

THE HONORS REPORT

OCTOBER 2022



The October edition includes:

SECTION	PAGE(S)
Save the Dates!.....	2
Submit Questions to the Honors Report.....	2
Thank You, Beth.....	2
Day of Caring 2022.....	3-4
Meet Your Librarians: Melissa Gold.....	4-5
Research Toolkit.....	5
Getting Involved at MU.....	6-7
Alumni Spotlight: Jess Whittemore.....	7-8

The Honors Report is always 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 Dr. Thyrum with your ideas.

Consulting Editors
Dr. Elizabeth Thyrum

Student Editor
Claire DeVinney

Student Writers
Bronte Spidaliere,
Claire DeVinney, Elias Peluso



Millersville University
HONORS COLLEGE

SAVE THE DATES!

Thursday, October 13th is **Thesis Day!** At **12:15pm in Franklin House**, there will be a Thesis Q&A for students to learn everything they have wondered about the thesis process. At **4pm in Luek Hall**, there will be a Thesis Workshop that is mandatory for second year students. Take advantage of the thesis day events to get your questions answered and prepare for your own thesis process.



On **Saturday, October 22nd** the Honors College will be participating in the **Homecoming Parade**. Students will gather at **Franklin House at 7am** and walk in the parade to help celebrate Millersville Homecoming. This event is mandatory for first year students and other students can sign up to participate as well. The parade theme this year is Animal Kingdom.



On **Tuesday, October 25th**, at **7pm in the South Great Room**, there will be a **Halloween Registration Party** to help students prepare for class registration. Come dressed in costume, enjoy some Halloween-themed festivities and treats, and ask your last-minute questions about registration. We hope to see you there!

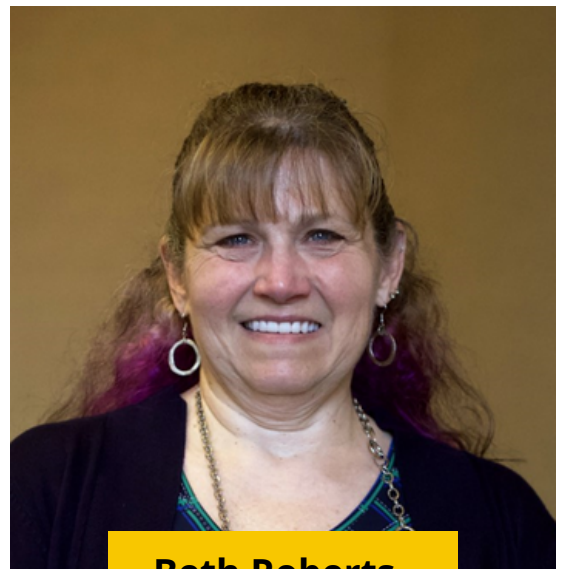
SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO THE HONORS REPORT

The **November Honors Report** will be our **thesis edition!** Do you have questions about the thesis process? Curious about advisors, choosing a topic, or thesis credit timing? Send your questions to Dr. Thyrum and they may be answered in the November Report.

THANK YOU, BETH

At the end of September, Honors College Administrative Assistant **Beth Roberts** served her last day at the Honors College. Beth was a source of support and guidance for Honors students during her tenure. Her care for students and the effort she put in to making the Honors College run smoothly were clear to all, and she will be greatly missed. In her farewell email, Beth addressed students, saying, "It has been a pleasure getting to know each of you. I wish you much success in your studies here at MU and with your future endeavors." We wish Beth the best of luck in her new position at Millersville. **Thank you, Beth!**

Franklin House's temporary hours are 11:00am -3:00pm Monday through Thursday, with additional varying hours. If you need to meet with Dr. Thyrum, please send an email to schedule a time.



Beth Roberts

DAY OF CARING 2022

by Elias Peluso

The annual Day of Caring is one of the largest community service events of the Honors College, and this year's was no exception. On September 10th, approximately 100 Honors students gathered early in the morning. From campus, students were split into smaller groups, and classic yellow school buses transported each group to a local locations that needed some TLC for a few hours. Here are accounts from the event:



"I went to Glatfelter Memorial Park. We split into two groups: one was sweeping the field, and the other group and I helped to paint some tables and chairs there. After that we took a group picture and headed back to campus." **-Dai Ma, Computer Science major, class of 2026**

"My group painted picnic tables and swept the driveway at Glatfelter Memorial Field."

-Brenna Chernich, ERCH/SPED major with an iSTEM minor, class of 2025



"I was a Team Leader for Group 4, and we visited Lancaster's Schreiner Concord

Cemetery in downtown Lancaster City, the home of renowned Abolitionist and US Representative Thaddeus Stevens' burial. As a group of about fifteen students, we weeded, mulched, and cleaned the cemetery." **-Bronte Spidaliere (She/Her), International Business and Psychology major, class of 2023**



Article continued onto next page

DAY OF CARING 2022 CONT.

"My group traveled to Mountville Park, where our task was to shovel and spread new mulch on a children's playground. The time and physical effort required for this task gave us all a newfound appreciation for playgrounds. It was fun, though; the setting was nostalgic and the community was very friendly." **-Elias Peluso (He/Him), Robotics and Control Systems major, class of 2023**



MEET YOUR LIBRARIANS: MELISSA GOLD

Melissa Gold is the Science Librarian at the McNairy Library and Learning Forum. Melissa is the subject librarian for Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Nursing, and Physics. Contact her at melissa.gold@millersville.edu or find her on the library website.

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

A: "I help a lot of nursing students see their topics a little differently. Often students can't find research on their EXACT topic. So, I help them break their topics into pieces that do have research, and then we talk about how to put the pieces back together for their papers."

Q: What's your favorite book?

A: "Recently I really liked *Why Fish Don't Exist: A Story of Loss, Love, and the Hidden Order of Life* by Lulu Miller."

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

A: "Keeping my preschooler alive and entertained."



Melissa Gold

Article continued onto next page

MEET YOUR LIBRARIANS: MELISSA GOLD CONT.

Q: Why did you become a librarian?

A: "I like the research process. Developing a topic. Finding sources. Compiling information. (Writing, not so much.) And, I like helping students through the process. But, I'm not as fond of the grading and lecturing a large class that usually comes with being a professor of a certain subject. So, being a librarian at a University is perfect for me."

Q: If you won a second home that could be anywhere in the world, where would it be?

A: "I have a fantasy of retiring in Ireland. I think I'd want to be in a cottage near the coast, but not too far from a small town."

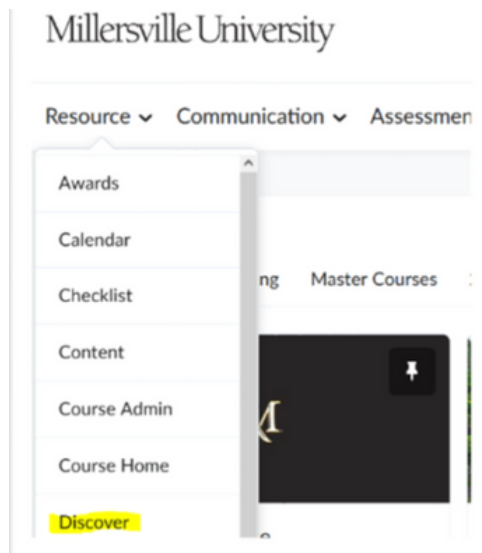
Q: If you have a pet or pets, share something about them?

A: "Nemo is my fur-kid. He's a lapdog that is a very good boy, but just loves his humans a little too much (so he suffers from separation anxiety)."

RESEARCH TOOLKIT

Research Toolkit is a new recurring feature contributed by the library to help Honors students make the most of library resources. Check back every month to add new skills to your research toolkit.

Welcome to the inaugural installment of the Research Toolkit! For this segment, we're promoting citation assistance. If you're a "Do It Yourself" kind of person or can't make it to the upcoming workshops, citation help can be found in D2L. **Enroll in the online "Research Toolkit."** This will give you access to tutorials covering the most popular citation styles used at Millersville.



Directions: On D2L's homepage, use the dropdown menu under "Resource" (the first option going from left to right). Navigate to "Discover." Choose "Research Toolkit"; enroll in the course. "Tool 1" offers Citation tutorials. Tell us what else you'd like to see in the toolkit by emailing msantamaria@millersville.edu.

For a live experience learning specific citation styles, join us (in person or virtual) for our workshops listed below!

We'll be hosting our "Beyond Parenthesis and Periods" citation workshops simultaneously, in-person and over Zoom. Drop-in to one or more sessions or pre-register to give us information to tailor the experience.

Dates:

October 6: Understanding the Fundamentals of Citations

October 13: Tips and Tricks for citing in APA

October 18: Tips and Tricks for citing in MLA

October 25: Tips and Tricks for citing in Chicago

To register, <https://forms.office.com/r/PZqgDRe4E5>

Time:

12:10-1:00pm

Location:

In person: Hash 212

Virtual: Zoom

<https://millersville.zoom.us/j/95854753400>

To register for citation works, visit <https://forms.office.com/r/PZqgDRe4E5>

by Bronte Spidaliere

There are many different organizations that Honors students can join to serve the community or participate in academic, social, and professional development. Below, the Report features three Honors students discussing their involvement in extracurricular activities here on campus.

Alanna Bezas (she/her) is an Emergency Management Major with a Sustainability Studies minor, and will graduate in December 2022. Alanna is the Vice President of the Honors College Student Association (HCSA), the Vice President of MU International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), an Honors College mentor, the treasurer of Omicron Delta Kappa, and a CHAARG member.



Alanna Bezas

"I have been a member of HCSA since my freshman year and have held an officer position for the past two years. Last year, I was Fundraising Coordinator, which I absolutely loved. My favorite part about HCSA is that all our fundraising events are to raise money for an outside, local, nonprofit organization rather than our student club. We voted for Clare House, and I got to use my communication skills, creativity, and student involvement to fundraise year-round. Everyone's involvement was a huge help, and we surpassed my monetary goal! This year, I am HCSA's Vice President, which allows me to be a bit more behind-the-scenes with each task. I absolutely adore this board – everyone is so individually driven, and we got excellent attendance at our first meeting (thank you to all who came out!). As VP, I am really working on building attendance this year and making each monthly meeting interesting and exciting. I am also currently doing the part of the Fundraising Coordinator as well, so if anyone is interested in shadowing or joining the officers board, please reach out to albezas@millersville.edu.



Elias Peluso

Elias Peluso (he/him) is a Robotics and Control Systems major and part of the class of 2023. Elias is a member of the MU Robotics Team, Maurader Video Productions (MVP), ASIA Club, GSA, Creative Writer's Guild, Super Smash Club, HCSA, and is a writer for the Honors Report.

"I am involved in a variety of clubs and organizations in different capacities. As a robotics major, I am of course involved in Millersville's Robotics Team, which involves students in various parts of the robotics engineering process, including electrical, programming, manufacturing, and research. We create robots to participate in the annual ATMAE conference, which is an out-of-state competition during each Fall semester."

Article continued onto next page

GETTING INVOLVED AT MU CONT.

"Despite my major, though, the club I am most involved in is Marauder Video Productions, of which I am the current president. MVP is a casual filmmaking organization designed so any student, regardless of major or experience, can participate in short film projects in any capacity they wish. With a very small team run by a new board, MVP is focusing on creating simple but exciting projects to boost membership.

The remainder of the clubs I participate in are much more casual in nature. These include ASIA Club, GSA, Creative Writer's Guild, Super Smash Club, HCSA, and the Honors Report (I am also a writer). Since COVID, I have noticed that student participation in clubs has decreased dramatically. My advice to the reader is this: don't shy away from trying something new. Regardless of how interested you are in a club's activities, attending meetings is not a commitment. New groups can open doors to new friends and may spark a new interest or hobby inside you. So, if you're even slightly interested in a club on campus, why not attend a meeting?"

Grace Stancavage (she/her) is a Geology major and part of the class of 2025. Grace is the secretary of the Geology Club and a member of HCSA and the MMA Club.

"I'm involved in Honors College Student Association (HCSA), Geology Club, and the MMA Club! I'm secretary of the Geology Club, and I'm having lots of fun as we plan our trips for the year. It's nice to be a part of a group that shares an interest. We're going on a big trip at the end of the Spring 2023 semester. Our first trip will be in October—we're going on a hike at Governor Dick! I had a lot of fun doing the icebreakers at the first HCSA meeting. Going to kickboxing class with the MMA Club is easily the highlight of my week. It's such a welcoming environment, and everyone there is committed to learning and practicing the martial arts as well as having a good time!"



Grace Stancavage

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: JESS WHITTEMORE

Jess Whittemore graduated from the Honors College with a Chemistry degree in the spring of 2021. While at Millersville, Jess was a First Year Experience Peer Mentor, an Honors College Peer Mentor, an Orientation Leader, and a Chemistry Peer Learning Tutor. She was a member of the Millersville chapter of the American Chemical Society, where she served as vice-president, the Honors College Student Association, where she served as fundraising coordinator and vice-president, and the Millersville Alliance for Diversity in Science & Engineering, where she served as president. Jess won numerous awards and scholarships during her time at Millersville, including the Joseph A. & Linda R. Caputo Scholarship in Chemistry, the Gerald S. Weiss Scholarship, the American Chemical Society Analytical Chemistry Award, and the Susan P. Luek Graduate Study Award. She also had the opportunity to present her research at Millersville University

and other institutions, including the University of Maryland and the Alliance for Diversity in Science & Engineering Young Researcher Conference. Below, see Jess's reflections on her Honors College experience, her studies since graduation from Millersville, and her future plans.

Reflections on the Honors College

"The Millersville University Honors College greatly enriched my academic, professional, and social experiences as an undergraduate student. Honors-level courses, especially Explorations in the History of Ideas, really challenged me to develop innovative thinking skills that could be focused into concise, well-articulated arguments. The opportunity to participate in service events with the Honors College Student Association (HCSA) or the Honors College, namely the Day of Caring, made me feel part of the campus community and allowed me to give back to those that supported learning initiatives at Millersville. Notably, the Living Learning Community cultivated a welcoming, collaborative environment with fellow honors students and gave me several life-long friends, for which I am extremely grateful. I thoroughly enjoyed serving as a mentor for incoming first-year students, holding leadership roles on the HCSA Board, and sharing the countless benefits of the Honors College with prospective students at open houses. Moreover, researching and constructing an honors thesis greatly strengthened my presentation skills while preparing me for success in graduate school. My experience with Honors College was absolutely nothing short of amazing!"



Current Schooling

After graduating from Millersville, I moved to Ithaca, NY, to pursue graduate studies in the Chemistry & Chemical Biology Ph.D. program at Cornell University. I work for Professor Brian Crane in a physical biochemistry lab. Over the past three semesters, I have taught general chemistry labs and volunteered with the Cornell Center for Materials Research to lead science exploratory activities for elementary school children in the community. Recently, I joined Cornell's Write a Researcher program to connect with high school students across the globe that share a passion for science.

Future Plans

Upon graduation from Cornell University, I would like to begin a career in forensics or physical biochemistry at a government agency, namely the FBI or CIA.



Good luck with mid-term exams -

Enjoy the fall weather and colorful leaves!