



Saunterer

CLARKE HONORS COLLEGE • SPRING 2025

Salisbury
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SALISBURY UNIVERSITY CLARKE HONORS COLLEGE

DEAN

Dr. Andrew Martino
apmartino@salisbury.edu
410-546-6902

DIRECTOR OF THE BELLAVANCE HONORS PROGRAM

Dr. Emic Lelic
exlelic@salisbury.edu
410-548-3834

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS IN HONORS PROGRAM

Dr. Michael Koval
mrkoval@salisbury.edu
410-677-0168

DIRECTOR OF THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES HONORS PROGRAM

Dr. Jennifer Hart
jahart@salisbury.edu
410-548-4784

DIRECTOR OF THE HENSON HONORS PROGRAM IN SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS

Dr. Joshua Sokoloski
jesokoloski@salisbury.edu
410-543-6455

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Mandy Sanidad
Marketing Major, Multimedia Journalism Minor
msanidad1@gulls.salisbury.edu

WRITERS

Alwick Blouch, Sophie Detorie, Tessah Good, Kaley Hardman,
Logan Lankford, Kyla Linz, Joyce Montero, Claire Morin,
Isabella Napolitano, Maggie Patterson, Luke Petenbrink,
Julia Reburn, Mandy Sanidad, Sophia Smith, Sammie Somers,
Grace Wincovitch

EDITORS

Sophie Detorie, Ellie Hanover, Kaley Hardman, Claire Morin,
Sarah Renkevans, Sophia Smith

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Saunterer team members; Clarke Honors College faculty,
professors, and students; Creative Services and Brand
strategy; and Salisbury community members

CREATIVE WORKS

Amanda Densmore, Kaley Hardman, Victoria Lessig,
Allie Rudasill

Contact Us

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@suhonorscollege

Like Thoreau in *Walden*, we will record our sauntering here, remembering that
"if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to
live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in
common hours."

Internationally Honors

By Julia Reburn

If Atabong Fontem (she/her) could give any student one piece of advice, it would be to study somewhere new. Not to say being a student in a new country isn't scary, but for Fontem, the new and exciting opportunities outweigh any reservations about being in a new place.

When asked about her main motivation to become an international student, Fontem shared: "In my home country, the education is not that good. I applied to the U.S. because the schools are just better."

As a nursing major, Fontem takes her education very seriously, hoping to apply her degree to become an anesthesiologist. But no matter how many different types of schools Fontem has attended, she maintains the idea that "school is school." Growing up, Fontem was no stranger to unfamiliar places, stating that she moved around often for her mom's work. She was originally born in Cameroon, then moved to Nigeria and currently calls Senegal home.

One of the appeals of the Clarke Honors College is all the different opportunities provided within the honors college. "First pick is nice," Fontem noted, but one of the biggest opportunities was the ability to study abroad. "I wanted to go to Italy," she said, a sentiment many honors students share when asked to weigh the pros of being an honors student.

Meeting new people comes with the territory of seeing new places. Fontem noted that meeting all different kinds of people at SU has been incredibly interesting. She mentioned that her closest friends are international students as well. They bonded over all living in Nigeria.

The process of becoming an international student is no walk in the park. "It takes a long time to get a visa," Fontem shared, mentioning that for some people it only took a month and while, others never even got an appointment. "You have to explicitly state you are here for school," she said. "It's difficult not being able to work and only being restricted to school."

Being here on a student visa means international students cannot find a job unless it is on campus, which can be incredibly frustrating. However, even with the difficulties that come with being an international student, Fontem could not recommend it more.



My Radio Show: Tune in with Tess

By Tessah Good

I have a radio show, and guess what, you can too! WXSU, Salisbury University's radio club, offers students the opportunity to create and host their very own radio show. Students can design their entire show, including the theme, genre of music played and even the name of it. As long as everything is appropriate, there are no boundaries on what you choose to do. Your family and friends back home can also join in with just a click of a button by going to WXSU96.3.org.

My radio show, *Tune in with Tess*, airs from 6-7 p.m. every Tuesday night. On my show, I play a variety of different music like pop, country, rock and R&B. In between songs, I talk about whatever comes to mind. I will talk about my day or what is going on around Salisbury. I also like to interact with my viewers by encouraging them with good vibes. However, do not worry; if you do not want to talk, you can choose to play music back-to-back.

Not only will having your own radio show look great on a resume if you are interested in going into the radio field, but it is fun. WXSU has its own studio above Chick-fil-A in the Guerrieri Student Union. The office is filled with an accumulation of pictures, posters, CDs and artwork, all tracing back to when WXSU first began. The studio mirrors exactly what you would imagine a professional station would look like. Inside the studio, you can find a huge stationary board, two huge monitors and mics. The studio has a glass window, which looks into the office so other radio show members can watch in person.

If interested in joining WXSU, attend a meeting from 7-8 p.m. every Monday night in Holloway Hall 116.



The Future of Public Health: Leah Wynn

By Mandy Sanidad

The Clarke Honors College has no shortage of amazing students, one of whom is sophomore Leah Wynn (she/her). Wynn is a public health major with a political science minor, which shows in her involvement both on and off campus. She is the event coordinator for Project KISS (Keep It Sexually Safe); an honors ambassador; a member of Eta Sigma Gamma, the national health education honor society; an interdisciplinary office/teaching assistant; and has had multiple internships in the medical and public health field.

Wynn outlined three major programs Project KISS is currently tackling: Narcan, an opioid response program; Plan A, a pregnancy prevention program; and Include, an LGBTQIA+ sexual health and wellness program. As far as coordinating events goes, Wynn mentioned that Project KISS is hosting their condom fashion show/ rubber runway fashion show soon.

Some of the Project KISS peer educators will also be attending Maryland Adolescents Health Conference as keynote speakers, talking about what it has looked like teaching other students about sexual health and wellness and what the benefits are for speaking up for yourself in both academia and in personal health and wellness.

“Project KISS is a program funded through the Maryland Department of Health, and we are trained through the Wicomico Health Department,” said Wynn. “Essentially, we are college kids teaching other college kids about sexual health, physical health and emotional health.”

Wynn’s love for public health started in her junior and senior years of high school. She first participated in an internship at Johns Hopkins Hospital, shadowing anesthesiologist Dr. John Sampson. Wynn later participated in an internship in the Genetic Counseling/Oncology Unit at MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center. At her community college, she was able to do biotech research in a lab, looking into e coli bacteria with crispr technology.

Most recently, she had an internship at the Hartford County Health Department, which allowed her to create program plans for the new fiscal year that engaged with Black and Brown communities better. She mentioned that being at the board of education and fighting for the rights of LGBTQIA+ and minority students are really important to her.

“What drove me to public health is my global experience. Living somewhere else for the majority of my developmental years really put into perspective humanity and the need for humility,” said Wynn. “Not only did I live in Okinawa, Japan, but I traveled the world. That idea of global health and public health and being able to advocate and get those resources ... that was embedded in my head living somewhere else and traveling around the world to places that don’t have access to resources.”

Wynn commends the Clarke Honors College for allowing her to be around like-minded individuals and constantly giving out opportunities for students to capitalize on.

“Honors taught me: ‘If you want it, go get it.’ Being that assertive person, going to office hours, telling people your dreams. I’ve gotten a lot of opportunities just because I’ve been vocal about ‘This is what I want,’” said Wynn. “I think being around so many kids that are like, ‘I have these dreams, and I have these goals, and I’m gonna get it,’ it pushes me to do better. Honors breeds excellence in students.”





Posters on the Bay

By Joyce Montero

February 24, 2025, was a day to remember filled with surprises, challenges and the thrill of stepping outside my comfort zone. When I first started my HONR 111 class, I never imagined that my project would be selected for presentation at such a prestigious event as Poster on the Bay in Annapolis. Standing before distinguished guests, including the governor, cabinet members, deans and University officials, was an opportunity beyond anything I had expected.

The journey itself was an adventure in learning and personal growth. Our group of students gathered at the Guerrieri Academic Commons, boarding the bus with a mix of excitement and anticipation, eager to share our research and explore how our ideas could contribute to meaningful societal change. My project focused on how legal frameworks can help enforce information systems and technology to create a more sustainable supply chain. I was curious to see what I would learn from this experience, what new ideas might emerge and how my work could influence the minds of those in attendance.

Upon arriving at the Governor Calvert House, we made a brief stop at the Maryland State House, where we had the incredible opportunity to meet Governor Wes Moore. Initially, we were all a bit nervous, but when he entered

the conference room, his warmth and professionalism instantly put us at ease. He opened with an inspiring speech, celebrating our projects and encouraging us to continue pursuing research that benefits both Maryland and the nation. He expressed his vision for Maryland as a hub for investment, innovation and local entrepreneurship.

Following his speech, he invited us to ask questions, leading to a dynamic discussion. One of the key topics raised was how Maryland's government is ensuring equal access to education. When I asked how the state is working toward sustainability in business practices, Governor Moore explained that Maryland is committed to social responsibility, reducing procurement inefficiencies, and integrating technology and sustainable processes to drive economic growth. His response resonated deeply with me, as it aligned perfectly with the objectives of my own research. The session concluded with a handshake from the governor and a commemorative group photo, an unforgettable moment.

We then returned to the Governor Calvert House, where our posters were arranged alphabetically by the authors' name for presentation. As we stood by our displays, we had the chance to engage with an audience that included cabinet members, University deans, directors from Salisbury

University, and representatives from the Maryland Energy Administration and more departments. They were genuinely interested in our work, asking insightful questions and offering valuable suggestions on how to expand our research. Their feedback gave me a broader perspective on my project and opened new doors for further exploration, particularly in real-world applications within Maryland's industries.

This experience was nothing short of incredible and I am beyond grateful. First, I thank God for making this opportunity possible. I also extend my gratitude to Professor Lauren Hill, whose encouragement and mentorship guided me throughout this journey and to the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity (OURCA) for sponsoring the trip and handling all the logistical challenges to ensure we had the necessary resources.

To my fellow students, I offer this piece of advice. Always put your best effort into your projects. You may not have a clear idea of your research topic at first, but as you read, explore and learn, you will start to identify gaps and opportunities. Push yourself to do your best work, because you never know where it might lead. And most importantly, don't be afraid to apply for opportunities. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Me and the MCHC

By Kyla Linz and Grace Wincovitch

As freshmen at Salisbury University and members of the Clarke Honors College (CHC), we were pleasantly surprised by the remarkable research opportunities available to us, as well as the chance to attend multiple research conferences. We are Kyla and Grace, both passionate about English – one pursuing literature and the other focused on English for speakers of other languages (ESOL).

Stepping into our HONR 111 course, which revolved around independent research, our first college semester felt incredibly intimidating. However, with the invaluable support of our faculty mentors, we confidently navigated our research topics, aligning them with our own personal interests. The accomplishments we achieved throughout our research journey inspired us to apply for and later attend the Maryland Collegiate Honors Council Conference (MCHC), resulting in countless memorable experiences along the way.

At MCHC, we had the opportunity to present our research to honors college faculty members and students. This experience allowed us to showcase our dedication and hard work over the fall 2024 semester, receive insightful feedback from people who were interested in our topics and build connections with influential members of honors college communities.

The MCHC conference inspired us with the theme “Invisible History, Visible Realities.” During the keynote speaker presentation, we had the privilege of hearing from Dr. Michelle Wright, a history professor at the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC), who passionately explores the hidden histories of African Americans. Her presentation highlighted the importance of uncovering these narratives when visiting new places, encouraging us to look beyond present realities. It is essential for all of us to engage in this practice, honoring the struggles and rich culture of those whose stories were lost in time.

A select group of CHC students

proudly attended the MCHC conference, where we showcased our research through oral and poster presentations. Arriving at CCBC at 9 a.m. on February 21, we were warmly welcomed by the enthusiastic CCBC honors college faculty and students. We were directed to two rooms dedicated to poster presentations featuring a wide variety of topics from various honors colleges. Additionally, the day included fascinating oral presentations where students presented 15-minute-long impactful speeches. From research on immunotherapies, voting, conspiracy theories, microplastics and so much more, there was a huge range of topics for faculty members and students to engage with the entire day.

As poster presenters, this was an amazing opportunity to develop our speaking skills, enhance our critical thinking in real time and gracefully accept suggestions concerning our research. This experience was profoundly formative, allowing us to connect with fellow scholars from across Maryland. We delved into the unique attributes of different honors colleges, especially when comparing them to our own. Overall, we both had remarkable experiences and relished the chance to share our research and inspire others who had never considered our topics before.

At the end of the conference, Malika Washington, an SU honors student, was one of the four recipients who won the 2025 MCHC Best Abstract Award. The award Washington received was



only given to students with exceptional and noteworthy abstracts from the oral presentations.

The CHC strongly encourages its students to showcase their research, and for good reason. Presenting research allows us to engage with all three pillars of the honors college: to conduct research as undergraduates, to engage with a topic in a critical and interdisciplinary way, and to use our knowledge to make a positive impact on our community. Attending conferences is an incredible opportunity that all CHC students should take advantage of if they have the chance. We hope to build on these experiences while also gaining new ones, expanding on our current knowledge and working toward being exceptional students.

Ethically Honors

By Sophie Detorie

In late February 2025, Salisbury University's Ethics Bowl Maroon Team traveled to Norfolk, VA, to compete in the national competition against 35 other teams.

Ethics Bowl, a debate-style competition focused on the philosophical dimensions of a list of scenarios, sets out to challenge each student to think critically, logically and, most importantly, ethically. In a round, two teams will face off, each getting 10 minutes to present a case on a given philosophical scenario and question. Judges score the round and determine a winner.

SU has two teams, Gold and Maroon, who both traveled to Baltimore in December to compete in the Chesapeake regional competition. The Maroon Team qualified for nationals after being undefeated for five rounds,

finally achieving runner up regional winner after losing the tiebreaker against Virginia Tech.

Willow Nyland (they/them), a Clarke Honors College (CHC) sophomore and a member of the Gold Team, explained that "Ethics Bowl is a unique opportunity to critically analyze real world events through a philosophical lens. It challenges you to apply ethical principles to topics you might've never discussed otherwise."

At nationals, the team competed in four rounds, losing three by a hair and finally securing a win in the fourth round against Duke University. Each round was full of compelling philosophical discussion, friendly sportsmanship and incredible scholarship on both sides.

"Ethics bowl was a really valuable experience, I think it gave me a chance to really think about both current events

and my own perspective on things without feeling like I'd be put down or judged for not having prior knowledge," said Kate Gerlus (she/her), a CHC junior and member of the Maroon Team.

Personally, I have been on the Maroon Team for two years now, and as a graduating senior this year, I could not have asked for a better way to end my final season of competition. I've grown so much because of this competition, gaining so much confidence in my public speaking abilities and logical and teamwork skills.

I highly encourage any student (in the CHC and out) who has any interest in philosophy, debate or even just wants to try something new to check out Ethics Bowl next semester, I promise you won't regret it.



I've grown so much because of this competition...



Presidential Citizens Scholars

By Maggie Patterson



Mathijs Goyens-Harvey (he/him) and Moises Silva (he/him) are taking the Clarke Honors College values of community engagement and research to a new level with their induction into Salisbury University's Presidential Citizen Scholar Program (PCSP). This distinguished program aims to foster students' passion for leadership and community service through a rigorous course curriculum culminating in a local community project.

Goyens-Harvey, a junior history major, first heard about the program in a meeting with his professor, Ryan Weaver (he/him), who especially recommends honors students for the program. When Professor Weaver explained the impacts of the projects completed through the program, Goyens-Harvey knew it was an opportunity he was interested in.

"I just really liked the sound of all the projects, and it sounded like they were doing genuine differences," he recalled.

On the other hand, Silva, a sophomore education major, heard about the program from a student and was recommended to check out the PCSP project showcase himself.

"I heard these future leaders taking initiative, making a difference, talking

about the projects and the community that they were involved in and most importantly how they were making an impact in the Salisbury community," Silva said, and knew he wanted to join.

Being from outside the Salisbury community, Silva thought: "This is the perfect opportunity to really get to know this small town, and every day I feel like I fall in love with the town a little bit more."

After going through the application process, writing an essay and interviewing, Goyens-Harvey and Silva were one of about 15 people of different disciplines to get into the cohort. The two emphasized the interdisciplinary aspect of the program with different people working together to do good in the community.

"That's kind of the point, in a way, is to have these multiple different kinds of world views and multiple different experiences and multiple different majors in one program," said Goyens-Harvey.

The focus of the final project of PCSP ultimately takes the different interests of these students and narrows them to group projects everyone is passionate about. Finding this focus comes with creative freedom but also research and

meeting with city officials.

"You can be as ambitious as you want, but at the same time, you also have to be realistic," commented Silva.

The class had discussed addressing major problems like access to food and water, but Silva remembered thinking, "How can you become able to do something like that? So, we have to bring ourselves back down. Like, what is something that I can actually do, what is something that I cannot, but that we can do together?"

While Goyens-Harvey and Silva commented that they are early in the planning process and will have to "stay tuned" on knowing this cohorts' projects, they would recommend the program to other students already.

"If you're really in this moment in life where you want to make a hard difference, like a real, not just volunteering, but a really genuine difference and you're willing to do some of that hard work, then give it a try," said Goyens-Harvey.

Silva added: "Think about your priorities and where your priorities stand, because it's about deliberation, and you cannot succeed on something unless you're deliberate about it."

Checking in on Editor-in-Chief Alumni

By Mandy Sanidad

While previous editions of *The Saunterer* have included farewell articles of editor-in-chiefs passing the torch, there has yet to be follow-ups with editor-in-chief alumni. Each editor-in-chief was able to make *The Saunterer* into a creation of their own, with every edition building upon the legacy of past editions. *The Saunterer* staff give credit and pay homage to their wonderful editor-in-chiefs and share where they have landed and what they are up to now.

MOLLIE JEWELL (she/her) was a biology major with a minor in chemistry. She was the editor-in-chief during her junior year in 2017-2018. Jewell currently works as an analytical chemist at Eurofins Food Chemistry Testing in Madison, WI, doing third-party testing for clients who make products like food or dietary supplements and verifying the information supplied on a nutrition label.

Specifically, Jewell works in the amino acids team in the macronutrients department. She works as the second chemist on her team, so she has had the opportunity to problem solve more directly and validate certain matrices for the methods they currently have as well as starting new methods.

"Right now, I love what I do. I really enjoy both my benchwork that I'm doing with the day-to-day running of acids and things, but also, I've been getting more involved with method validation work and method development," she said. "So, a little bit of research and development on a very small scale from where I'm currently at within my job."

Jewell was the editor for her high school's literary magazine, so when she arrived at SU, she was excited to learn there was another school magazine she could participate in. Before becoming editor-in-chief, Jewell wrote for *The Saunterer*, was on the leadership board of the Honors Student Association (HSA) and was an honors ambassador.

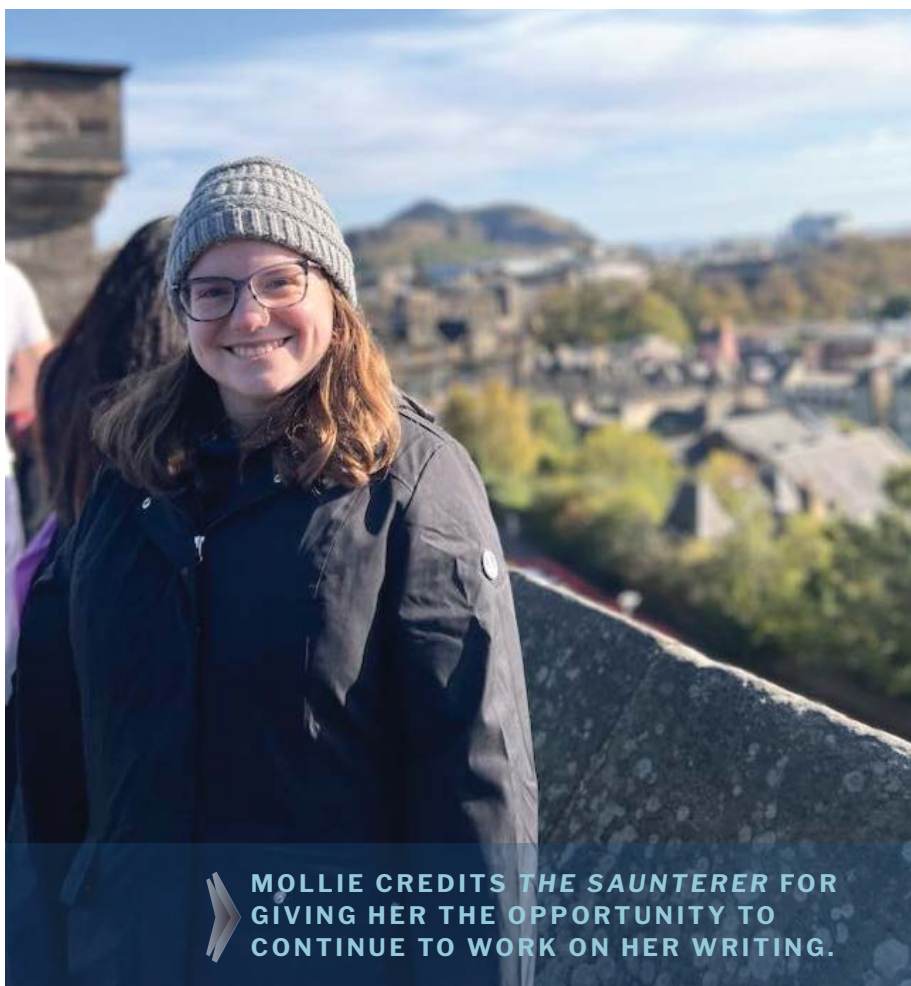
"When Frances Sherlock [the editor-in-chief before Jewell] had asked if I was interested in taking over for the student helper within the honors house and taking over as the editor of *The Saunterer*, I was just like 'You know what? Why not?'" said Jewell.

Jewell's favorite part about being editor-in-chief was being able to share what her peers were getting to do within the honors college and sharing many of the opportunities the honors college had to offer, such as student-led projects and student initiatives. Jewell implemented student initiatives into *The Saunterer's* processes as well.

"When I took over, I tried to make some changes within *The Saunterer*, trying to get the students to have more

ownership with their articles," said Jewell. "I really enjoyed getting to be like, 'Here! Now, you guys start editing between each other, and I'll just do the final proof. Let's let you guys do more with it because it's your magazine too.'"

Being a STEM student, Jewell's takeaways from being editor-in-chief was quite different from most, but she credits *The Saunterer* for giving her the opportunity to continue to work on her writing.



MOLLIE CREDITS *THE SAUNTERER* FOR GIVING HER THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE TO WORK ON HER WRITING.



EMILY BALL (she/her) was an English major with a creative writing track and a minor in film. She started as editor-in-chief in her sophomore year from 2018-2021. She currently works as a second grade teacher at Carroll Lutheran School in Westminster, MD. Ball is also working toward her master's in teaching online through Mount St. Mary's University.

"I started a Newspaper Club at the school, and I now do the same exact things that I would do with *The Saunterer* editors except it's toned down to ages 8-12," said Ball. "I also do Drama Club at school."

The Newspaper Club was started because a parent reached out to Ball after seeing that she had experience running a school paper, and Ball was happy to co-head the club. Similar to *The Saunterer*, the students pick their stories and learn to edit. She was even able to use adjusted slides from *The*

Saunterer in club meetings.

"We do it once a semester, and we get it published each semester," said Ball. "I'm literally doing the same thing I was doing for *The Saunterer* but with children. It's very fun."

Ball wrote for *The Saunterer* as a freshman, contributed creative works and was on HSA, but she became the editor-in-chief on a whim. She was offered the student worker position at the honors house but was unaware that she would be editor-in-chief of *The Saunterer* until about a month before the semester started.

"It was a task that was appointed to me, but I ended up really, really enjoying it," she said. "I enjoyed editing and getting ideas from other people about how to make my piece better, so I think that collaborative piece was a thing that made me go 'Oh, I'm really excited to be the editor-in-chief for this.'"

EMILY'S MAIN HIGHLIGHT WAS WHEN *THE SAUNTERER* WON BEST NEWSLETTER IN THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL COMPETITION HER JUNIOR YEAR.



Ball comments that one of her favorite parts of running *The Saunterer* was the initial brainstorming session. She believed some of the most creative ideas came from *The Saunterer's* writers. She says the main highlight was when *The Saunterer* won best newsletter in the National Collegiate Honors Council competition her junior year. Ball and her assistant editor flew out to New Orleans to accept the award.

Ball plans on continuing to teach for the near future, especially once she completes her master's, but she is also looking to get her writing published.

"I've published writing in lit journals, which I love doing, but I want to find another way to get my writing out there that's not just lit journals," said Ball.

Being editor-in-chief for *The Saunterer* allowed her to realize she had the capabilities to be in a leadership position. Ball credits much of her personal growth to her time in *The Saunterer*.

"I feel much more comfortable reading or teaching in front of a classroom, leading clubs ... a lot of my people skills and presentation skills I got from *The Saunterer* both as a writer and the editor," said Ball. "So, thanks *Saunterer*. It was a good run."

OLIVIA BALLMANN (she/her) was a communication major with a multimedia journalism track and an English minor. She was the editor-in-chief from 2021-2023. Currently, Ballmann works at MedChi, the Maryland state medical society, assisting with events and communications.

“We help doctors network, and we host these big events for them to meet each other and to share their ideas. We do a lot of legislative advocacy; we allow our doctors to have a voice and a say in what goes on in the state of Maryland and how they think they can improve health care not just for the patients in Maryland but for the doctors and the physicians as well,” said Ballmann.

While at Salisbury, Ballmann was extremely involved. She was an editor and then the editor-in-chief for *The Flyer* for some time, did sports broadcasting, was a part of HSA and was a part of Professor Ryan Weaver’s collaboration with the mayor’s office. However, she attributes starting her career out of college to *The Saunterer*.

“I think the reason I was hired is they have a *Maryland Medicine* magazine, and I expressed interest in that from doing *The Saunterer*, and now I can say I contribute to the magazine on an editing basis,” said Ballmann. “If I hadn’t had the experience that I had as editor-in-chief ... I don’t want to say it would have been a different story, but it definitely would’ve made it harder coming out into the job arena.”

Even though Ballmann got *The Saunterer* to win two more awards as best honors newsletter during her time as editor-in-chief, her favorite part of the job was the people she got to meet and work with. She thanked Dr. Martino, Dr. David Burns, Ryan Weaver, Emily Ball and all the writers and editors before her for providing her with opportunities and an amazing support system.

“The beautiful part about being editor-in-chief is you get to tell other people’s stories, and there’s just so many to tell,” said Ballmann.

Ballmann plans to continue writing, editing and creating for the near future. She will keep chasing each opportunity that comes up just as she did while in college.

“Any advice I would give to anybody else is to keep exploring whatever you want to explore, that’s what college is for,” she said. “Keep creating and never be afraid that you’re doing too much. There’s always more that you can be doing.”



OLIVIA WAS AN EDITOR AND THEN THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF FOR *THE FLYER* FOR SOME TIME, AMONG OTHER ACTIVITIES, BUT SHE ATTRIBUTES STARTING HER CAREER OUT OF COLLEGE TO *THE SAUNTERER*.

SU LIBRARIES NEWEST CHAPTER: Dean Joan

By Alwick Blouch



This February, the Guerrieri Academic Commons got a new dean. Joan Ruelle (she/her) is overseeing and managing the various departments as the dean of libraries and instructional services here at Salisbury University.

Ruelle's library science journey started during her time as an undergraduate, when she did a work study program at the college library. After graduating with her bachelor's degree, Ruelle worked at an academic library in a staff position. Once in graduate school, she continued to work in academic libraries through a graduate assistantship. Spending so much of her formative years working in an academic library grew Ruelle's love for library science.

"Academic libraries have the opportunity to be a pure teachable moment," Ruelle said.

Ruelle did not always have her mind set on becoming an academic library dean. As a librarian, Ruelle loved working one on one with people and helping people with all levels and types of research, but she discovered over time that administrative positions have the opportunity to help the library.

"I could leverage for greater change and create opportunities to support that individual researcher," she said.

Ruelle loves library science because she is always learning new things from the students. She also loves how libraries act as a place of community for college students, both actively like studying with friends or passively by simply spending time alone within the library. To Ruelle, libraries act as a catalyst for great things because of the resources and support libraries offer.

"We are able to facilitate the great minds around us," she said.

Ruelle was attracted to Salisbury because of its commitment to accessibility, affordability, student centeredness and high-impact practices.

"It was something I wanted to be a part of," she said.

Ruelle's favorite part about the library is the beautiful building and how it was so thoughtfully designed to best aid students and faculty. At Salisbury University, the librarians work heavily with faculty from different schools so that the library acts as a resource for students in any school or any year. The smaller size of Salisbury allows faculty to stay informed about other faculty, which further assist students to get the best help possible.

Ruelle hopes that students use the libraries to find resources that interest and excite them. Ruelle urges honors students to look further than their chosen discipline and explore topics through a variety of disciplinary lenses.

Of Grave Importance The Parsons Cemetery Clean Up

By Sammie Somers

Required community service once per semester might sound like a bummer, but not when done solely to help the living and also the dead. On March 8, Clarke Honors College (CHC) students volunteered at a clean-up event in Parsons Cemetery in downtown Salisbury.

The cemetery is one of the most beloved spots in Salisbury as a place for the community of living who visit and the dead who reside there. Donated by the Parsons' family to St. Peter's Church, the cemetery is run by a non-profit that works to make the location safe, clean and nice. To do this, they host voluntary clean-up events, which the CHC attends every semester.

Spring 2025 was no different, though the semester did have a few bumps at first. Originally, the students were going to take a Salisbury University van to the clean-up. However, soon before departure, Professor Lauren Hill had to announce that the CHC had been unable to acquire the van. With the clock ticking, the students worked with Professor Hill and found a solution. Three students, James Beard, Devin Hook, Kade Richardson and Malena Kober, had cars and drove the remaining 10 students down to the cemetery with Professor Hill.

Dr. Zaprowski (he/him), known to the CHC as Dr. Z, met the students as they arrived. He is a current member of the cemetery's board and is responsible for organizing the clean-up events that the honors students attended. Dr. Z gave a rundown on what the students would need to pick up and the best way to go about the process. Old Christmas decorations, like wreaths, were at the top of the list, followed by torn-up flowers, broken ceramics and torn flags. Anything too big for a trash bag was to be put on the side of the road for the truck to pick up.

The students, working in groups of two or three, were guided to the back of the cemetery, near the most recent plots and divided up into four sections to clean. As a community, the students set upon their task. Together they made judgment calls on some of the less damaged false flora and non-Christmas decorations. If the students were lucky enough to be near Dr. Z, they had the chance to learn some of the history about who was buried in the plots, such as a governor.

With great haste and some fun, these students managed to clean up the cemetery in record CHC time, tying the last bag up more than half an hour earlier than expected. Once the task was complete, the students celebrated with donuts and helped each other get back to campus. Thus, the honors students not only completed their community service but helped make Salisbury cleaner for all who pass and stay in Parsons Cemetery.

Curate This

Culture, Community and Honors Students

By Sophia Smith

Have you ever wanted to create your own museum exhibit? Last semester, honors students had the unique opportunity to do just that through the course *Curate This: Where Research and Art Meet*, taught by Museum of Eastern Shore Culture (MESOC) Curator and Folklife Specialist Raye Valion-Gillette (she/her). Her course allowed students to use fieldwork methods such as oral histories and archive research to build an exhibit from the ground up.

Valion-Gillette, a Maryland Institute College of Art graduate, is responsible for handling the museum's exhibits and cultural heritage programming at MESOC, which opened in November 2024 in downtown Salisbury. The idea for the course came from a conversation with the Clarke Honors College (CHC) dean, Dr. Andrew Martino two years ago. They wanted to explore the idea of collaborating to create an exhibit, but one that was focused more on research than art. They designed a class centered around cultural traditions that involved light, specifically Kwanzaa, Diwali and Yule. The class, made up of nine students, divided into three groups to focus on each of these traditions.

Valion-Gillette noted that one of the

major components of the course was teaching students the importance of community engagement and fieldwork, but most significantly, interpretive practices. "Interpretive practices answer the question of why," she explained. "Why this is important, why community is extremely important in the coming together of certain traditions."

To build their exhibits, students first learned from guest speakers who shared their own cultural traditions. Then, they were encouraged to seek out community members. Their research and interviews culminated in an exhibit that took shape over the weeks and an opening reception, where each group had the opportunity to present their work to friends and family. "It was a chance for them to create something – something tangible that people could come and see and interact with – I don't think that they were expecting just how much they would enjoy that aspect of it," she said.

Although Valion-Gillette had prior college-level teaching experience in studio art at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, this was her first time leading a research-based course.

However, she was quickly impressed by her honors students' approach and level of intellectual curiosity. "They were really open to not only learning new things but also implementing those in ways that aren't that traditional." She admired the students' openness to creative solutions and noted that they even taught her a few things.

Her students quickly discovered that fieldwork was not a straightforward process, but rather an experience of connections and uncovering new perspectives. The Kwanzaa group began with one of the guest speakers who provided an explanation of its principles and African heritage. That initial conversation led the group to other resources, creating a chain reaction of discovery. "It was kind of like following breadcrumbs," she explained. "One conversation would lead to another conversation would lead to another conversation."

Students in the Diwali group started at an Indian restaurant where they connected with someone who led them to further contacts. "And that's so much of how fieldwork kind of happens," she noted. You often need to reach out to various sources, each one offering a



new lead or piece of information. The students embraced this process as a puzzle, piecing together the details into a fuller picture.

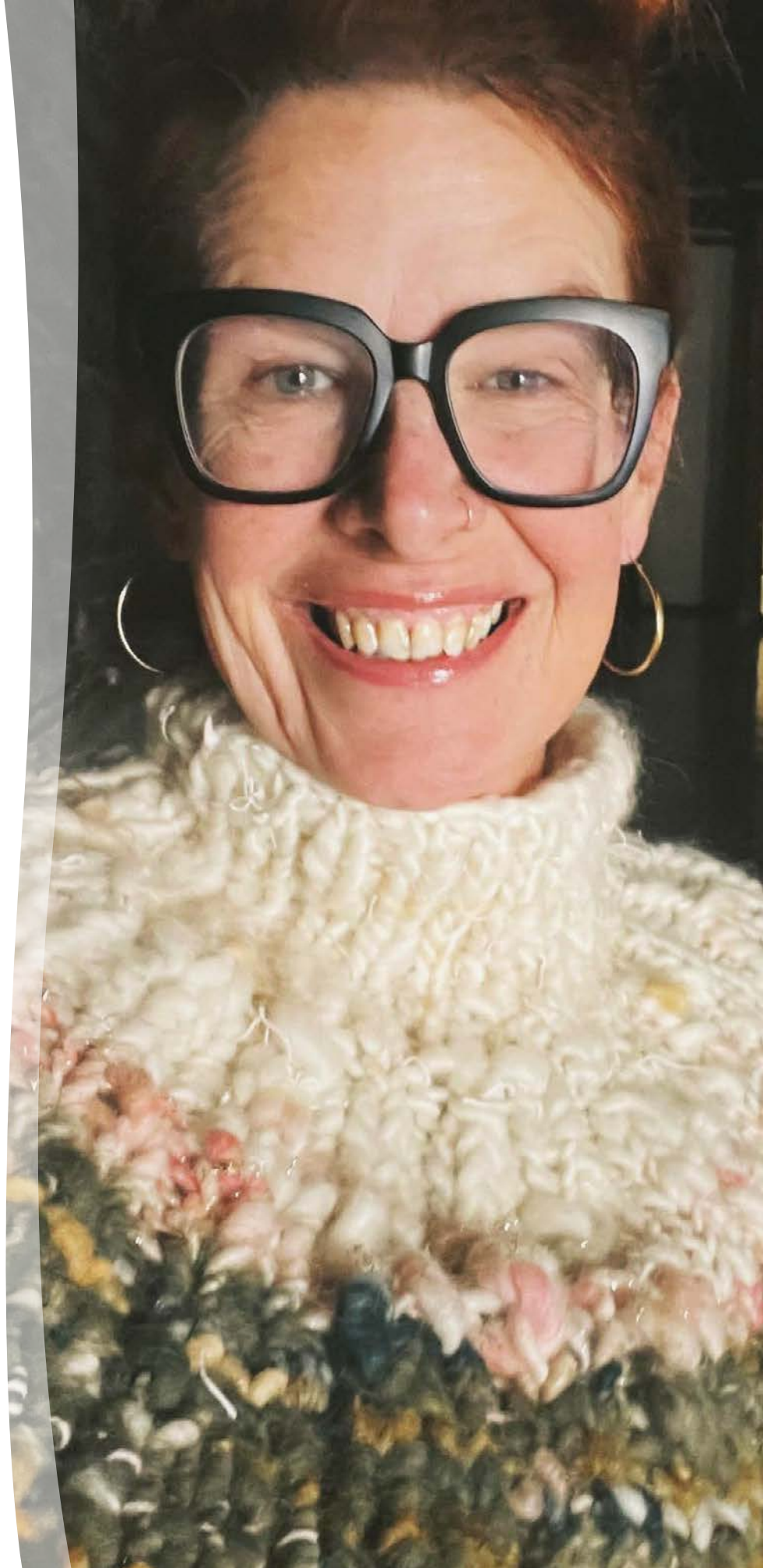
Beyond the research itself, Valion-Gillette was inspired by her honors students' enthusiasm. "It was just cool to see their excitement ... it took on a creativity that I wasn't necessarily expecting from such a research-based endeavor." The students kept research at the core of their work but also found unique ways to engage with the community and be creative. These experiences made her want to keep going and teach another class with honors students.

In fall 2025, Valion-Gillette will offer another honors course that focuses on art and activism. Students will explore both traditional and modern forms of activism through research, community outreach and fieldwork, culminating in their own exhibit to be presented in the MESC. She plans to structure the course around various mediums and art forms used in activism, such as graffiti, embroidery and quilting.

Reflecting on her previous class, Valion-Gillette valued its sense of community, and she is confident that her future honors students will bring the same curiosity and engagement. She shared: "I was lucky enough to have really cool students, really open to dialogue and they wanted to be challenged."

Looking ahead, she wants to continue the partnership between MESC and the CHC. "I'm hoping to keep this collaboration going for as long as I can," she said. She explained that the work at MESC is about helping the community explore new ideas and have important conversations. "I think our job here is to invite the community in to learn about things they may not know."

Teaching these classes through the CHC has given and will continue to give Valion-Gillette the opportunity to provide students with hands-on experience in research, fieldwork, community outreach and to create exhibits that bridge academic learning with real-world experiences and culture. She looks forward to seeing the discoveries her students will make and the meaningful exhibits they will bring to life.



When in Rome?

Honors College Study Abroad Winter 2025

By Kaley Hardman and Claire Morin

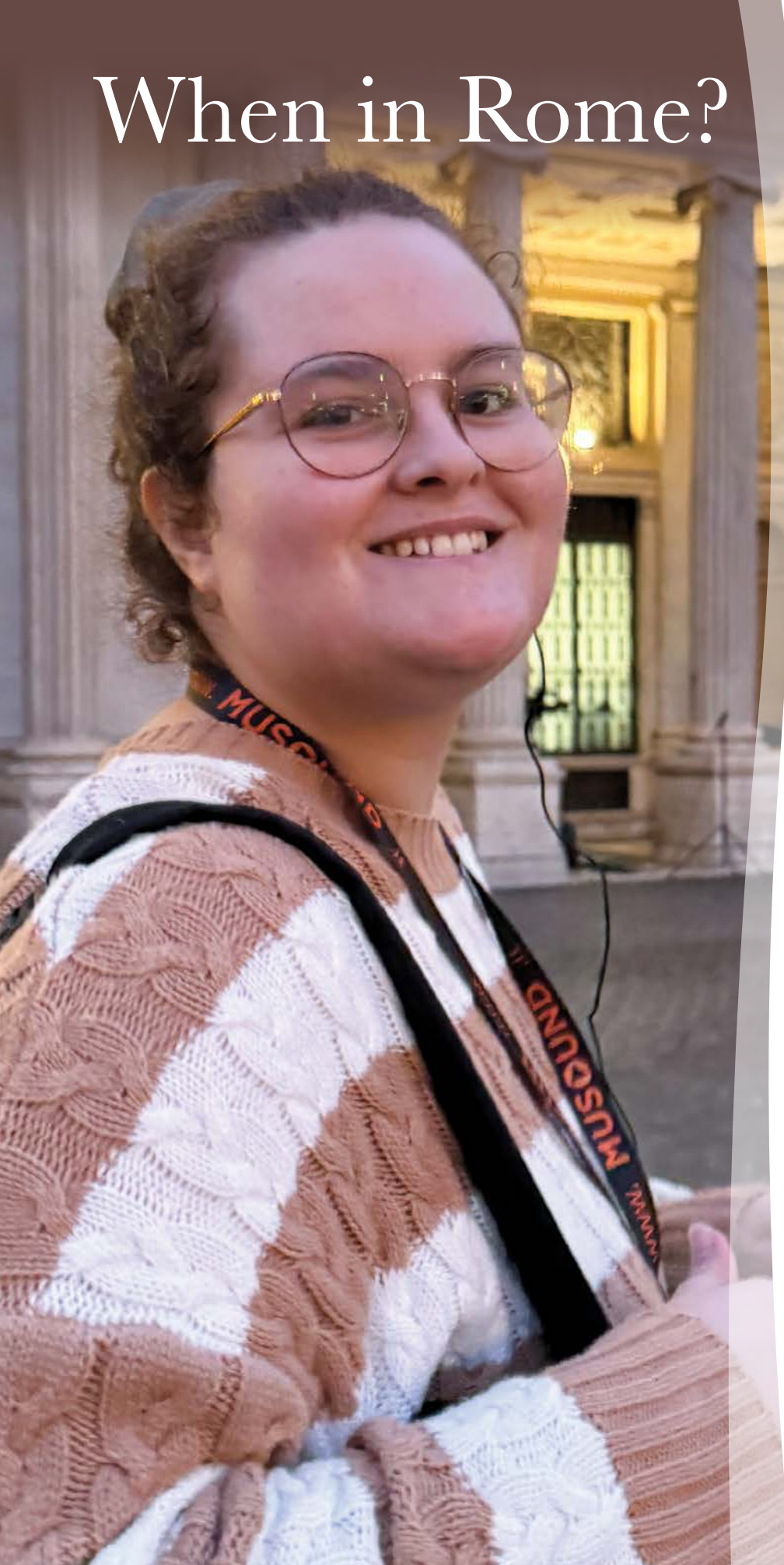
The Clarke Honors College (CHC) is all about opportunities. Last winter was the first semester the honors college and the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS) opened their program to study abroad in Rome, Italy. Kaley Hardman (she/her), a junior psychology major, and Claire Morin (she/her), a junior elementary education major, had the chance to experience the wonders of studying abroad for three weeks in this new program.

The CHC collaborated with AIFS to make honors study abroad an option all-year-round instead of just one week in summer. Moving the study from Sicily to the heart of historic Rome, Hardman and Morin got to study in the AIFS' Rome Global Education Center and on field trips around the city.

Morin's communication class took field trips to Trastevere and Esquilino. The trip in Trastevere was to a photography exhibit about how the town is changing from locals living there to becoming tourist housing. In Esquilino, her professor navigated the class through an immigrant marketplace, buildings bombed in World War II and eating lunch at a family-owned restaurant.

While academics were important, AIFS also offered several activities to do in and outside of the city. To get hands-on experience with Italian cuisine, they offered cooking classes on how to make handmade pasta and tiramisu, wine tasting classes to learn how to taste and differentiate specific wines, and a street food tour. AIFS also gave their study abroad students a chance to see an opera, Tosca, at the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma.

To immerse themselves in the deep history and culture of Rome, AIFS provided a few different tours to famous locations. One of these guided tours took Hardman and Morin above





ground level to explore its sites on rooftops such as the Monument to Victor Emmanuel II and the Terrazza Belvedere Aventino. From there, they could see the whole city and ancient ruins that were located miles away.

Equipped with a personal tour guide, the students explored the intricate architecture, sculptures, tapestries and paintings of the Vatican and St. Peter's Basilica, ending the tour in the breathtaking Sistine Chapel. The next week, the group climbed the steep steps of the Colosseum to overlook the ruins of the gladiator's stage. They then trekked to the neighboring Roman Forum to see notable art pieces, both new and old, and the gardens honoring the six vestal virgins.

A slightly longer bus trip away, AIFS provided an all-expense paid excursion to Assisi. Here, Hardman and Morin were guided through St. Francis Basilica, viewing the many frescos, both medieval and renaissance, as well as the crypt of St. Francis himself. The students were then released to explore Assisi on their own, and they took this time to experience the basilica of St. Chiara (Clare). Drastically different from St. Francis Basilica, the frescos were almost all erased from exposure to light, and her crypt had a wax replica in a glass casing to signify how her body had a delayed decomposition.

With just enough time for a light lunch and a meaningful chat with locals, Hardman and Morin were piled

onto a bus yet again to visit Azienda Agraria Scacciadiavoli of Pambuffetti, a vineyard in the wine region of Umbria. Here, they witnessed a wine tasting, participated in an olive oil tasting and a tour of the wine storage facility. Hundreds of barrels of wine were housed in the temperature-controlled building, aging to reach the perfect flavor. With so many activities to keep students engaged, AIFS definitely understood how to keep students busy.

During a three-day weekend, Hardman and Morin found time to explore different cities on their own. First, they took the four-hour long train ride to the Naples coast to visit the ruins of Pompeii. Despite the long journey, the guided tour and the freedom of exploration provided by the Pompeii Archaeological Ruins made the trek worth it.

Visitors were allowed to climb into the ruins themselves, stepping on the stone streets where lava rained centuries before. The elegant frescoes and mosaics, the complex frameworks and plasters of the bodies illustrate the thousands of years of history that sit within the dirt. Now, the rocky pathways are considered home to many stray cats, and Hardman and Morin are proud to say they reached a respectable cat count of five different sightings.

After traveling south, Hardman and Morin headed north of Rome to Florence. Here, Hardman and Morin explored the Accademia Art Gallery,

the home of Michaelangelo's famous "David." Next, they explored the castle of Meddicci Ricardi, a member of Florence's most influential family. With Rome's history dating back so many thousands of years, Hardman and Morin were able to see the interesting differences in art, architecture and culture within a city whose influence grew during the height of the renaissance.

The CHC provided interesting activities exclusive to its students. Morin was able to join her fellow CHC students to traverse Garbatella, Rome's "Garden City," and learn about how the fascism of Italy's past shaped the modern area. In the same topic, Hardman and Morin were given the opportunity to attend a lecture on fascism and how it affected the movie scene.

Finally, though not specifically planned, Hardman and Morin saw Rome's beauty through everyday places. They entered many churches, saw beautiful sculptures and art pieces and learned about Rome's thousands of years of history simply by stepping off the street.

This study abroad trip would not be possible without the CHC. The honors college's emphasis on study abroad inspired Hardman and Morin to cross the border for the first time and discover a completely new culture. It is an experience they will not forget.



Studying Abroad: The London Theatre Scene

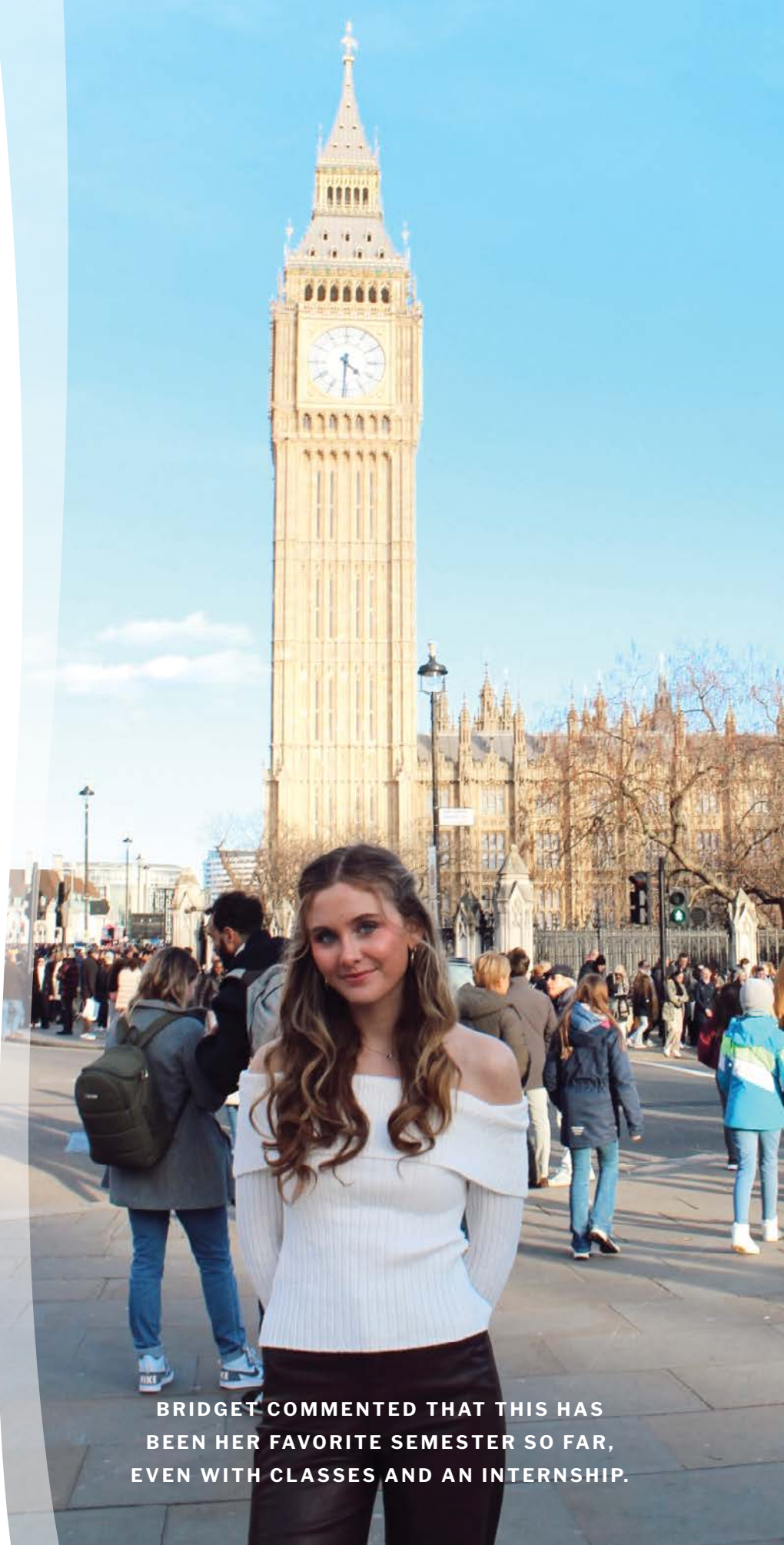
By Logan Lankford

Bridget Maloney (she/her), a sophomore in the Clarke Honors College, dove straight right into a study abroad and internship experience for the first time in London, U.K., this school year. She is majoring in psychology and theatre and wanted to partake in this year-long experience to fully immerse herself in another country. When asked why she had chosen to study abroad, Bridget expressed her excitement at the opportunity, saying, "I love traveling and discovering new places and lifestyles, and I've always felt a connection to London."

Through working at a theatre in London, she's getting both the cultural immersion that inherently comes with studying abroad and the skills necessary for fulfilling her theatre major. Her newfound city life has allowed her to meet new people, go to pub quizzes, experience fringe theatre and even attend an English football match. Bridget commented that this has been her favorite semester so far, even with classes and an internship. "I still feel as though I am on a really long vacation," said Bridget. She has managed to balance her academics and all the fun and unique activities London has to offer.

Her experience studying abroad has taught her a lot about independence as she navigates a city previously unknown to her without friends or family members. Bridget commented that while studying abroad sounded intimidating at first, she expressed that "It's cool to live in a city where I have the freedom to discover anything I want to."

She has learned so much about the world and herself during her journey abroad. Bridget encourages future students interested in study abroad to "definitely take advantage of the opportunity while you can!"



**BRIDGET COMMENTED THAT THIS HAS
BEEN HER FAVORITE SEMESTER SO FAR,
EVEN WITH CLASSES AND AN INTERNSHIP.**

Safari katika Tanzania: Miranda Surret's Boren Scholarship to Africa

By Kaley Hardman and Claire Morin

Learning a new language is a complicated but fulfilling process. Clarke Honors College (CHC) junior Miranda Surret (she/her) received a Boren scholarship: a nationally competitive fellowship that provides students the chance to travel to another country, spending months in an intensive language course.

As a double major in public health and international studies, Surret hopes to pursue a career in public health, and she understands the significance a language barrier can have when providing medical treatment.

"When I was looking more into languages that were going to be useful in a career in public health, potentially one focused on Africa, my dad and I found that Swahili popped up," disclosed Surret. "I was trying to find ways to have a really intense language study and spend a large amount of time in a place, so my mom talked to me about the Boren."

When she saw the opportunity to study Swahili at the MS Training Center

for Developmental Cooperation in Arusha, Tanzania, she grabbed it.

Surret was not alone in her language journey. During her stay, Surret would meet often with her language partner, a person from the community well versed in the Swahili language and Tanzanian culture.

Surret stated: "My language partner and I have talked about health care or differences between Tanzania and the United States, our families ... typically, people do not meet with their partner regularly after they leave, but I developed such a relationship with mine that I worked an agreement out with the school to pay for 12 language lessons just to keep up my Swahili."

The months Surret spent in Tanzania did not just teach her Swahili. She was also able to learn about Tanzanian culture through her host family, a mother and daughter, with whom she formed a close bond. Surret explained, "My host mom taught me how to make Tanzanian dishes like chapati."

Surret's host family also gave her

ample opportunity to explore Tanzanian nature. "I also got to go on a safari with my host family, which was very good," described Surret. "We saw lions, zebras, elephants, rhinos, buffaloes, hippos, birds of all kinds, wildebeest, gazelles and hyenas."

With so many great memories to look upon, Surret thanks the honors college for leading her to this scholarship.

She revealed: "The honors college helped me achieve this award by making the connection to Dr. [Kristen] Walton and introducing me to the National Fellowships Office, so I could learn more about the national fellowships that are out there and what goes into a good fellowship application."

If anyone is considering applying for a fellowship, Surret strongly recommends seizing the opportunity.

She said, "When I applied to the Boren, I applied for it not expecting to get it on the first try because most people do not, but I made the choice to just take the opportunity and see what came out of it."

WHEN MIRANDA SAW THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY SWAHILI, SHE GRABBED IT.





This year, the Clarke Honors College (CHC) welcomes its newest HONR 111 adjunct professor Dr. Alissa Elliott (she/her).

Dr. Elliott comes from an incredibly colorful background. Originally from Birmingham, AL, she graduated from the University of Texas with concentrations in English and cultural geography, and she completed her Ph.D. at Vanderbilt University. Though new to the CHC, Dr. Elliott is no stranger to honors. She attended the University of Texas on a scholarship for its own honors program: Plan II.

Since graduating, Dr. Elliott has traveled across southern America and England teaching grade 6-12 students in world literature, American literature, humanities and philosophy, critical theory, rhetoric composition, and more. Recently, Dr. Elliott had substituted classes and taught focus workshops, but this year is the first time she has had her own classroom on a regular schedule in about four years.

"I was always very interested in working with students one-on-one and in smaller groups, especially, on their writing," she expressed. "HONR 111 has been a really nice opportunity to do that same work."

Dr. Elliott especially loves collaborating with her students by guiding them through the physical and emotional processes that come with creating a research paper.

She revealed, "I struggle a little bit with writer's block myself ... I love to teach writing because I find it challenging ... not for intellectual reasons, but because we still need to work on staying present with our own ideas enough to fully develop them outside of a homework context."

One thing Dr. Elliott would like her students to know is that her life experiences are a little more far ranging than can be assumed based on her appearance. She has worked in education programs that focus on lower income students and students from a variety of backgrounds and cultures, and she carries those experiences with her today.

"Building community connections has always been pretty central to my work," she said. "I want to be sure that anyone that I work with knows that I'm in a position to respect and love and care for them regardless of their experience."

Outside of working for the CHC, Dr. Elliott is an editor on translations for the Kurdish Center for Arts and Culture in Erbil, Iraq; an alto in Salisbury chamber choir, Vox Concordia; a wife; and a mother. Both inside and outside Salisbury University, she puts an incredible amount of love and care into everything that she does.

"I really love the team that I work with here: Professor Hill and Tavel and Basham and also the ambassadors," she said. "I've been really impressed, really enjoy it and really appreciate how much my students are willing to connect with me and with each other. I hope I get to carry on teaching HONR 111 for a long time!"



Honors' New Waltz: Devin Hook

By Claire Morin

Visitors of the honors house may have noticed that recently it's been filled with music. Devin Hook (he/him), a physics – astronomy and astrophysics concentration major with a minor in statistics, spent his first semester at Clarke Honors College (CHC) taking HONR 111 as most freshmen do. However, Professor Adam Tavel gave his class an extra credit project that got Hook thinking about his passion: music.

Hook discovered his passion for music during the COVID-19 lockdowns. As he was ahead in schoolwork, he had too much free time on his hands. Entering stage right was the piano that lived in Hook's home. Hook said, "I have had a piano in my house for years. I played around with it, but I never really sat down and did anything with it." Over the next two years, Hook taught himself proper techniques and began playing songs on the piano.

Then, the HONR 111 extra credit project was announced to make an art piece based on the concepts that were taught in class that semester. Hook immediately thought about an aggressive waltz that he had been working on since March. Hook revealed: "I was remembering how I went about composing it, and it went very well with the concept of being peer reviewed. You have multiple different things melding into one, different ideas being mixed together into one big melding pot to create one final project."

Hook had taken inspiration from other composers, which reminded him of how professionals come together to critique a work. He explained that in the piece he

composed, "Different sections are inspired by different pieces." One part of the main melody is inspired by a piece by Christopher Larkin. He used a slow entrance like pieces from Rob Westwood and Greg Dombrowski. His driven melody was inspired by Chopin. Adam Porębski's aggressive classical style was adapted into Hook's style. Together, he brought their styles together to make one unique piece.

Having the opportunity to listen to Hook's piece really allowed me to hear how the different styles came together to make something beautiful and almost haunting. Its change in pacing from slow to fast to slow gave the piece life and an energy of its own. He said, "It is probably one of my best works I have ever done." Although I have not heard his other works, I would have to agree.

Besides providing the instrument that made this piece possible, he claims that the CHC gave him the inspiration to finish this piece that he has been working on. Hook explained: "It was half-finished. I had ideas of how I was going to continue it, but I never actually wrote any of it down. I never got anything on paper. Then, I realized: Wait a minute. I can actually do something with this and finish it and make it something I am proud of."

Hook encouraged all students in the CHC to continue their passions in college even if they are not related to their major or career. He said, "When things are really hard, take a step back and use your outlet ... Do not get rid of it because you are busy. Find the time if you can." It could possibly lead to your own greatest symphony.

Flipping the Script: My Teaching Debut in FILM 404

By Luke Petenbrink

Stepping into the role of a professor, even for one week, is exciting and a little daunting. When I originally proposed my honors contract for FILM 404: International Cinema with Dr. Elsie Walker (she/her), I knew it would be challenging. However, I also felt confident that my previous honors courses had prepared me for the task. I'm preparing to teach a week of courses on *A Hero*, an Iranian film by Asghar Farhadi. For that brief span of time, I'll be stepping into Dr. Walker's shoes as I lead the class. Through the Clarke Honors College, I have the unique privilege of moving beyond my usual role as a student and experiencing firsthand what it is like to stand on the other side of the classroom.

Right now, I'm knee-deep in research – analyzing the film, reading articles, choosing readings and attempting to figure out how to make the discussion fun rather than a lecture. I don't want this to feel like another assignment for my classmates; I want them to be excited to break down *A Hero* and how it explores morality, reputation and social pressure. I'm structuring the lessons the way Dr. Walker would, mixing guidance with open-ended questions that encourage students to think critically and share their own perspectives.

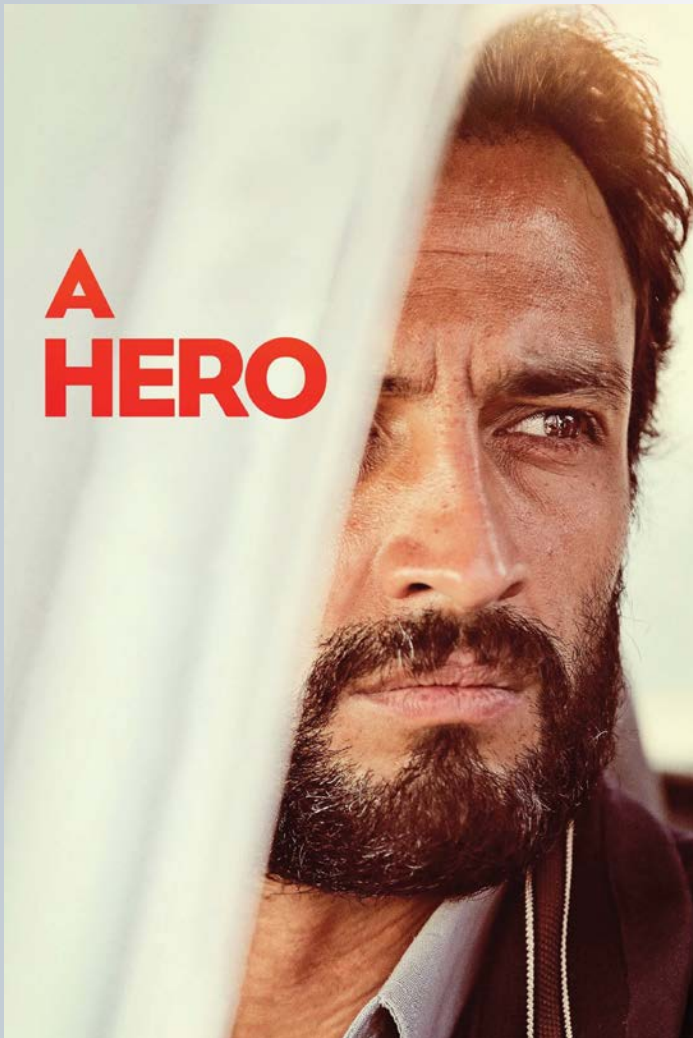


The idea of leading a discussion like this is a little intimidating, but also incredibly rewarding – I'm already seeing how much work goes into crafting a great class, something Dr. Walker does on a weekly basis.

Even though I haven't yet taught the class, just getting ready for it has already changed my thinking. I've had to consider not just what I'm going to say, but how to say it in a way that sparks discussion. I've noticed that the most engaging conversations happen when students bring their own opinions and experiences into the conversation and how we can relate the film's message into our own personal lives. That's the kind of conversation I'm trying to create: one that is real, provocative and maybe even a little bit unpredictable.

The Clarke Honors College has played a huge role in my academic journey, and this project is just one example. Through the honors contract, I am able to take my passion for film beyond just watching and analyzing – it's given me the chance to teach, research and challenge myself in new ways. In addition to this project, I've also had the opportunity to work with the honors college to create my own short film, which will be completed and screened later this semester and has helped me hone my storytelling and filmmaking skills. But stepping into a teaching role is different – it's pushed me to think about film in a way that's not just personal, but interactive.

Balancing everything – honors courses, creative pursuits and social life – can be overwhelming at times, but that's half the fun. The Clarke Honors College has given me experiences and opportunities I never imagined, pushing me to push my limits and encouraging me to explore new ways of learning. As I get ready to guide this class, I'm excited (and a little nervous) to see how it all plays out. No matter where I wind up in the film industry, I already know this experience has taught me an important lesson: the greatest conversations happen when you're as eager to learn as you are to teach.



Justice for Jersey Heights

By Julia Reburn

Before I sat down with Clarke Honors College senior Gabriela Haugh (she/her), I had no clue just a few miles away was the site of what the Environmental Protection Agency has called “the Eastern Shore’s biggest environmental justice issue.” Even though Haugh and her classmates are not the first to do research on carcinogenic chemicals, their goal is a little different than most regular scholarly research.

The focal point of Haugh and her team’s research lands in Jersey Heights here in Salisbury. According to Haugh, the Plymouth Tube Company has been emitting a carcinogenic chemical known as trichloroethylene (TCE). The main concern of TCE is its ability to pollute the air, water and soil. Haugh and her groupmates’ research aims to

understand the impacts of this chemical on the local community if it is found to have entered the well water in the area.

Haugh shed light on the background of Jersey Heights. It is a commonly low-income community whose residents historically came from other neighborhoods displaced during the constructions of routes 50 and 113. One important aspect of Jersey Heights is its use of well water, which now has to be tested to determine if it is safe for use. Haugh and her team have taken part in testing the water.

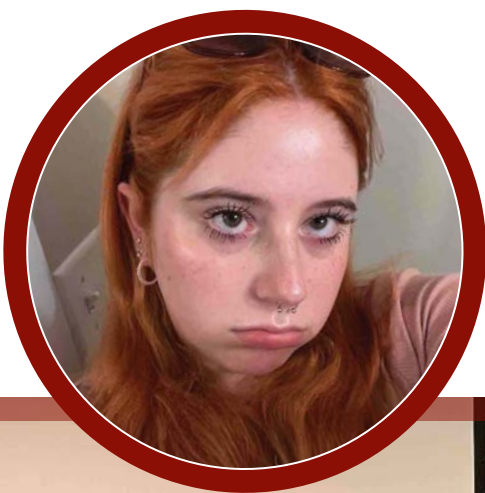
One aspect of Haugh’s research that has been incredibly frustrating is the process of obtaining Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval. Their IRB review has been a process that has spanned many months; Haugh noted that every time her team submitted to the IRB, it was sent back for minor changes to be made. But, this is not the only challenge Haugh and her team faced with their research.

Due to the sensitive nature of

attempting to understand if a company is releasing carcinogenic chemicals into the local community, certain information is difficult to come by. Haugh spoke about the importance of not giving up and trying different sets of keywords to find the information she and her team were looking for. The information was also often written in extremely technical terms. Haugh and her team found this to be an issue when spreading awareness to local communities.

“Most of the research is complicated and hard to understand,” said Haugh.

Haugh and her team made pamphlets to hand out to the local community, as well as a website. The most important aspect of Haugh and her team’s research was the accessibility of crucial information that impacts a whole community’s livelihood. Not only does Haugh’s research continue to spread information, it also shares the crucial understanding that knowledge is power, especially when it comes to facing environmental justice issues.



**CHECK OUT THEIR
WEBSITE HERE**



Climbing to Success: Honors at the Rock Wall

By Isabella Napolitano

The Clarke Honors College (CHC) is going above and beyond this semester. When they're not in class, you can find honors students Noah Weber (he/him), Mathijis Goyen-Harvey (he/him), Kian Benze (he/him) and Ben Cooledge (he/him) at the University's intramural rock wall, located right inside Maggs Center.

Whether you're seeking a new hobby, stress relief or physical activity, the rock wall has it all. For years, the rock wall has been recognized as an intramural sport at Salisbury University, which means it's entirely recreational; no commitments are necessary.

"It's a sport that allows you to take it at your own pace," said Weber. "You can either show up and climb the entire time, or you can climb once every 25 minutes and just hang out and chat."

Like the CHC, the rock wall unites

students from various majors. Benze said that when he began climbing in his freshman year, not many people showed up. Now, there are at least 15-20 members who climb regularly each week, while others show up occasionally for a quick challenge. However, the wall is more than just an obstacle to overcome; it also represents a community.

"It provides a very vibrant space for people to just be who they want to be," said Weber. "There's not a lot of community spaces on campus, so I think the rock wall is extremely valuable in that sense."

The principles of the rock wall are also applicable to academics. Weber and Goyen-

Harvey noted that the wall serves as a great outlet, providing motivation as well as a unique way to stay active.

"Rock climbing is problem-solving, mostly," Cooledge added. "It allows you to use critical thinking skills all the time."

Meetings are held twice a week, every Tuesday and Thursday evening at Maggs. If you're looking to reach new heights, the rock wall is definitely the place to be.



CREATIVE WORKS

By Honors Students

Honors students are known for their ability to think outside the box. They excel in a variety of fields, and often, their thinking results in the unexpected. This semester, the Clarke Honors College, put out a call to all of its students for creative pieces. In response, we received the following works.

POETRY BY VICTORIA LESSIG

Paper cuts on my tongue

*I packed your tea cup
set when we moved, wrapping
the delicate porcelain in paper
towels from dads*

*workbench. Your letters stay
in my sacred folder,
begging me to pull
them out and lick my scrapbook*

*of our past. Tear
drops stain each page I flip
over, every word reminding
me of love I've only ever*

*received from you. My mailbox
is empty now. Dust
fills the space where post*

*cards once laid. without
a tombstone, you
live through tea parties, print – me.*

Childhood Chronicles

*We moved again today. Snakes prowl
outside our new house, guarding the door
once night falls. I'm starting to believe in ghost
stories after seeing that shadow in the bathroom.*

*Mom is on her three hour walk again.
Will she come back? The question we
all ponder but are too afraid to
ask. Blood creeps into my head as I*

*sit anxiously singing Airplanes by Hailey
Williams. Dad says the woman who turned
pebbles into missiles doesn't deserve
my care, but he was the one to bless*

*her first. God says to love thy neighbor,
but Issac threw a block of ice
at my head this morning so I
forgot to say grace at Grandma's.*

I will never love you

*Breakfast was quiet this
morning. I can still hear
the words that dripped
from your mouth like espresso*

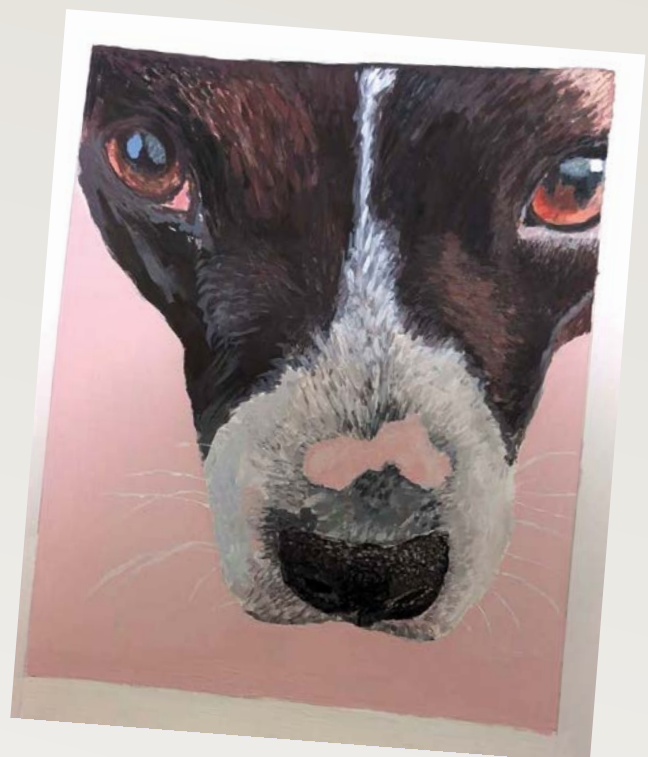
*into that yellow coffee cup which
touched your lips every morning.
Salty eggs remind me of nights we
sat by the ocean, sand scratching*

*our palms as we mapped out stars.
Forest green eyes bore into mine
as a decadent mouth spoke the sentence
That sent ice cubes down my spine.*

Artwork By Allie Rudasill



Artwork By Kaley Hardman





Photography By Amanda Densmore



Flash Fundraiser Thank You

The Saunterer gives a huge thank you to all who participated in our flash fundraiser last fall. Thanks to everyone's contributions, *The Saunterer's* team can continue to create and improve upon our beloved, nationally awarded honors magazine. Here are some kind words from our donors:



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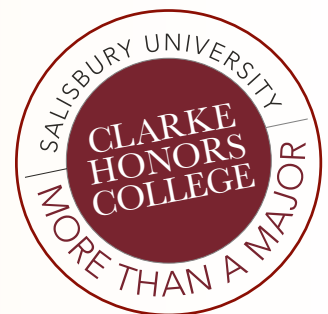
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“Thank you for everything! The honors program always provided me with a home and food on campus!”



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