

Saunterer

CLARKE HONORS COLLEGE • SPRING 2023



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SALISBURY UNIVERSITY CLARKE HONORS COLLEGE

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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."

Farewell from the Editor-in-Chief

To my honors family:

After four years with *The Saunterer*, I'm leaving Salisbury University with a bachelor's degree in communication, with a specialized concentration in multimedia journalism, an English minor and enough friends to last a lifetime. Throughout college, I've been a magazine and newspaper editor-in-chief, photographer, artist, social media content creator, President's Advisory Council member, researcher, honors ambassador, TV reporter and public relations strategic communications intern at TidalHealth hospital. These experiences would not be possible without Salisbury University and the Clarke Honors College, who taught me to seize every opportunity, whether it's collaborating with Salisbury's Mayor's Office, managing two campus publications or winning the 2022 Honors Collegiate Newsletter Competition.

When I open *The Saunterer*, I see more than just students – I see passion, dedication and resilience. That's what I hope readers see: Creativity is at the heart of *The Saunterer* and every student who is a part of it. I'm so grateful for the trust and encouragement my *Saunterer* team and honors faculty have given me. An extra special thanks to my amazing assistant editor and successor, Mandy Sanidad, without whom, this issue would not be possible.

Four years ago, I would never have expected I would be a multimedia journalism major, let alone the editor-in-chief of such a wonderful publication. Before I even knew my major, this magazine helped me find myself – it challenged the way I saw myself, as a writer, photographer and person.

To every incoming new student, I leave this advice: humor every curiosity, every interest, every vision, every idea, and go for it.

Keep making great things,
Olivia Ballmann



Letters from the 'Track'



The Clarke Honors College consists of three track programs: Henson Science and Mathematics, Business, and Bellavance. Each track allows students to home in on their major with specific honors courses with a variety of topics and professors to choose from. Here's three letters from students partaking in each track.

Dear future students,

My name is Sophie, and I am an English major in the Clarke Honors College (CHC) Bellavance Program. I started this year unsure how I would handle the extra workload and honors responsibilities. Maybe you're thinking something similar or doubting yourself like I was.

Now I am well into my second semester, and I am so glad I continued the Bellavance Honors Program. I had the opportunity to learn about topics I never would have gotten to study in my major. I've also volunteered and experienced positive relationships with the most supportive faculty on campus. I also bulked up my resume, while having fun and meeting so many wonderful people. I have the CHC to thank for that.

Honors can be a lot of work, but I can say with confidence: I can handle it and so can you.

As with any college education, you get out of honors what you put into it, so I have three pieces of advice for you to get the most out of the CHC.

First, read and annotate all the books you're assigned, even if you think you can get away with just skimming them. Secondly, say please and thank you to every single person who helps you out: simple kindness really does go a long way. Finally, grab ahold of every single opportunity that is presented to you and don't give up until you've followed through. I promise it's worth it.

Welcome to the Clarke Honors College,

Sophie Detorie
Bellavance Honors Program

Dear incoming students,

Welcome! Congratulations on all the progress you've made thus far. Completing one step of your education and moving onto the next is a huge accomplishment.

First, let's get down to business – literally. If you're looking to go into anything business related, you're definitely encouraged to check out the honor's business program. While it may seem intimidating at first, the business track is an excellent next step to take for your future educational and occupational goals.

The minute I set foot into Perdue Hall as an honor's business student, I was overwhelmed by the possibilities and opportunities available for me. Not only was I supported by faculty members and peers, but I was reassured that I was learning vital skills and knowledge that are easily applicable to my future career through these business honors classes.

It's extremely rewarding to participate in honors business classes. You're often with honors classmates, learning together. I enjoyed walking to and from my honors classes with students I knew; we always supported each other.

Being an honors student in the Perdue School of Business has been as much of a joy as it is a challenge. The question I propose to you is: are you up for the challenge?

Welcome to the Clarke Honors College,

Mandy Sanidad
Business Honors Program

Dear future students,

You've been drawn to Salisbury, you've been drawn to be in the Henson School, and now what? Starting fresh in a new place is daunting, and being a STEM major is a big undertaking as well. Homework piles up fast and exams can come at you back to back. But overall, it is rewarding.

The Henson School is a diverse place with many opportunities. The research you can partake in is endless, the laboratories you can explore are plentiful, and the professors are just as passionate as you are. As you turn the corner of a hallway, you will see a familiar face as you develop friendships within your major. You will meet new people through study groups and tutoring sessions.

While the hours of this studying, hard work and persistence can be tiring, and lab work can be hard on your feet, you can be certain that you will come out on the other side feeling fulfilled.

A world full of knowledge is at your fingertips in the Henson School, so don't ever take it for granted. You will have new opportunities and experiences thrown at you left and right – whether that is working in the field, learning how to set up a laboratory or learning to code – so be ready!

Welcome to the Clarke Honors College,

Lilly Fooks
Henson Science and Mathematics Honors Program



Faculty Spotlight Dr. Emin Lelic



By Allison Dincau

One of the greatest attributes of the Clarke Honors College is its carefully selected faculty – academics and educators who are passionate about their work *and* their students.

SU history professor Dr. Emin Lelic is no exception. This semester, honors students had the opportunity to take Dr. Lelic's honors course: The Rise of Islamic Civilization."

While this is Dr. Lelic's first semester with the honors college, he has stepped right into the community, taking over as interim Bellavance Program director for the semester. He enjoys working with the students and the passion they bring.

"Passion is at the root of everything, without passion you cannot really get far, and the best way to learn is to be passionate about what you are studying," Lelic said.

Dr. Lelic's own passion shines through as he speaks about his class. He has ambitions to incorporate lessons with more discussion and idea-based practices.

"The most important things to get out of class are ideas rather than information because one forgets information ... but I think an idea can remain," he said.

This is a philosophy he developed partially from one of his favorite professors in school.

During a time when much emphasis is placed on jotting down lecture notes and memorizing flashcards, Dr. Lelic's refreshing philosophy acts as a reminder of the reason we become teachers or students in the first place: to cultivate our passion for learning.

Dr. Lelic feels shared thoughts and ideas like this have power, especially those from philosophers and other deep thinkers in society.

"Philosophers may be the most influential people," Lelic said.

His students are not the only ones learning in his class. Dr. Lelic shared that teaching students brings new insights into ideas and texts that he would not have thought of, allowing his students to bring their own knowledge and experience into the classroom as well.

Honors students have a lot to learn from Dr. Lelic and will get a unique experience in his class. The CHC looks forward to more classes taught by him in the future.

Meet Honors Student Association President Amber Whittaker

By Sammie Somers

The Honors Student Association (HSA) plans numerous events and volunteer opportunities for Clarke Honors College students, creating memories, strengthening community bonds, and prompting infinite laughs and smiles – none of which would be possible without HSA President Amber Whittaker.

Whittaker is a Salisbury University exercise science major with a chemistry minor on the bio-med track. When she's not in class, the organization's leader can be found networking, volunteering and connecting with Salisbury's community.

Whittaker has always valued positive “one-on-one connections with people” – a leadership quality she's achieved through the Clarke Honors College.

Her early involvement with HSA, as social media representative, taught her resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic, adapting and connecting with others in new ways. Now, as president, Whittaker is motivated to push herself and grow as a leader.

“I want to be able to test myself ... I am in one of my tougher semesters, but I like seeing how far I can push myself,” Whittaker said, acknowledging her personal growth.

As president, Whittaker has led, organized, communicated and handled confrontation, and she continues to challenge herself to learn more with every experience.

“If any problems arise, I find it hard to confront people about it,” Whittaker said. “I became more aware that if I didn't try to resolve those issues, then more people would get involved in them, and more people may be affected by the issue. So, it's easier to just attack the problem directly rather than letting it sit.”

Her dedication to HSA, Salisbury community and personal growth are qualities that make Whittaker a CHC student.

The entirety of being president has reinforced a piece of wisdom Whittaker heard throughout her exercise science courses: “Every experience – either positive or negative – is an opportunity to learn more about yourself and others. If you don't try, you'll never know what you could have missed out on. So, don't hold yourself back.”



Chasing a Cure

By Lilly Fooks

Salisbury University Clarke Honors College Biology Major Olivia Ingrao began her laboratory journey as a sophomore, inspired to explore the world of chemistry after her grandmother was diagnosed with blepharospasms.

There is no cure for blepharospasms, a neurological disorder causing eye twitches, and Ingrao hopes to change this.

“She inspired me to try and figure out what was happening with her eyes and try to figure out a cure for it,” Ingrao said.

Driven by her curiosity and urge to find a cure, she pitched the idea to her research professor, Dr. Joshua Soloski, and found herself working independently in the lab for three hours a week. Dr. Soloski’s mentorship played a crucial role to Ingrao’s research, as they carefully planned each aspect of the research process.

Ingrao indulged herself in the world of chemistry, contributing to the ongoing research surrounding the disorder. She found this rewarding – not only was she helping to solve a universal problem, she also was sharpening skills to use inside and outside the classroom.

Being in the lab for hours at a time taught Ingrao the importance of time management. She learned to balance classes, homework, exams and extracurricular activities, such as her sorority, Alpha Theta Tau.

While balancing her workload was a challenge, Ingrao learned to adapt and adjust, whether it meant rearranging her schedule or studying on the go.

To future researchers and students alike, Ingrao leaves this message: “Not everything you do is going to be groundbreaking, not everything you do is going to be super interesting and fun ... and not everything you do is going to work out the way you want it to, so you just have to be open to failure.”



Celebrating Women: Lian Peach

By Sophie Dettore



Salisbury University celebrated International Women's Day with the SU Women's Forum (SUWF) conference, organized by Dr. Elsie Walker, Film Studies Program. This was an amazing opportunity for faculty, and undergraduate and graduate students from all disciplines to present their research.

Honors Student Lian Peach, a political science major, was among the many Clarke Honors College students and faculty who made this event possible.

Peach presented research on how to reduce gender gaps in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields – research she began completing under the advisory of Professor Lauren Hill in her honors course.

"The theme this year was 'Women's Rights: What's Next?,' and I just thought 'This feels perfect for this paper I already have,'" Peach said, acknowledging how her honors course had prepared her, especially already having a presentation, research and speech on hand.

Peach found support through honors faculty members, like Professor Hill, who helped Peach refine her original research paper and presentation to fit the criteria for the SUWF. From this, Peach gained self-assurance.

"I was a lot more confident. I thought, oh okay, I can do this because of all the preparation we went through," she said.

Peach's research course aided her success, and that's what the Clarke Honors College is all about. Honors students succeed with real experience and opportunities inside and outside the classroom – something Peach is incredibly grateful for.

"The Honors College, the honors professors ... I definitely would not be here without all of that."

Lydia Lyons: Food for the Flock

By Mandy Sanidad

All-star leader Lydia Lyons is an honors ambassador, information systems student instructor and the president of Salisbury's student-run food pantry, Food for the Flock – in addition to being a Clarke Honors College student.

“When I first got here, I was not involved in anything besides the honors program, but my second semester here I really just needed to get involved, I felt like I needed some sense of community,” Lyons said. “From there, I was just led to the right things. I’ve just taken these opportunities and run with it.”

As an Honors Student Ambassador, Lyons works with other Clarke Honors College (CHC) students to help them connect and succeed. Just as she teaches other students how the CHC can support them, she feels just as supported.

“The faculty at the Honors College have supported my application process, have helped me with letters of recommendation, given me advice and in general recommended me for the student ambassador position at the college,” Lyons said.

As an information systems supplemental instructor (SI), Lydia supports SU students, teaching them helpful study habits, preparing them for success. She also trains fellow SIs and serves as a guide and resource for students.

“It’s definitely challenging at first trying to make time for everyone and everything, but it’s also rewarding when you’re needed,” Lyons said. “When people rely on you to be there, to be supportive, and to give advice, it’s a very rewarding feeling.”

Most importantly, Lyons is the president of Food for the Flock (FFTF), which was started as an honors capstone project in 2018 and is now a registered student organization. FFTF was created to help reduce food insecurities, providing non-perishable food, hygiene products and school supplies to people in need. Lyons has been enthralled with the organization’s mission since her freshman year. She worked her way up to the executive



board and is now FFTF president.

“These opportunities really just fell in my lap,” Lyons stated. “I wasn’t scared. I wanted to take advantage of them.”

Lyons oversees her executive board and volunteers and keeps the pantry fully stocked and open for those in need.

Lyons, clearly a natural born leader, will continue to be a prime example of students who truly take advantage of

the opportunities given to them and a perfect example of what being a Clarke Honors College student entails.

“I’m really appreciative of the new perspective higher education has given me and being involved in these organizations,” Lyons said. “The Honors College has allowed me to have these opportunities and experiences I wouldn’t have otherwise.”



Balancing Swim and School

By Daisy Holder

People associate swimming with fun, childhood memories of playing sharks and minnows. College swimming is not quite the same, as much as I wish it was! With at least 16 hours of lifting and swimming per week, most of which occur before 8 a.m., swimming is an intense sport. Balancing this with academics and other extracurriculars is no easy task for students, let alone for Clarke Honors College students. But here's a secret, it's doable with time management and a supportive team.

Time management is essential for student-athletes. Rigorous loads make it crucial to balance studies, sleep, practices and recovery time, especially after early morning practices. Remember to pick an intentional place to study. Salisbury University's Guerrieri Academic Commons is a great spot, and it's almost guaranteed you'll find fellow teammates studying. Being part of a college sports team is a responsibility, but you'll always have teammates to help you out. This keeps us focused and accountable.

Another integral part of balancing the Honors College with swimming comes from the relationship that we have with our honors professors. Every honors

professor is supportive and encouraging of my athletic commitments and works with me to stay on track. It can be overwhelming at times, but this support system eases stress considerably.

The hard work certainly pays off as is demonstrated by the impressive performances of honors student-athletes at the Metropolitan Swimming and Diving Championships Meet at the end of February 2023.

Over the span of four days, the Salisbury University Men's and Women's Swimming Teams broke a whopping 18 program records, four of which were broken by Honors College members.

Honors College students Alexa Hilty (Fr.), Samantha Watson (Fr.), Will Urian (Fr.), Gabe Miksa (Fr.), Olivia Totaro (So.), Daisy Holder (So.) and Karli Chancey (Sr.) traveled to Rutgers University following 19 weeks of intensive training to compete in the final meet of the season. Every honors student achieved a lifetime or season best in their events, an extremely impressive feat in swimming.

These accomplishments illustrate just how much the hard work pays off, in the pool and in class.

My Story: An Honors Student-Athlete

By Ellen Tarjan



Throughout my youth, my parents constantly encouraged me to stay active. I began playing softball in fourth grade and soon after started my travel softball career. From there, my love for softball only grew and so did my enjoyment of good competition, which was very fitting within my competitive family.

When sophomore year came around, I realized that softball was a part of me, and I could not stop playing softball at the end of high school. I knew that my journey would take me into college for an additional four years of playing the game I loved.

As I began the recruitment process, I looked at schools up and down the East Coast, and I found Salisbury. Looking at the team, I was excited by their competitiveness on the field and the service they performed for their community.

After lots of hard work both on the field and in the classroom, I got an offer to play here at SU, and less than a month later, I accepted.

Fast forward to now, I will admit that being both a Clarke Honors College (CHC) member and a student-athlete has been a challenge, to say the least. However, it's offered me a clear perspective on what I want for my college experience and my future.

My first semester, like any other freshman, was a major adjustment. As a freshman, I was intimidated by my rigorous honors research course and the time it would take to develop my skills.

The moment I entered class, my worries were gone.

I was walked through each step of the research and writing process with precision and astounding detail. I was always prepared and had the support of mental health check-ins and honest feedback from Professor Lauren Hill.

While I developed my research skills, I also balanced my other courses along with softball practices and scrimmages. The CHC truly enhanced my ability to communicate, problem solve and collaborate on a new level that continues to help me on the field and in the classroom.

Now, in my second semester, I have developed these skills and feel prepared to take on any course, honors or beyond, at any level. Because of the CHC, I feel empowered to take challenging classes; research; apply for scholarships, grants and fellowships; and pursue my major, while still competing collegiately for a top three nationally ranked softball program.

While my freshman year hasn't been easy, I have significantly enhanced my education, my sport and how I carry myself. I am quite grateful to be involved with such an esteemed honors program and with a team that continues to grow.



Abroad in France

By Sophia Smith

Imagine traveling to a different country, immersing yourself in a new culture and receiving an international education experience all while enjoying breathtaking views, exciting excursions and mouth-watering cuisine. This was the reality for a group of students who traveled to France to study at the Universite Clermont-Auvergne as part of the business study abroad program.

Among these students were 20-year-old Chibuzo Opaigbeogu, an information systems major, and 22-year-old Garrett Zawodniak, an accounting and information systems dual major – both Clarke Honors College students. From January 7-21, the group gained expertise in their chosen fields as well as learned about the local people's customs, traditions and way of life.

Opaigbeogu decided to study abroad in France for the up-close, hands-on learning and to see in person how French and American businesses and cultures differ.

"I just liked seeing the content come to life," he said. "I was happy that I got to see the stuff that I was learning about in class in terms of cultural differences in person."

The group first visited Vichy, a smaller city with a population about the size of Salisbury, MD.

"The atmosphere was completely different there," Opaigbeogu said. "There was a different pace of life. There wasn't so much rushing."

In Paris, the group visited several famous landmarks, including the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, the Catacombs and the Arc de Triomphe.

For a majority of the trip, the group stayed in an apartment complex. Zawodniak had a room to himself, with a bed, a dresser, a desk, a small kitchen and a bathroom.

"Salisbury actually took care of the housing for us completely," he said. "We didn't have to worry about finding our own housing. Basically, we showed up, we were given the key to a room, and then that was it."

The group attended class Monday through Thursday or Friday from 9 a.m.-noon, had an hour for lunch, one-three hours of afternoon classes, and then free evenings to eat, shop and explore the city. They would usually attend an excursion on Fridays, and there was an entire free weekend where the students could choose what they wanted to do. In the scheduled excursions, they visited a winery for a wine tasting and a demonstration of how wine is made; took a tour of ClermontFerrand, which is a university city in Clermont; enjoyed a riverboat dinner in Paris; and toured businesses to see how they are run differently in France.

Opaigbeogu and Zawodniak also visited the city of Lyon, which they were able to get to fairly quickly, thanks to the convenience of European public transportation.

"There were a few old churches there with amazing architecture and stained glass, which was awesome," Zawodniak said. "I liked just walking down the narrow

streets of the old city and taking a trip back through time."

Opaigbeogu also had access to a tourist pass that granted access to all of city transit for two days, several admissions to different museums and other perks. He even had the opportunity to climb a giant hill and look at the city from a birds-eye view, see ancient Roman ruins, and taste wonderful food.

"The food there was amazing, I had the best pasta I've ever had at this little restaurant on a corner," Zawodniak said. "I never would've expected to have amazing food just out of a little shop like that, but I still think about it to this day."

Additionally, Zawodniak felt like the free weekend allowed him to explore outside of his comfort zone, on his own as an adult, but still within a safe and reassuring environment.

"It was just fun because if you wanted to go see a museum you could, or if you wanted to go eat at 20 different restaurants throughout the day, you could," he said. "It was really up to you and what you wanted to do."

He knew that if he couldn't figure something out by himself, there was someone always within reach for guidance. This allowed him to gain confidence planning his own personal trips.

"One thing that I kind of left with was that I wish I knew more languages," Opaigbeogu said. He found that many people in France had some understanding of English, and there wasn't a huge language barrier. He noticed that many people in France can have basic conversations with locals in English, and he wished he could do the same in French. However, a professor from Universite Clermont-Auvergne was there to help them with translation when needed.

Opaigbeogu realized French culture is not drastically different from American culture; however, he also noticed a reduced amount of consumerism and convenience. "A lot of places were not open 24/7 outside of Paris," he said. "They have very set times for food shops, and pretty much everything else will only be open for a few hours." Opaigbeogu believes this difference in culture adds to a slower, more relaxed pace of life that he appreciated.

In terms of enormous portions and buying things and then throwing them away, Zawodniak believes other countries, like France, are much more temperate and resourceful than American culture.

"The portions are so much smaller, but it feels so much better at the end of the meal because I don't feel like I'm overeating and stuffing myself just because I paid for it. You really get to enjoy the food," he said. "It helps open your eyes to how wasteful we really are here in the U.S."

Zawodniak also noticed that in France people walk and take public transportation a lot more than drive. "Their cities are significantly more compact than ours, so it's easier to get around," he said. Accessible transportation is another

benefit of France and merges with their collective culture, as opposed to America's individualism.

"I honestly enjoyed just walking around the city and just stumbling across different stores or shops, which you can't really do here, because you're just driving everywhere," he said.

Zawodniak believes Salisbury University makes studying abroad super easy: "They take care of the airline, the hotels, the travel ... Most of the time, all you had to do is show up, and there would be someone there to guide you," he said. "Honestly, it wasn't as expensive as I thought it would be. They try to keep it affordable so as many people can go as possible."

Zawodniak expressed the application process was daunting at first, but with SU's guidance, he realized how easy it was: "It was pretty straightforward. They had a checklist of everything you had to do, and it would tell you what was completed and what wasn't completed."

If Opaigbeogu knew then what he knew now, he wouldn't have worried so much about the trip. However, he wishes he had done more research on specific places to visit in each city and encourages other students to do so.

"If you want to make the most of your visit, definitely have a plan before you go, so you can maximize your time there." He absolutely recommends all students to study abroad.

"It's a pretty unique experience, and there's not going to be another experience like this where you can apply what you're learning in the international setting," Opaigbeogu said. "I think it just gives you a greater appreciation for not only other people's cultures, but your own. Just seeing how big and different the world is."

Zawodniak also believes, if you can study abroad, you need to do it at least once: "I guarantee that there's going to be something on the trip that you'll like, whether it's the scenery, just hanging out with your friends or learning about different cultures. Even if the class doesn't fit your major perfectly, you should still consider going on the trip. When you're young, you should travel, you should enjoy the time while you can."



Elliana Larson: Honors in Psychology

By Alwick Blouch

Clarke Honors College student Elliana “Elli” Larsen presented her psychology research at the Eastern Psychological Association Conference this spring. Larsen attended the conference with faculty mentor Dr. Mark Walter, Salisbury University associate professor of psychology, and presented her honors thesis.

Larsen has been working with Dr. Walter for the last three semesters for her honor thesis research. Her research is a geographical study on, “Fundamentalism and Dogmatism as a Function of LDS [Latter Day Saints] Church Density.”

For her research, Larsen and Walker surveyed church bishops across the country to determine how fundamentalism, taught at the church, impacts church members’ lives. Larsen strived to understand how teachings impacted the daily lives of church members and the congregation’s willingness to help others outside their faith.

The results of the survey were significant, allowing Larsen to attend the conference’s graduate session.

“We got accepted into the full graduate conference, not just the undergraduate session,” Larsen said happily, expressing gratitude for Dr. Walter’s support and mentorship.

Larsen also expressed a deep appreciation for the Clarke Honors College and the skills she’s acquired along the way.

Larsen gained strong research skills in her early honors courses, giving her the opportunity to present her research on General Education integration and IEPs for students with high-functioning autism spectrum disorder at the Northeast Regional Honors Council conference during April 2021, later published in SU’s *Laridae* in November 2021.

Most of all, Larsen feels confident in her research and herself, giving thanks to the Clarke Honors College and great honors mentors like Dr. Walter.



Paving The Way in STEM

By Zoe Cardno

The Salisbury University Women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) club brings together students from all STEM backgrounds two times every month and is run by students Audrey McNeal, Lily Barry and Jessica Stevens.

Women in STEM President Audrey McNeal, a Clarke Honors College student who recently switched from majoring in computer science to majoring in information systems, was first inspired to bring a Women in STEM club to Salisbury University when she looked up the roster of her computer science class and saw there were two women and 14 guys.

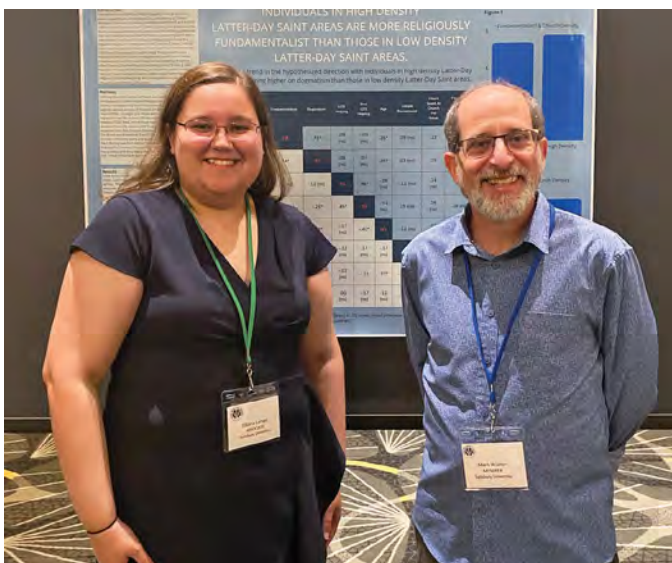
That marginalization of women in the technology field allowed for McNeal to start thinking about trying to find a place for women in science. She realized there needed to be a place at SU that brought students of all backgrounds of STEM together and made them feel more represented in their field of study.

McNeal wanted to create a space where people could come and talk, not only about grievances, but a place where they could talk about career development or resume things that are specifically targeted to women in STEM. The foundation of Women in STEM is to take a holistic approach to representing women in science.

“As a woman in science, there are some things you have to do differently in order to be successful,” McNeal said.

With various opportunities from the Clarke Honors College, McNeal harnessed her leadership skills, such as presenting her honors data security and health care research at the National Research Honors Conference. McNeal is one of many students paving the way for greater female representation in STEM.

“The Clarke Honors College teaches their students to take initiative, and because of that overall atmosphere, I felt comfortable starting Women in STEM,” McNeal said.



Perseverance & Dedication: Elizabeth Wash

By Ellen Tarjan

Elizabeth Wash, a junior President Citizen Scholar and Clarke Honors College (CHC) student from southern Maryland, has done more in the past two and a half years than she could ever imagine.

She's the author of three published research pieces, the editor-in-chief of the *Laridae*, a worker and advocate of the Disability Resource Center and AmeriCorp, president of Delta Alpha Pi, and the Student Government Association director of campus enhancement.

Recently, Wash added one more title to her resume: recipient of the 2023 John and Edythe Portz Award for Outstanding Four-Year Maryland Honors Student.

The award, given by a statewide board, recognizes an honors college student's outstanding accomplishments through the areas of research and community service.

Wash's achievement granted her the privilege to virtually conclude the Maryland Honors Conference.

Choosing to present virtually gave her the opportunity to meet with Salisbury City officials to continue her newest project: creating a publicly accessible bathroom in Downtown Salisbury.

Wash's diligence and commitment to helping her community are unmatched.

In addition to her outside research and involvement, Wash began her honors thesis. As a biology major with a chemistry and deaf studies minor, she is researching the effect of the rare RH- blood type on the worsening of health conditions.

This research is dear to Wash's heart, as someone with this blood type – something she's experienced her whole life.

Undeterred by these obstacles, Wash has persevered with the support and skills she has gained through the Honors College. She credits the CHC for providing her with all the opportunities to research, present and attend conferences.

The CHC also has encouraged her to



pursue multiple projects, no matter how unique, and has constantly supported her.

Wash credits a variety of staff members who supported her on her research endeavors: Dr. Jennifer Nyland encouraged her love for science and research. Professor Lauren Hill supported her growth as an individual and community member. Candace Henry, the director of the Disability Resource Center, assisted her in standing up for her identity

that she has with her disability. These individuals have added a multitude of guidance to help Wash pursue all of her accomplishments throughout these two and a half years.

Wash plans to keep moving forward in 2024 at medical school, but for now, she strives to see if her research thesis can be used beyond SU's campus.

One thing is certain: The CHC is proud to have a dedicated student like Elizabeth Wash.

Honors Goes Global: Ian Leverage in Spain

By Kaley Hardman and Claire Morin



The Clarke Honors College (CHC) provides credit to students who want to take advantage of amazing opportunities, such as studying abroad. For Ian Leverage, this meant packing his bags and heading to Spain for an unforgettable adventure during the fall 2022 semester.

Leverage always wanted to explore different cultures, and being a Spanish major, this trip was a perfect opportunity.

“My favorite moments were visiting some of the historical sites that I probably wouldn’t have had the opportunity to see otherwise like this old Jewish neighborhood in Grenada,” Leverage said.

With a nearby airport, Leverage also had the chance to visit places all over Europe. New places meant meeting new people with diverse thoughts and experiences.

“You don’t really get that true international perspective on the way people think differently based on the culture they grew up in from just sitting in a classroom,” he said.

While classes can paint other cultures with one brush, study abroad allowed Leverage to learn that we can’t always judge a country by its textbook cover.

“Some people are nothing like you expect.” Leverage said.

Leverage’s cultural learning also allowed him to acquire skills, particularly in business.

“Even my general tone of voice or body language can completely change the meaning in some of these situations,” he said.

Leverage encourages fellow honors students to study abroad and to take advantage of the Honors College resources available to help students plan their trip. Honors resources can help students make the most out of study abroad and their major.

“It’s very important to know how it’s going to fit into what you want to do,” Leverage said.

The CHC encourages all their students to step out of their comfort zone and explore new cultures, so if you’re longing to travel and learn beyond the classroom – try honors study abroad.

More Than a Major: Mental Health Matters

By Emily Ritzes

Before August 22, 2018, I not once had thought that I could lose someone that I know to suicide. On that day, my sophomore year of high school, my classmate ended her life. Shockwaves were sent throughout my class and our entire school community. It may seem to some people like it is a rare occurrence, but suicide is currently the 12th leading cause of death in the United States.

For the second year in a row, Salisbury University hosted an Out of the Darkness Campus Walk through the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). Out of the Darkness Campus Walks are AFSP's outlet for raising money for suicide prevention among college campus communities. Participants are encouraged to display their purpose of walking through pins or honor beads, in which each color shows a personal connection to their cause for participation. I personally wore blue for supporting suicide prevention, teal for supporting someone who struggles and rainbow for honoring the LGBTQ+ community.

The Clarke Honors College (CHC) joined thousands of people, virtually and in person, across the country this spring in support of the AFSP's mission to save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide. The whole campus community was able to raise around \$12,500. This year, I was lucky enough to be the team captain of the CHC's team.

Suicide and mental health are often topics some people are uncomfortable with sharing. I jumped at the opportunity to share my story. Since my sophomore year of high school, I have been an advocate for mental health awareness and suicide prevention. It is so important for every person to be reminded they are not alone and that they are surrounded by support. Especially as honors students who often take on many different responsibilities, it's a reminder that we are indeed more than a major.

Dr. Lance Garmon, a psychology professor, introduced the walk to the



CHC last year and encouraged me to lead this year's team. Honors professor, Dr. Lance Garmon, taught the course Psychology of Science, Pseudoscience and Truthiness, and wanted to share the cause with others.

"It's the visibility and it's an awareness program for me even more than it's a fundraiser," Garmon said. Our Out of the Darkness Walk was a true testament to this statement, as people across campus came to end the stigma.

Standing on the small stage in front of the entire walk, I was comforted by seeing the faces of my friends in the Honors College cheering me on. As a team, we raised just under \$900

dollars, which the AFSP can use for further research, education, support and advocacy.

My hope is to expand our team's outreach and involve more of the CHC, whether that be more current students and professors, or expanding to alumni. With the time left I have at Salisbury, I hope to continue my mental health awareness and suicide prevention and bring the CHC along with me.

More than a major. I never had put much thought into how much weight those four words could hold. To me now, those four words mean that no matter who you are, no matter what major you have – you are never alone.

Salisbury UNIVERSITY



Jahnaiya Sutherland: Opportunities in Research

By Zoe Cardno

Seeing women in a historically male-dominated field gives young girls more role models to look up to. One of these new role models is Salisbury University freshman and Clarke Honors College student Jahnaiya Sutherland, who presented her research during the Maryland Collegiate Honors Conference (MCHC) at Towson University.

Sutherland is a data science major with minors in business administration and Africana studies. Her research focuses on the intersectionality of Black women and their experiences in the workplace, in the corporate culture of America and in the C-suite, which is made up of senior executives.

Her studies inspired her to look at how business and financial technology have impacted minority groups and provided her the insight that moving forward she may be the only Black woman in her workplace.

Sutherland wants to explore how history has changed for historically marginalized populations through her research.

As an honors student, Sutherland also feels well-supported in her entrepreneurial endeavors and competitions, including the Shore Hatchery competition, Gull Cage and the Perdue School Entrepreneurship Competition.

“Professor [Lauren] Hill was truly encouraging and ... by my side,” Sutherland said in reference to honors helping her achieve her goals in business and technology. She appreciates “continuing to have opportunities like ... the Maryland Collegiate Honors Conference ... where people are consistently pushing those agendas forward.”

Opportunities like the MCHC allow for students to delve deeper into their passions and expand on that research for insight into their future fields.

“It was very beneficial because I definitely learned a lot about how individuals present on different topics,” Sutherland said, appreciating the diverse set of topics and perspectives at the Maryland Collegiate Honors Conference.

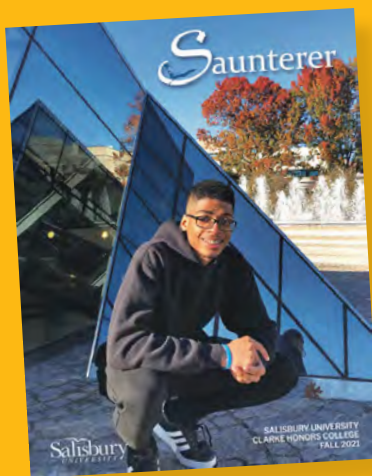
The Clarke Honors College helped Sutherland pay and partake in the conference, encouraging Sutherland’s opportunity to present her work. This encouragement has sparked her interest in new research; she’s currently interested in research on intersectionality and its impact on diverse experiences.



Saunterer Wins First Place 2022 National Collegiate Honors Newsletter Award

By Olivia Ballmann

The *Saunterer* is pleased to announce it's First Place 2022 National Collegiate Honors Newsletter Award. The award was given to the fall 2021 and spring 2022 *Saunterer* issues, under the leadership of Editor-in-Chief Olivia Ballmann and faculty advisor Dr. Andrew Martino. The CHC thanks the editors, writers, photographers and Salisbury University community members who made these issues possible. Congratulations to *The Saunterer* Team – honors students who create great things together.



Honor Students Relay For Life

By Logan Krebs

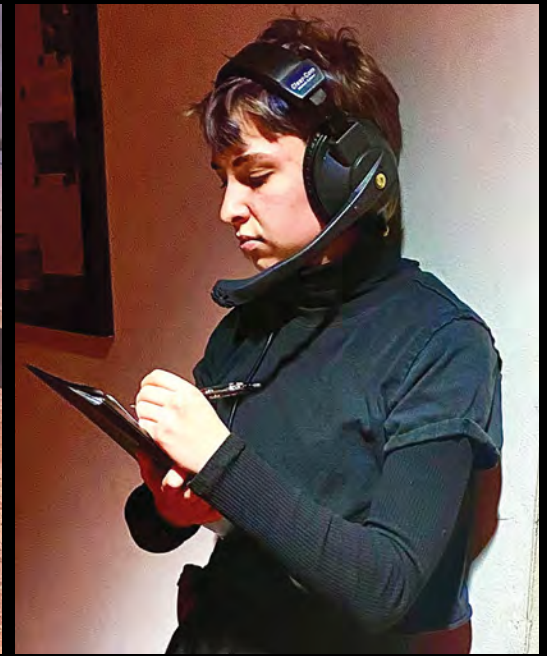
This spring, over 400 people participated in Salisbury University's Relay For Life to raise money to cure cancer. Over \$50,000 was raised for the American Cancer Society through fundraising efforts. Clarke Honors College students, and their countless hours of dedication, made the planning and execution of Relay For Life a success.

There are seven CHC students serving on the Relay For Life committee. Kayla Pedersen is currently the club's president. This academic year, she was an honors student, varsity athlete and was also the top fundraiser for the event. Her leadership was supported by Aidan Stanislavsky (internal recruitment), Sam Watson (internal recruitment) Maggie Atherton (external recruitment), Logan Krebs (event development), and committee members Zoe Cardno (marketing) and Jessica Stevens (event development). The event would not have been possible without the work of these students and the Salisbury community.



With "Jail-and-Bail," a dunk tank, water balloon throw, mini golf and a "pie-in-the-face" station for CHC Dean Andrew Martino, the event was a memorable night for all involved.

Community service is a vital CHC value, and these honors students demonstrated exactly that through their efforts with the American Cancer Society.



Honors On and Off Stage

By Alwick Blouch and Allison Dincau

Spring of 2023, Clarke Honors College students took on roles in Salisbury University's production of *Fun Home*, both on and off stage. *Fun Home* is a musical based on a graphic memoir following the life of famous lesbian cartoonist Alison Bechdel. Actors portray different stages of the character's life with different students portraying Alison as she struggles with her past and her relationship with her father. The 2015 Broadway musical was a landmark for LGBTQ representation on stage and came to life right here in SU's Fulton Hall Black Box Theatre.

On the Stage

My name is Allison Dincau and I am a theatre - performance major at Salisbury University. I was cast as Medium Alison, the college-aged version of Alison Bechdel. From there it was two weeks of rehearsals for character development, movement and music before we were sent off for winter break. After that, we came back and blocking began. A scene that may last less than 30 seconds on stage could take an hour or more to block. One of the most surprising things about theatre is just how long it truly takes to bring a script to life, and the actors, while the most visible part, are only a small part in the grand scheme of a production.

Being on stage requires an immense amount of vulnerability. But there is also another source of difficulty and vulnerability that people are rarely aware of. Going through the creative process and being willing to make mistakes are difficult, especially when eyes are on you. However, learning to take critiques and apply corrections makes a greater performance. It's what makes acting such a special and rewarding practice. Working on this show is one of the hardest things I have ever done, but it was also one of the greatest and most fulfilling.

Off the Stage

My name is Alwick Blouch and I am a freshman at Salisbury University and a part of Clarke Honors College. I was the assistant stage manager in the production of *Fun Home*. My experience as the ASM started in November 2022 attending a production and design meeting. At this point, the design aspects of the show were still in the early stages and would go through changes throughout the entire process. My job was to assist the stage manager. Early on, I took notes and moved props and developed a thorough understanding of what happened throughout the show. Later, I would instruct the crew on what to do.

During the run of the show, I helped the crew to get the stage ready for the show each night and put everything away after each performance. I instructed the crew on what to do backstage and made sure they did everything at the right time. Overall, working on *Fun Home* was a lot of work, but tons of fun. Every night I got to do something I loved.

Squawkappella: Honorable Voices

By Isabella Cabrera

The Clarke Honors College (CHC) has many students involved in athletics, student government, campus-involvement groups and tutoring. Many are even involved in one of Salisbury University's very own music groups, Squawkappella. Squawkappella is an audition-based a cappella group of 13 students who rehearse year-round for a variety of vocal events.

SU's Squawkappella is a diverse group with members from many different backgrounds and walks of life. Squawkappella students have a variety of majors and interests, and some are also CHC students.

Community service is both strongly encouraged in the CHC and Squawkappella. While many students use speaking to reach those in a community, Squawkappella members use their voices to perform songs with specific meanings, stories and dynamics that help connect with their audience – some even appearing on public radio.

The CHC is no stranger to making sure their students graduate as their best selves, and Squawkappella holds their members to this standard as well.

Members of Squawkappella can experience leadership

roles through the organization's board. Each voted leader is tasked with a specific role such as handling finances, scheduling and announcing events, leading meetings, directing music, and handling social media.

These leaders prepare fellow members for their two biggest events of the year: the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella, also known as ICCAs, and our spring performance. Squawkappella members are always excited to bring their songs to the stage.

With leadership and a strong work ethic being prominent core values, there's one last value that Squawkappella holds dear just like the CHC does – connections. Both groups are like one big family.

Students in CHC and Squawkappella find friends through bonding activities, trips or general meetings. These moments give members a chance to grow together not only as performers or students, but as friends.

To be involved in Squawkappella is to be a part of much more than just a singing group but a group that shares a love for music and have a strong bond like no other. That is the true heart of Squawkappella.



Q&A

Salisbury University's new president, Dr. Carolyn Ringer Lepre, has a unique history with honors colleges. Using insight from her time as director of the Honors Program at Marist College, she shares her thoughts on the future of the Clarke Honors College (CHC).



Meet Salisbury University's President Lepre

By Margaret Patterson

Q: What are your thoughts after finishing your first semester here?

I love it. I'm so happy here. It has been a tremendous joy to learn about this community, to get to know different students, faculty and staff, to meet alumni, and to see what a difference this place makes in so many lives within our community. There's this beautiful love of the institution by the people who I've come in contact with. I'm so excited about our future. I think that there are some amazing things ahead and we're just going to continue to build off our successes.

Q: How did your experience as the director of the honors program at Marist College shape your thinking and goals as a university president?

I think it was the perfect first stop truly. Whenever anybody asks me what made me love working in any kind of administrative capacity, I will always say, "go be an honors director for a while." You will see how incredible it is working with this group of students who are civically engaged, who are thoughtful, curious, really interesting, creative, critical thinkers. They make you feel excited to be a part of it. It is also wonderful to work with the national organization – the National Collegiate Honors Council – and be able to bring students to conferences so they can see the interconnectedness of higher ed. Being a director was pivotal in shaping how I think about a liberal arts foundation and how I taught in a pre-professional field. The appreciation for the liberal arts and that foundation of student-faculty research help to create students who will be successful in their first jobs and also throughout their careers. Thinking about these ideas shaped a lot of how I have gotten to where I am today – that holistic way of looking at education.

Q: What goals do you have for the CHC?

I think Dean Martino is doing a fantastic job. I know he's really excited about all the things that are already going on in the college as well as what's to come. Growth would be an interesting thing. I think we could continue to promote the benefits of an honors program. Sometimes there's prestige that's involved with being an honors program, but I think it scares some students off at first. They think "I'm not honors college material." I think we can demystify that a little bit. We can show students that it's really about thoughtfulness and the underpinning of education through mentorship and faculty-student research – all those pieces that more students might be interested in if they understood that it's not just about having the highest GPA. I'd love to see a broader group of students invited to take advantage of the opportunities that are going on like going to national conferences and seeing that bigger picture. I think [the CHC] is doing a lot of really great things that I'm proud to always hear about and excited to see more.

Q: Why do you think students should apply to an honors college, especially at a regional comprehensive university?

I'm a firm believer in finding a place where you feel as if you belong. I think, first and foremost, an honors program can help you find other students who share your passion for education, learning and curiosity. So, one thing that it can do is it can help students feel like they found a home and a group of people who have the same kind of sentiment that they do about what education can do for them, which is why I love the idea that you have a Living Learning Community. You can immediately find people who are going to study and go to class. I love the idea of the curriculum of an honors program really drawing together the ties between what you're getting in your major and all the other things that make us informed citizens and make us part of this community in terms of learning about a whole breadth of different things. I think honors programs do that in an extraordinary way.



“We’re excited for the future.”

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.

a carbon copy

Delaney Fairley

sometimes I feel like i'm not my own person

*i'm a carbon copy of everyone I know & love
i copy other people's mannerisms, I steal jokes,
i'm inspired by others' creations*

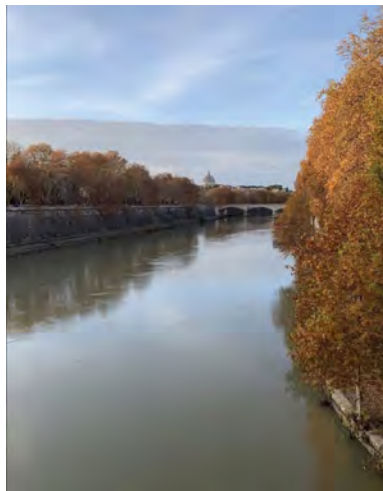
*and while sometimes I worry,
why can't I be unique?*

I should think for myself ...

*it's also a bit beautiful to think
that we're all just pieces molded together*

*pieces that we love from our favorite people
that we admire so much,
we claim them as our own*

By Ian Leverage





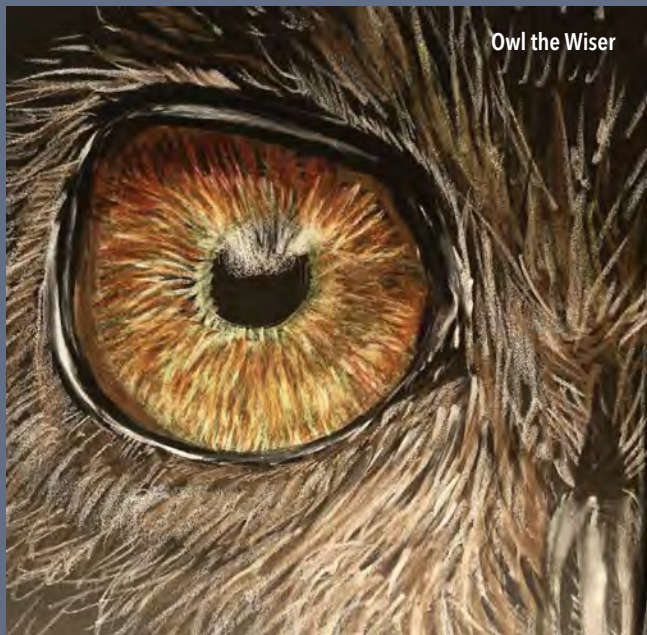
Solar Flare

Lions play inside
the speckles of his eyes,
He's a suncatcher,
seizing all its rays
with a smile.
He's goodness,
seizing the salt from the sea,
just so the waves could swim,
in its innocence
and call it home.



Resurgence

I'm the twister in your straitjacket,
the sun in your eclipse, the chilled
heart beating
in your cooler thawing,
the rattle and hissing
of retaliation,
striking reality red,
watching it blacken,
born again.





Art by Luke Zolenski



Art by Sammie Somers

Untitled

By Luke Zolenski

Gentle Ashes roll softly into the wind
 Carrying with them my final piece of mind
 Meaning appears true, but love is blind
 And leave me a piece of your soul, a full heart
 to lend

The wolf yearns onward
 And the flower humbly breathes
 An excellent breeze is empowered
 While the young maple sprouts her first leaf

In the Spring time I'll lie
 Next to the Sun-Valley girl
 But little child do not cry
 A sadness will engulf my world

At times when my flower is in pain
 I find that I just wilt away

A drawing from the novel Dracula (1897) by Bram Stoker. This is the wedding between Jonathan and Mina Harker on August 24th.



Art by Allie Rudasill

In Hindsight

by Margaret Patterson

In hindsight,
 There were bigger things than reaching that deadline by midnight,
 But yet I still stayed up writing till the clock hit just right.
 In hindsight,
 There were bigger things than starting that fight,
 But yet I still said words that just weren't alright.
 In hindsight,
 There were bigger things than worrying about what outfit to wear out
 tonight,
 But yet I still tore apart my closet to find clothes that fit just right.
 In hindsight,
 They were bigger things than trying to prove to everyone that I'm bright,
 But yet I still overworked myself and made my class schedule tight.
 In hindsight,
 There were bigger things than studying for that exam all night,
 But yet I still read over my flashcards until the morning light.
 In hindsight,
 The bigger things weren't alright,
 But yet I still pretended that they just might,
 By focusing on the little things in my sight.



Art by Alwick Blouch

The Sun and the Moon

by Isabella Cabrera

She Is the Sea, by Isabella Cabrera

She is the sea
 For she does not lower her head to those who harm her
 She is the sea
 Feared for her powerful waves, making an impact on the land
 She is the sea
 Loved by few, but praised by many for the wonders she holds
 She is the sea
 Able to be gentle when one is gentle with her
 She is the sea
 A dancer of the blue horizon, free as many wish to be
 She is the sea
 A force that changes with the years. A force to be respected with time
 and understanding
 She is the sea
 The sea is me.



The Clarke 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:
giving.salisbury.edu/campaigns/clarke-honors-college-1#



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