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Cover photo by Anna Brennan





SALISBURY UNIVERSITY **HONORS COLLEGE**

DEAN

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

DIRECTOR OF THE BELLAVANCE **HONORS PROGRAM**

Dr. Stacia Kock slkock@salisbury.edu 410-548-1305

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS IN HONORS PROGRAM

Dr. Ani Mathers ammathers@salisbury.edu 410-548-5695

PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF THE **HENSON HONORS PROGRAM** IN SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS

Dr. Jennifer Nyland jfnyland@salisbury.edu 410-677-0122

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT **SPECIALIST**

Joan Kjeldsen jbkjeldsen@salisbury.edu 410-677-6556

STUDENT EDITOR:

Emily Ball, Chief Editor English, Creative Writing Track, 2021 eball1@gulls.salisbury.edu

ASSISTANT STUDENT EDITORS:

Freddy Freeman, Allison Guy, lan Leverage, Thomas Long, Miranda Skelley, Abby Slovick, Katlynne Tatterson

CONTACT US

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COVID-19:

What We Never Saw Coming

This spring semester, Honors College students came back to Salisbury's campus full of ambition. Seniors came back with bold ideas to finish their thesis or creative project. Freshmen stepped on campus, optimistic about finishing their first year off with their friends. Faculty looked forward to working with their students again. Everything seemed to be falling into place as usual.

Then, COVID-19 became a force that swept across the nation. Suddenly, our semester was coming to an end on Salisbury's campus, and all students were sent home to continue classes online. This was devastating to many students, especially seniors finishing out their last semester. But, we all did our part to end the virus' rampage. Students practiced social distancing, quarantine and, of course, vigorously washing their hands. What impressed me so much was the dedication my writers, editors and contributors had to *The Saunterer* even if we were not physically on Salisbury's campus for meetings. I continued to communicate with contributors via email and produced this issue of *The Saunterer*.

I see this issue as particularly special. Because even when the world was in chaos, I still had students sending me emails asking to take on more articles or submit more photos. Honors students persisted, attempting to make the world seem just a little normal in times of great abnormality.

For that, I thank my writers, editors, creative works contributors and all faculty who worked so hard to make this issue happen. I do not know where I would be without your enthusiasm and helpfulness. Most of all, thank you to everyone who did their part to end COVID-19. Washing your hands and staying six feet away may seem like small feats, but you cannot even imagine how many lives you saved.

Emily Ball, Chief Editor



Supplemental Instruction Leaders: Helping Students Succeed

By Allison Guy

Allison Guy is a junior English major in the writing and rhetoric track with a minor in music.

Just do it, because if you're being asked to be an SI leader, you know the subject well enough to succeed in that position.

Not only do Honors College students thrive in the classroom – they get involved and succeed outside of the classroom as well. A number of Honors College students are supplemental instruction leaders. SI leaders are responsible for attending a class that they took and earned an A in and holding content review sessions. Courses with SI leaders are ones that are historically difficult for students. According to Chris Taylor, a junior philosophy major who is an SI leader for Introduction to Philosophy: "A supplemental instructor is kind of a combination between a tutor and a teacher's assistant."

SI leaders commit to more than just attending classes and content review sessions. According to Alyssa Chesney, an SI leader for Principles of Microeconomics and a sophomore finance and business economics double major, SI leaders are dedicated to not only helping students with a class, but also with college life in general. "There's a lot of advice and tips and tricks just for general life here on campus for students, like what classes to take, when to take them, what professors might be good ... But our first and foremost responsibility is getting these students to pass the class," Chesney said.

The SI leader role benefits students and SI leaders alike. Charlie Lucas, a sophomore communication major who is an SI leader for Modern Statistics with Computer Analysis, said that being an SI leader has helped her learn to explain concepts in different ways. Lucas said of her experience: "I've learned to just ... explain my thoughts better. In different ways. So, if I explain a concept in one way, and a student doesn't get it ... I've learned to be able to look at it from a different perspective and explain it a different way so that maybe they can understand it better."

Taylor expressed a similar sentiment, stating that being an SI leader has helped

him with his own coursework. "For our honors thesis," Taylor explained, "we have to write it for more of a general academic audience than just our own discipline. Through explaining a lot of these principles to students, I've really learned how to discuss philosophy more generally and more broadly, and that's really going to help me out."

Chesney offered words of encouragement for any honors student who is thinking about becoming an SI leader: "My biggest advice is to just to do it, because if you're being asked to do it, you know the subject well enough to succeed in that position."

Honors students show initiative

and drive at a poster presentation. Supplemental instructors help to pave the way for student success like this.





Honors in COMEDY

By Olivia Ballman

Olivia Ballman is a freshman communication major with a multimedia journalism track and a minor in psychology.

Anna Burns and Melanie Staszewski are hard-working members of Salisbury University's Honors College, but what many don't know is that both these student play a vital role in Salisbury University's improv team and club, the Comedy Gulls, proving that academic and social achievements can and should go hand in hand.

Burns, the current president of the team, and Staszewski, last year's vice president, have taken on leadership roles that have impacted the growth of the team and club tremendously. Their passion for comedy came from various influences, ranging from family members to high school role models to the comedians that fill our television screens today. This passion eventually sparked the

creation of the Comedy Gulls.

Before forming the SU Improv Club and Team, Burns had noticed that Salisbury University needed an improv club, so Burns formed a club with four initial members. With the help of Staszewski, Burns eventually expanded the club to 22 members. With time, Burns was able to establish both an improv club and improv team, the Comedy Gulls. The team focused performing comedic routines while the club sought to teach newcomers about valuable aspects of a comedic routine.

"It's all about teamwork ...
Make your partner look good, and
you'll look good", Burns stated,
emphasizing the importance of
collaborating with another person
and highlighting their skills.

Staszewski recalled how her

improv experience has led her to persevere while truly living in the moment. Staszewski added: "It isn't always easy, but it is always worth it."

Although the task of balancing both social and academic life may be strenuous at times, it has indeed proven to be worth it, as the two have taught fellow students the importance of communicating with one another all through comedic improvisation.

Burns' and Staszewski's experiences with the club are an inspiration for fellow honors students to realize the importance of balance as it is the key to opening the doors of opportunity. As Staszewski put it: "Part of being academically successful is a willingness to try anything – everything – that interests you."

Natasha Hayes In Hong Kong

By Thomas Long

Thomas Long is a junior history major in SU's Pre-Law Program and a minor in philosophy.

Studying abroad is a popular option for Honors College students. This can count in lieu of an honors class that would have been taken at SU. In fall 2019, the Honors College had the pleasure of having one of our students study in Hong Kong. Junior accounting major Natasha Hayes studied abroad at Hong Kong Baptist University. While there, she had the opportunity to take two business classes and a course in Cantonese. These classes not only counted toward Natasha's major, but also her honors credits required to graduate.

Natasha also did her share of exploring during her semester abroad. Hong Kong itself was a vibrant city, and its outskirts offered plenty of hiking trails with views of islands, mountains and beaches. Natasha said that Hong Kong felt more Westernized than most other Asian cities. Natasha also traveled outside of Hong Kong. "During our orientation, the American embassy advised taking caution in traveling to the Chinese mainland, but I don't think anyone who went had any problems. I traveled to South Korea, Macau, Taiwan, Vietnam and Japan during the semester," Natasha shared.

Honors students can face challenges during their time abroad. Natasha's semester coincided with publicized protests taking place in Hong Kong against the government. International students felt the protests' effects in their learning format.

"During the last month of my semester, the University claimed that there was too much damage from the protests, and that it was difficult for some students to use public transportation to get to classes. They then switched to online classes only," Natasha stated. The campus remained open. Natasha did not feel unsafe during the protests, but she still felt their presence: "You would have to be careful about going to certain areas on weekends, and sometimes we were advised not to wear black at night due to it being the color worn by protestors."

Natasha's experience studying abroad contributed greatly to her experience as an honors student. In Natasha's words: "The semester opened my eyes to the vast differences in cultures around the world, particularly in Asia. People live with different governments, societies and cultures that are all unique, but ultimately, we can all connect through language and cultural exchanges. My time abroad last fall allowed me to become a more globally competent student who sees that there is more than one way to view the world through immersion in different cultures."

Junior accounting major Natasha Hayes standing in front of the famous Tokyo Tower in Japan, one of the stops on her study abroad.



Year of the Nurse

By Lindsey Farrell Lindsey Farrell is a junior nursing major.

Students who aspire to be nurses are known for being ambitious, caring and hardworking. In this issue of The Saunterer, junior Lindsey Farrell gives her insight on what it means to be an Honors College nursing student.

Nurses are the backbone of the health care industry, as they are the people who witness both the beginning and end of life, often in the span of a single shift. This year, 2020, is being celebrated as the Year of the Nurse, and I often find myself wondering what the world could learn from this profession.

As students, we are not yet nurses, but we are not ordinary college students either. We spend half our week in a hospital, providing first-hand care to patients, and we spend the remainder of the week attempting to funnel our way back into routine University life. Our major is known for being academically challenging, but



Junior Honors College nursing students pictured (from left) are Jade Miller, Lindsey Farrell, Natalie Marcos, Bridget Wilding and Alexa Padiernos.

there are numerous aspects of being a nursing major that are not noticeable to the naked eye. As nursing students, we are known for spending countless hours studying in the library and swallowing coffee as if it is the key to our existence. We are known for canceling plans with our friends in order to finish assignments, perfect our skills or spend the weekend studying for an upcoming Monday morning exam. Collegiate honors students are known for accomplishing coursework that goes beyond curriculum expectations, and there is more to honors students than what meets the eye – nursing students are known for so much and we could be known for so much more.

Personally, I thought I was coming into the Nursing School prepared for the challenge, as I had a preconceived idea in my head of what nursing students face academically. Now a year into the program, I have realized no one could have prepared me to conquer such a demanding major. In nursing, there are numerous things a textbook or professor cannot teach. No simulation experience can teach you how to find dignity in giving someone a bed bath. No textbook can teach you how to cry with a patient or tell a family member that their loved one is dying. No class can prepare you to check out from your own life and spend 12 hours helping another person overcome their personal struggles and challenges. No professor can explain that even though you have clocked out of your own shift, some patient's stories will remain with you for a lifetime. No prerequisite class can explain the feeling of trying to fall asleep but fighting thoughts that replay every action you performed throughout the day. The invaluable lessons taught by this major are what I believe nurses can share with the world.

If there is one piece of advice nurses could relay to the world, I think it would be to become comfortable with being uncomfortable. Dwelling on how a situation could be different is the worst thing you can possibly do to yourself. Nothing in nursing goes as planned, and adapting to change is the very foundation of such a rewarding profession. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought nurses into a new spotlight on the world stage. The entire world has been impacted by the virus, making the Year of the Nurse a fitting title. Being in a constant state of uncertainty is challenging, but I am sure everyone can learn from it. The Honors College at Salisbury University has helped me prepare to face the challenge of adapting to a new learning environment and taught me to creatively search for solutions when answers are not black and white. Nursing has taught me that some aspects of life cannot be taught, rather they must be learned through personal experience.

This unimaginable pandemic has brought to light a fundamental concept of nursing that can be taught to everyone: The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. As the world runs toward isolation from a fatal virus, nurses run selflessly toward the fight against it.

Each year, The Saunterer showcases a faculty member of the Honors College. This year, Dr. James King is featured for his outstanding teaching.

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Faculty Spotlight: Dr. James King

By Kendall Reed Kendall Reed is a freshman communication major with a journalism track.



Dr. James King, English faculty, offers an array of courses that are usually in African American and/or African diasporic literature, which is the literature of the disbursement of the African peoples. These courses include authors from the African continent, authors from the Caribbean, as well as authors in other parts of the world, including the United States.

Currently, Dr. King teaches one honors course: African Americans and Slavery. Currently, honors students enrolled in the course are studying Gyasi's *Homegoing*, which follows the descendants of an Asante woman in the 1700s. As in many of Dr. King's courses, students partake in discussions and close readings of the text, but what sets his honors course apart from others is the degree of rigor involved. Dr. King shared: "I treat Honors College classes like I would treat a graduate class." No need to be alarmed, Dr. King assured that he does not mean in terms of stress, but in terms of having ease and comfort with the text. In the summer of next year, if all goes according to plan, Dr. King will teach the same honors course over two weeks in Ghana.



... What sets Dr. King apart, and makes his being in the spotlight well-deserved, is the ultimate goal he has in mind when both creating and teaching courses.

In the upcoming fall semester, Dr. King will teach three courses. One is a course on Western literature, which will be "from a first nations vantage point, from the view of the other as opposed to the usual cowboys and Indians westerns." Another course he plans to teach is Literature of the Renaissance; ordinarily, he would take the students enrolled in this course to Harlem to further their knowledge, but due to current events, there is no guarantee this will occur this year. Lastly, Dr. King will teach the African American Short Story course because, as he said, "it is a good way to introduce folks to the Fulton School, English major and literature of the African diaspora."

What sets Dr. King apart, and makes his being in the spotlight well-deserved, is the ultimate goal he has in mind when both creating and teaching courses. Through the study of literature, Dr. King exposes students "to different lifeways that oftentimes have little or nothing to do with Western ways of living and functioning, but despite that difference, they are indeed completely normal and acceptable to folks." Dr. King wants his students to "understand the cultures they are being exposed to, not to judge harshly simply because of difference." Though Dr. King's "want" is not included in the course description, it should be a reason as to why one would want to take any of his courses.

Honors Creations: eSports Association

By Brigid O'Connor

Brigid O'Connor is a political science and conflict analysis and dispute resolution double major with an East Asian studies minor.

The 2010s have given rise to the popularity of streaming and other online outlets for playing video games. Games like League of Legends, Hearthstone, Overwatch and Rocket League are all examples of video games that fit into this category. As Honors College students, there is this perception that we are all about working hard, with no time for recreational or fun activities such as gaming. However, the eSports Association is an example of a fun and easygoing club created exclusively

by honors students. The founders of the club – Garrett Shindle, Eli Rush, Brock Forsythe and Alexander Beaudry – are all honors students dedicated to both their studies and having fun in their free time. In fact, numerous members of the club – beyond officers – are honors students as well.

Shindle is the main founder and serves as the current president of the eSports club. He likes to promote inclusivity of membership within the club, and he shared: "While our club does feature competitive gaming, our club is very casual, and people are typically just there

to have fun. I do my best to make sure this mentality carries over to my club as well." The eSports club is an example of a club that helps wind down students' stresses, both honors and non-honors students alike, and Shindle explores some of the passions honors students may have outside of schoolwork.

Rush is an Honors Ambassador and serves as the on-campus event organizer for the club. He noted: "Being an Honors Ambassador allows me to go to events on campus and promote the Honors College. While I am there, though, I also try to promote the club and get people to check it out if they aren't sure what there is to offer at Salisbury University. The Honors College is rather a different mindset with all different types of people, even those who like to game competitively." While it can be difficult at times to juggle multiple responsibilities as honors students, it certainly can be done in an



enjoyable fashion, such as taking part in clubs centered on one's passions, like video games.

Forsythe is a resident assistant and is the tournament organizer for the club. He is the team captain for both Overwatch and Starcraft 2 at Salisbury University, as well as a computer science major. He handles these responsibilities by having a "good support system with my club

members, coworkers and friends." Having a good support system is essential to any student's success, and making friends by taking part in clubs can be an important part of that process.

Honors students are rigorous in their studies, but they should always set aside free time to pursue their passions. When interviewing the three officers, they all had the same view on how the club has helped them meet and become great friends with people they otherwise would not have had they not been a part of the club. As

Forsythe claimed: "Being a part of this club, I have met several people I never thought I would have gotten to know otherwise." In the same vein. Rush said: "Normally I just play by myself, but because of the club. I have been able to meet so many people who we can hang out with both within and outside the club. I don't know if I would have the same friends if I hadn't started and been a part of the club." They all held the belief that being a part of a club inherently allows for connections and friendships to be made.

Some advice Shindle offered to any honors student wanting to start a

club is to establish a good support system: "That means finding people who are willing to step up and help you along the way. These students will likely become your executive board and are honestly the most important part of your club. They will help you with finding and retaining members, planning meetings and so much more."

Joining the Honors College After Your Freshman Year

by Katlynne Tatterson

Katlynne Tatterson is a senior biology major and chemistry minor.

Anna explained that when she was accepted to SU, she was not aware that there was an Honors College and did not join until the second semester of her sophomore year.

Not all Honors College students at Salisbury University initiate their undergraduate careers in the same way. Some begin at different universities or at SU without knowing the benefits the Honors College offers.

Anna Brennan, a current junior, is one such student. Anna explained that when she was accepted to SU, she was not aware that there was an Honors College and did not join until the second semester of her sophomore year. She said that when she found out, "several of my friends in honors mentioned that they thought application was only for incoming freshmen." She shared that she instead decided to get involved within her the school of her major – the Henson School of Science and Technology, but she found that it was difficult to pursue research intended for publication without the help of the Honors College. Anna said that she later discovered that Dr. Jennifer Nyland, the director of the Henson Honors Program, was her professor for an introductory biology class. After some encouragement from Dr. Nyland, Anna applied and was accepted to the Honors College.

Since opting into the Henson Honors Program, Anna said that she has noticed many contrasts from the standard curriculum. She elaborated that, "the classes are definitely smaller, and in Henson, they are more research based, [and] professors are readily willing to help you learn how to do research more effectively in an honors

class." Anna also explained that she has been able to take interesting courses like Cancer Cell Biology and feels at home in the more discussion-focused classes offered by the Honors College. Now, she shared, "I am a Henson Honors Ambassador, I am currently working on my honors thesis, and I am planning a TEDxSalisburyUniversity event with the help of the Honors College."

As for students considering the Honors College who are currently considered traditional students, Anna advises that joining as a nonfreshman "is a little overwhelming ... but it also opened up opportunities to earn my credits in unique ways." Overall, Anna is grateful for the opportunities afforded to her by the Honors College and so are the many established SU students who apply every year along with incoming freshmen.

Anna Brennan, who joined the Honors College her sophomore year, credits honors for helping her pursue her research.

Quarantine **activities**

Over the course of quarantine, students have taken to catching up on reading, to shows and music. Honors College Dean Andrew Martino sent out an email and asked honors students what they were doing to entertain themselves during this time. These are some of the responses.

Emily Ball

- Major: English, Creative Writing Track
- Minors: Psychology and Business and Professional Writing
- Watching: New Girl on Netflix
- Reading: Watchmen by Alan Moore
- Listening to: Joni Mitchell's Blue

Eli Rush

- Major: Economics
- Minors: Computer Science and East Asian Studies
- Watching: McMillions on HBO
- Reading: The Stormlight Archive series by Brandon Sanderson
- Listening to: Rainbow Note

Abby Slovick

- Majors: Early and Elementary Education
- Watching: Blue Planet II on Netflix
- Reading: The Line Becomes A River by Francisco Cantú
- Listening to: Taylor Swift's Lover

Aaron Steigler

- Major: Urban and Regional Planning
- Minors: International Studies and Spanish
- Watching: "Galavant" on Netflix
- Reading: Republic by Plato
- Listening to: Mercedes Sosa, "Philosophize This" Podcast







Local Students in the Honors College

By Brianna Domenick and Sabrina Stokes

Brianna Domenick is a freshman Spanish major in the Health Professions Advisory Program. Sabrina Stokes is a freshman chemistry major on the accelerated pharmacy track.

The Salisbury University Honors College has supported local and commuting students for as long as it has existed. Choosing Salisbury University was an easy choice after Scholar's Day, when we were introduced to the Honors College. Scholar's Day was our first opportunity to explore all that the Honors College has to offer, and it was a great day to meet people. In fact, it was the first time we met.

The Honors College hosts specific events for local and commuting students; the goal is to ensure that these students immerse themselves into college life the same as those who participate in the Honors Living Learning Communities (LLC). In the beginning of the school year, all non-LLC students were invited to attend a "meet and greet." This allowed these students the opportunity to talk to other

students in the various disciplines throughout the University. These introductions lead to lifelong friendships and definitely encourage formation of study groups and extracurricular activities.

The Honors House itself greatly supports students who do not reside on campus. The dining room and Florida Room both allow students a great open space to study with friends or study groups and provide a much-needed respite during a hectic academic schedule. The Honors House is equipped with a fully stocked and functional kitchen, available for all honors students' use. This is especially beneficial to commuter students who do not have a meal plan or do not have extra money to spend on meals. They can grab a quick snack and drink while on campus without the need to return home or drive off campus

Honors activities such as craft night allow local students to mesh with on-campus students.

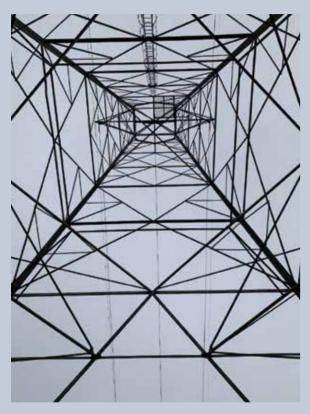
to purchase items. The Honors House also provides a computer lab, giving the honors students free and unlimited printing. These are just a few examples of the benefits provided by the Honors College. In addition, the Honors College provides its most essential support by allowing commuter students the opportunity to feel they are part of the "complete college experience."

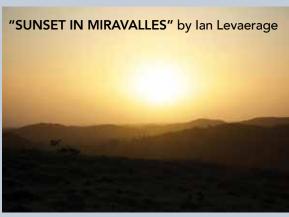
The Honors College at Salisbury University is great for local students because it gives us the ability to see the community around us changing. Most commuter students have lived in Salisbury for many years. One of the main focuses of the Honors College is community development. The first required course is Honors 111, a class focused on researching ways to improve the communities around us. One of the major projects, the Community Engagement Project, gives us the opportunity to communicate directly with an organization in the Salisbury area that focuses on bettering the community. Through this project, students can get more involved with the area and volunteer with these organizations. One of the first organizations we had the opportunity to volunteer with was the National Folk Festival. This festival has been very important to the Salisbury community for the last two years, and we got to see firsthand how much the Honors College supports Salisbury and betters the community we live in.

The Honors College has provided commuter students with so many resources to help us succeed. We are able to make new connections with others at the University and with the Salisbury area. Choosing honors at Salisbury University has afforded us so many opportunities to learn and meet new people, many of which we could have experienced otherwise.

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 Honors College put out a call to all of its students for creative pieces. In response, we received the following works.





The Dark Poet

By Will Townsend

Darkness is an odd thing
Dark
Bleak
Bright.
Unknown.
The sun rises
Look in the distance!
The clang of humanity
Graceful are they.
Each reluctant sound on the eardrum
Kids cheer
Adults chatter
Yet
Heard in the next room over

But it has made it so dark

To this the dark poet yells in pain
and pleasure

It turns the heads,

Heard around the world

Claim thy next victim you damned beast!

The victim cries as the world shouts

And moves on.

The dark poet and his pen

Normally an action is so beautiful

The dark poet makes them wonder Who would be deceived by it next The right to live a normal life.

The dark poet takes it away with the stroke of his pen,

His next victim They all say Not me Yea No way. Not me



Speak Up

By Audrey Cash

As a little girl I played with Barbies And her lipstick was always perfect cause her mouth didn't move;

So, I learned if you want to be pretty: keep your mouth shut.

When I grew up,

The Barbie doll stayed with me,

As she laid in the back of my throat.

She forced me to be quiet about comments that made me uncomfortable,

And to never question those who seem better than me.

She never let me use the word "stop," And she rarely let me use the word "no." But stop.

No.

Today is the day I am set free From the closed lips of being a Barbie.

Honors Student Ambassadors

Honors Student Ambassadors are exemplary students in the Honors College who are available to answer questions that you may have about the College and their experiences at Salisbury University. In addition to their wide-ranging majors, most ambassadors have additional areas of academic expertise and are involved in a variety of extracurricular activities. In each issue of The Saunterer, we introduce a few of our 33 ambassadors. To find out more, you can visit the Honors College website – www.salisbury.edu/honors – which includes full profiles for each of the ambassadors.

Regan Benton

· Hometown: North Easton, MA

Major: Psychology

Minor: Cognitive Science

Interests: Varsity sports, research

rbenton 1@gulls.salisbury.edu

Lily Cavallaro

Hometown: Baltimore, MD

Major: Interdisciplinary Studies -Psychology and Communication Emphasis

Interests: Varsity lacrosse

lcavallaro1@gulls.salisbury.edu

Tyler Felton

Hometown: Annapolis, MD

Majors: Management and Information Systems

Interests: Greek life, intramural sports

tfelton1@gulls.salisbury.edu









Apeksha Ghumatkar

Hometown: Salisbury, MD

Major: Biology, Health Professions Advisory Program

Minors: Chemistry and Psychology

Interests: Research, South Asian Student Association

aghumatkar 1@gulls.salisbury.edu



Kyla Taylor

Hometown: Berlin, MD

Major: English - Writing and Rhetoric Track

Minor: Marketing Management

Interests: University Writing Center consultant, research

ktaylor20@gulls.salisbury.edu



Gabrielle Voithofer

Hometown: California, MD

Majors: Biology and Psychology

Minor: Chemistry

Interests: Supplemental Instructor,
OURCA

gvoithhofer 1@gulls.salisbury.edu









The Honors College offers an enriched educational experience for students from all majors at SU. The College fosters collaboration between students and faculty to support undergraduate research, promotes interdisciplinary work and encourages innovation on the SU campus. Honors courses and extracurricular activities are intended to deepen a student's educational experience and develop the next generation of leaders, scientists, educators and more.

HOW CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

We need your help to aid highly motivated students in attending professional conferences, purchase supplies to support undergraduate research (computers, lab equipment, etc.), fund experiential learning activities and more. Your gift will go toward enhancing the educational experience for some of SU's most motivated students.

Give today at:

salisburyu.networkforgood.com/causes/4727-the-honors-college