and make close friends. After graduating, Jill plans to attend graduate school in the fall to pursue a degree in Public History. After that, she plans to work in a museum or archive, and eventually get her Ph.D. in History. Best of luck, Jill!



Michael McCloud will graduate with a major in Mathematics with a concentration in Statistics. Michael's thesis topic is "The History of Integral Calculus." During his time at Millersville, he earned the Edna H. Myers Mathematics Scholarship each year. Michael's favorite memories of Millersville are the "Day of Caring" events, which are his favorite time to actively help in the community. After graduating, Michael plans to attend Virginia Tech in the fall to pursue a Master of Science in Statistics. Best wishes, Michael!



Michael McCloud



Morgan Towle

Morgan Towle will graduate with a Speech Communications major and minors in Cultural Anthropology and Graphic Communication Technology. Her thesis topic was "Men Managing Body Image and Appearance through Clothing," which she will be presenting at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research in Wisconsin. During her time at Millersville, Morgan has been a member of Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society, a member and service dog raiser for Paws on Deck, and the Secretary, Vice President, and President of Reformed University Fellowship. She also participated in the McNairy Library Interdisciplinary Research Fellowship. Morgan's favorite memories of Millersville are making lifelong friends thanks to

the organizations she has participated in. She says, "Being so involved on campus has helped me to have the best experience possible, and I know I will miss the friendly faces at MU more than anything!" After graduation, Morgan plans to find a full-time job in digital communications or marketing. Best wishes, Morgan!

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Natalie Flory will graduate with a major in Secondary English Education and a minor in ESL/Linguistics. For her thesis, Natalie surveyed teachers on their attitudes toward social emotional learning and bibliotherapy. Her project is entitled "Integrating Social Emotional Learning through Instructional Strategies in the English Language Arts Classroom." While at Millersville, Natalie has been the recipient of several scholarships and has been involved with New Student Programs as an Orientation Leader and a member of the Orientation Planning Committee. She has also been the student editor of the Honors Report, an Honors mentor, treasurer for English Club, and a writer for the Creative Writers Guild and The Snapper. Natalie is involved in HerCampus, participates in the Learning Institute's Book Talk Series, and gives tours with The Crew at Admissions, where she enjoys sharing her experiences with new and potential students. Natalie's favorite memories at MU are orientation and admissions events, as well as the opportunity to go to the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) conference her freshman year. After graduation, she plans to teach seventh grade English Language Arts at a local school district. Best wishes, Natalie!



Natalie Flory



Paul Lipinski

Paul Lipinski will graduate with a major in Science Education. Paul's thesis topic was "Linking Classical and Transformational Geometry." During his time at Millersville, Paul has been a student teacher and participated in Math Club meetings and Mathematics Educators of Millersville University. He has also competed in the Millersville University Smash Brothers tournaments, and ranked 8th on their power rankings for the fall 2022 semester. Paul's favorite memories of Millersville are the friendships he made through the Club Deville gaming lounge in the SMC. After graduating, Paul plans to teach a high school geometry class where he can use the information he researched for his thesis on a daily basis. Best of luck, Paul!



Victoria Peroni will graduate with a major in Psychology and a minor in Sociology. Her thesis topic was synesthesia, and she looked at self-report surveys of synesthesia and analyzed them for objective consistency using an online test. Victoria presented her thesis at the Eastern Psychological Association Conference. During her time at Millersville, she served as president of Phi Sigma Pi and social media manager for the Student Government Association and was a member



Victoria Peroni

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of Omicron Delta Kappa Honors Society. She also worked as a Psychology tutor and in the campus Starbucks. Victoria's favorite memories are meeting some of her best friends and successfully defending her thesis in December of 2022. After graduation, Victoria plans to attend graduate school for psychology with hopes of getting her PhD in the next few years in order to get a job in the clinical field and hopefully become a professor one day. Congratulations, Victoria!



Wyatt Peters

Wyatt Peters will graduate with a major in Emergency Management. His thesis topic was "Creating a More Effective Alert System." During his time at Millersville, Wyatt completed several internship positions and was involved in Millersville's Student Chapter of the International Association of Emergency Managers, the Honors College Student Association, and the American Meteorological Society. He also served as a volunteer for the Red Cross. Wyatt's favorite Millersville memory is a trip to the National Aquarium in Baltimore. After graduation, Wyatt plans to move to Carroll County in Maryland, where he will be working as an Emergency Management Planner for Carroll County Emergency Management. Congratulations, Wyatt!



Don't be left out!

Are you an Honors College student graduating in May 2023? Don't forget to submit your Senior Spotlight information so that your hard work can be acknowledged in the Honors Report and at the Spring Honors Recognition Banquet! If you have not submitted Senior Spotlight information, check your email for the information request or reach out to Jess Hetrick at jmhetri1@millersville.edu for details.



MEET YOUR LIBRARIANS: STEPHANIE THOMPSON

Stephanie Thompson is the Education Librarian at the McNairy Library and Learning Forum. Teresa is the subject librarian for Education, Wellness & Sport Sciences, and Intercollegiate Athletics. Contact her at stephanie.thompson@millersville.edu or find her on the library website.



Stephanie Thompson

Q: Describe one way you have helped a student during a research appointment.

A: I like helping students work through roadblocks in their research, whether it is finding an article(s) or learning new tricks to search more effectively.

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Q: Why did you become a librarian?

A: Wanted to teach but couldn't pick an area to specialize in - this way I get to work with all topics and grades.

Q: Current research interests?

A: Open education resources, juvenile literature

Q: What's your favorite book?

A: A Time to Kill (Grisham)

Q: Do you have any interesting hobbies? What are they?

A: Any craft project, gardening, shooting sports, and for the next few years a lot of home renovations

Q: Where would you like to travel?

A: Whole US, Europe. Can't wait to start road tripping with the kids in a few years.

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RESEARCH TOOLKIT: DIY RESEARCH HELPERS

If you're the kind of person who likes to figure things out on their own, the library provides plenty of ways to do-it-yourself. Here are a few DIY research helpers to check out:

Our FAQs or "Frequently Asked Questions" help you figure things out, like "how to renew an item" or "how to login to course reserves." You can find these in the "Tools and Services" column on the library website.

We have several types of video and tutorial content, some tailored specifically to Millersville and other videos and tutorials that cover research from a broader perspective.

If you want to find out more about how to write an effective annotated bibliography or learn about a citation style you're not familiar with, you can use our Instruct tutorials, which you can access by navigating to bit.ly/VilleInstruct or by scanning the following code:



For video content specific to Millersville, check out our MU Video content by going to bit.ly/McNairyVideos or by scanning the following code:



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Only one month left in the semester, Honors College! Finish strong!