

THE

SALISBURY UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE | FALL 2017

# Saunterer



# SALISBURY UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE

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*Stay up to date with what's going on around the Honors College!*

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On the cover: Sophomore JeremieRose  
Barbosa volunteering at the Wicomico  
County Humane Society.

Photo by Bailey Didriksen



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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."*

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# A NEW ERA FOR THE HONORS COLLEGE

By Natalia Graf and Tara Johnson

## One for the Records

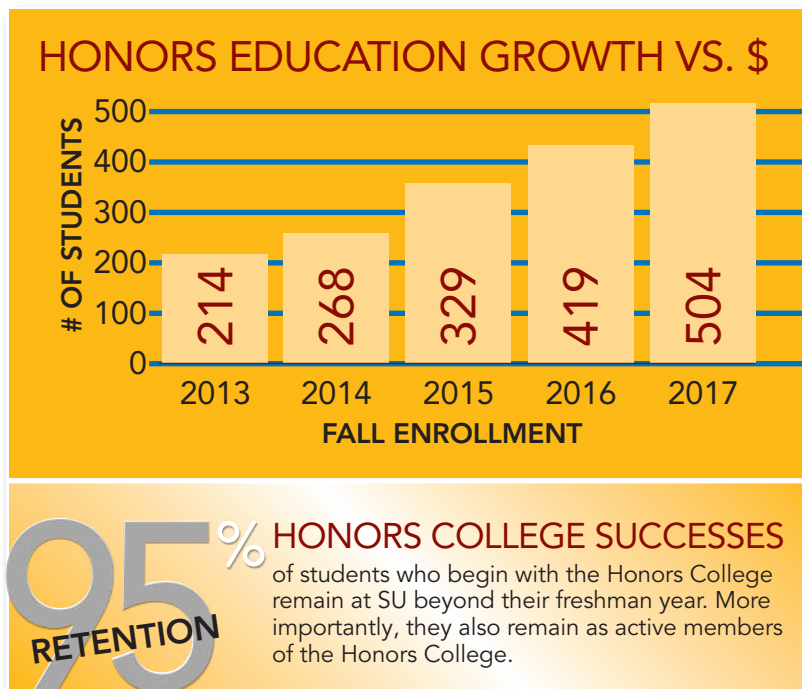
This year, the Honors College welcomed a record-setting freshman class of nearly 160 students. To accommodate its growth, the Honors College has added class selections, hired new faculty, renovated the Honors House and expanded the opportunities offered to its students.

## New Classes, New Programs

With the increasing diversity of the Honors student body comes a need for innovative course offerings and novel programs. The Honors College has launched a new Honors Business Program to complement the existing Thomas E. Bellavance Honors Program. With the addition of classes like the History of Nursing and a special Honors section of Fitness and Wellness, the Honors College strives to expand its curriculum to meet students' needs.

## Honors at the Library

Following the construction of Guerrieri Academic Commons, the Honors College secured two seminar rooms on the third floor of the new building. The rooms currently house classes, meetings and more. This eases overcrowding in the Honors House classroom and increases the visibility of Honors education on campus.



## Changing with the Times

During summer 2017 the Honors House was drastically renovated. The entire upstairs of the house was converted to faculty offices and a dean's suite. Downstairs, the computer lab was updated and the classroom was outfitted with a board table and lounge seating for student use.

## Growing Honors Faculty

This semester, the faculty of the Honors College expanded to include specialists in women's studies, ecology, and finance. Dr. Stacia Kock, who is new to Salisbury University, taught two sections of Honors Freshman Seminar this fall and will introduce two sociology-based courses in the spring. Also new to S.U. is Dr. Kristen Lycett, a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Biological Sciences, who will be teaching a class on ecological restoration in the spring. Dr. Ani Mathers in the Perdue School of Business heads the new Honors Business Program. With a growing number of new faculty joining the Honors College, there will be a larger, more diverse selection of courses from which students may choose.

## Honors Student Association Expands

With the growth of the Honors College, its Student Association (HSA) has become more active in planning social, community and professional events. This fall, the HSA's membership expanded to over 75 members – so many that HSA meetings can no longer be held in the Honors classroom. Instead, they are held at the Scarborough Student Leadership Center. With more members comes, fresh ideas for exciting programs.

# NASA AND THE HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE: A HISTORY OF DISCOVERY

By Eleanor Brown and Megan Lynch



Last spring, the Honors College sponsored a lecture by James F. Jeletic, director of NASA's Hubble Space Telescope Project. Jeletic's lecture, "NASA's Incredible Discovery Machine: The Story of the Hubble Space Telescope," described the history and development of the Hubble Space Telescope.

Jeletic began his career with NASA in 1984, joining the Hubble Project in 1998, and is currently involved in public outreach and marketing for the Hubble project, reviewing proposals for telescope usage, and troubleshooting issues for NASA.

Before a crowd of nearly 200 students, faculty and community members, Jeletic highlighted the telescope's influence on modern science. He wowed the audience with spectacular images from

Hubble projected on large monitors in the Assembly Hall of the Guerrieri Academic Commons. Junior computer science major James Borden commented: "The images helped us visualize the physical properties of the ideas explained by the speaker."

Jeletic also brought models of Hubble with him to show children in the audience and used parts taken from the Hubble telescope to demonstrate just how difficult it is to fix the telescope as it orbits the earth. Borden remarked that the interactive nature of the presentation "allowed us to invest ourselves in the continuation of NASA telescope projects."

As Hubble nears its 30th anniversary, Jeletic discussed the future of the "discovery machine." For as long as the telescope continues its orbit around Earth, he explained, NASA will continue to collect new data that will lead to new discoveries. Audience members left the lecture with a newfound appreciation for one of NASA's longest serving icons. They each also left with a collector edition booklet and bookmark, courtesy of Jeletic and NASA.

*Junior Eleanor Brown is a double major in social work and political science. Junior Megan Lynch is an elementary education major.*

*Bailey Didriksen is a chemistry major and the historian of the Honors Student Association.*

## A GREAT END TO AN EVEN BETTER YEAR

By Bailey Didriksen

Hard work, dedication and involvement pay off at the annual, year-end Honors Student Appreciation Night, hosted by the Honors College. Together with its members, the Honors Student Association (HSA) helped plan the big event from decorating the Wicomico Room to creating the décor. The hodgepodge theme – "Fandoms Scuba Diving (Under the Sea) in Vegas" – allowed students to kick back and relax among underwater tapestry, decks of cards, their favorite fandom décor and more. From freshmen to graduating seniors, everyone appreciated the chance to celebrate the diverse achievements of Honors College students.

Several attendees received awards from their fellow students, who voted in an online poll. Among the winners were sophomore MacKenzie Hicks (also one of the DJs for the night) who received the "Caring Like Crazy" prize as well as the "Most Helpful General Member" award. "I enjoyed just being able to dance and relax with friends," said Hicks.

HSA also announced their executive board members, including junior Lauren DeLong, who was named vice president. She remarked, "I was honored to find out that my fellow students trusted me to take on a bigger role, and I'm excited for the opportunity to stay so closely involved with the planning of Honors events."

With plans for this year's activities in the works, students hope to continue the tradition of celebrating unique themes and developing cherished memories.



Newly announced Honors College Ambassadors pose after being honored during Honors Student Appreciation Night.

# Student Spotlight: NICHOLAS BUTLER SIGNING OFF

By Lauren DeLong

Each year, *The Saunterer* showcases an outstanding undergraduate student in the Honors College. This year, senior Nicholas Butler was kind enough to share his journey through Honors, science and mentorship.

Senior Nicholas Butler – a dual geography major in the atmospheric science and physical geography tracks, and an aspiring meteorologist – is an exemplary mentor for younger students. Nicholas was drawn to Salisbury University for its academic programs, but he found his home through Powerful Connections, a program offered through Multicultural Student Services that helps freshmen of diverse backgrounds feel more empowered on their college campus. Nicholas decided to become a mentor for Powerful Connections as a sophomore, and he accumulated five mentees over the past three years.

Through such simple interactions as playing Pokémon Go on the Ocean City boardwalk, Nicholas formed relationships with mentees, helping them build a strong network with peers and utilize resources on campus. Director of Multicultural Student Services Vaughn White described Nicholas as “always eager to assist new students in finding their way and adjusting to college life,” and deemed him “a true asset to the program.”

Beyond friendly advice, however, Nicholas enjoys Powerful Connections for the discussions it brings about between age groups, which address the struggles of adapting to classes and professors, finding one’s niche on campus, and dealing with the challenges dealt to those of minority backgrounds.

“It reminds us to remember the diverse bonds we all hold with each other,” he said

Inspired by his experience with Powerful Connections, Nicholas continues to be a resource and a mentor to incoming freshmen as an Honors College ambassador and a geography tutor on top of his full class schedule and part-time job. Despite his busy schedule, he loves to dedicate his time to helping peers manage their challenging coursework.

Dr. Kristen Walton, who has helped Nicholas apply for multiple competitive fellowships including the Udall and Fulbright, sees a direct connection between his desire to help others and his career goals. While Nicholas conducted field research during a trip to Puerto Rico last January, Walton noted, he became “fascinated by the effects that weather events and climate change have on people in

the region. With the recent impact of Hurricane Maria on Puerto Rico, he is even more dedicated to using his meteorological training to help people so they will be minimally affected by these events.”

Currently, Nicholas is applying to graduate schools to study atmospheric science before becoming a meteorologist. When asked to reflect on his experiences with the Honors College, Nicholas recalled feeling overwhelmed during his first-year research presentation, but he feels that through volunteering as a mentor and with the resources and encouragement of the Honors College, he has gone through significant growth. “As a meteorologist,” Nicholas said, “You need to be confident in addressing millions of people, and I believe that I’ve matured into a more confident leader and speaker.” ■



Nicholas (far left) and other mentors and mentees gather together near Holloway Hall after a Powerful Connections program.

## LES ERICKSON

By Chloe Birch



Dr. Les Erickson stands in the wine cellar he built in his home basement.

*The Saunterer* regularly recognizes faculty members who have taught Honors courses. In this issue, we recognize molecular biologist Dr. Les Erickson, chair of the Department of Biological Sciences. Through his course and his research, he shares his love of yeast, fermentation and genetics with his students.

Dr. Les Erickson, chair of Salisbury's Department of Biological Sciences, loves to share his expertise in molecular and cellular biology with students in the classroom, laboratory and even, occasionally, his home wine cellar. Two years ago, Dr. Erickson began his affiliation with the Honors College by teaching a section of Biology 210: Biology Concepts and Methods for the STEM-oriented Honors Living Learning Community (LLC). During that semester, he organized a local hiking trip to explore trails around the Salisbury Zoo and invited students and faculty from Honors and Biology to his home for an end-of-semester party.

For many freshman students, Dr. Erickson's course was an influential building block for their undergraduate research careers.

Lauren DeLong, for example, began conducting research in Dr. Erickson's lab while taking BIOL 210. She explained that her research, which involves isolating, identifying and characterizing yeast strains for fermentation, "has grown with me. It becomes more complicated as I become a more advanced student. That's something to appreciate."

This semester, DeLong has joined Dr. Erickson's newest Honors class, The Science of Fermentation. This class offers both science and non-science majors the opportunity to understand how fermentation is used to create foods and beverages as well as appreciate the



Fermentation students pour wine they pressed into a carboy, a container used to filter yeast out of fresh wine.

historical and practical significance of fermentation for preserving foods and creating probiotic health supplements. Students in the class make their own wine, beer, sauerkraut and bread, while collecting yeast samples and extracting and analyzing the DNA. "It's almost just as much an art as it is a science," said senior Marcus Sowell.

Alongside fostering his students' interest in fermentation, Dr. Erickson home-brews using yeast identified from his research. "It's fun when you can combine your hobby into your job and do both," he remarked. His most recent discovery came from research with DeLong, the "Brachel" strain of yeast, named after two previous students at Salisbury University. Currently, he has five gallons of "Brachel" beer

fermenting in his home cellar, and the yeast strain has been delivered to Burley Oak in Berlin, MD, to be used in a commercial beer.

Dr. Erickson shared, "Anytime you can meld university and local business together, everybody is happy." Dr. Erickson hopes to land on a unique flavor of beer as 40 more strains of yeast are going to be screened and tested to determine if any can produce alcohol in addition to a unique, sour flavor for a novel beer. ■

*Freshman Chloe Birch is a communication arts major. She is involved in the Honors Student Association.*

# HONORS AROUND THE GLOBE: FUNDING AND INVOLVEMENT IN HONORS RESEARCH

By Lauren DeLong and Lily Bazis

As author Zora Neale Hurston said: "Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose."

The Honors College at Salisbury University encourages students to start research early, cultivating that academic curiosity. The Honors Freshman Seminar gives new Honors students the opportunity to present research at a "practice" conference on campus during the first semester of their undergraduate careers. Because the Honors College recognizes the value of presenting research beyond the Salisbury University campus, its faculty and staff encourage students to present beyond campus, network with colleagues, and discover new research ideas. The Honors College allocates more than \$30,000 annually to support undergraduate research, including the purchase of equipment and paying for students to attend regional and national conferences.

Each spring, the Honors College funds a large group of students to present at the Northeast Regional Honors Council (NRHC) conference. This past year, senior Patrick Miller joined 22 other Honors College in Pittsburgh, PA, for the NRHC annual meeting. A biology major, Miller researches neuromorphology in songbirds with Dr. Jeremy Corfield, aiming to connect the various regions of bird brains to individual vocal abilities to explain their unique song systems.

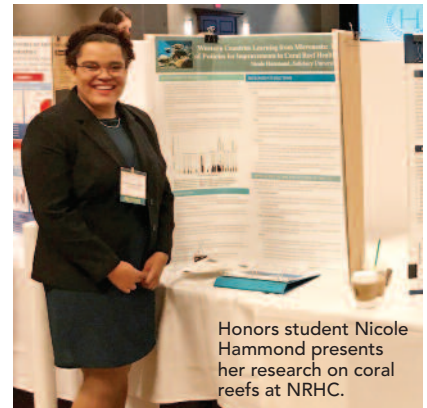
Miller, who was just two semesters into research at the



Honors student Patrick Miller discusses his research with Dr. Leanne Wood at the NRHC conference.

time, found himself outside of his comfort zone while attempting to communicate scientific concepts to a variety of listeners. However, he describes the overall experience as preparation for larger conferences designed for his specific field. Miller will be presenting at the Neuroscience Conference this fall in Washington, D.C., and hopes to attend the International Conference for Neuroethology in Brisbane, Australia, in 2018.

Miller's experiences are not unique among students in the Honors College. Several Honors students recently were granted the opportunity to present at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in Memphis, TN, including Darby Joyce, who spoke on Nigerian regional power on the African continent, and Brendan Gallagher, who presented on the effects of familial mortality on one's perception of intimacy with others.



Honors student Nicole Hammond presents her research on coral reefs at NRHC.

The Honors College also funded Callista Brown, who not only attended NCUR this past spring, but also presented her research at the Experimental Biology Conference in Chicago, IL.

The Honors College has provided Honors students a professional platform through which to present their research to diverse audiences, preparing them for research and work in their professional careers. ■

*Lily Bazis is a freshman communication arts major with a track in multimedia journalism. Lauren DeLong is a junior biology major with mathematics and chemistry minors, striving to attain her Ph.D. in molecular biology.*



Nicole Hammond (second to right) at Capitol Hill with Citizens' Climate Lobby.



Ben Lenox (right) with Salesforce co founder Parker Harris and fellow interns.



Ruthie Lucas edits photographs at an Under Armour All American Camp Series in Los Angeles.

## PAID IN EXPERIENCE: HONORS SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

By Emma DePanise and Emily Ball

Many university students look forward to the summer as a chance to return home, take a vacation, earn a few summer class credits or make a bit of money. This year, several Honors College students opted for a different kind of experience by completing pre-professional internships in their fields of study. Students from a wide variety of majors gained valuable experience in the span of just a few weeks.

Gabrielle Voithofer, a sophomore biology major with a pre-medicine track, interned at Medstar St. Mary's Hospital. Monday through Friday, she delivered medication and updated formulary. Voithofer

recommends internships to "everyone, if you can in your field." "Experience is key," said Voithofer, because it demonstrates "how committed you are. It also offers you a lot of freedom."

Another biology major, junior Lauren DeLong, interned at the National Institute on Aging (NIA), a division of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). She described interacting with "scientists from around the country and around world," working together to create a "biological pacemaker" of sorts. Not only did she work with statistical software and cell cultures, she also attended weekly seminars and a graduate school fair, and she presented her research at two separate conferences.

Nicole Hammond, a sophomore biology major and environmental science minor, pursued a different sort of science internship at Citizens' Climate Lobby, a non-profit organization promoting activism toward the environment. Hammond managed social media accounts, organized meetings and provided community outreach. The involvement of her position

was what was most exciting for her. She said. "It just goes to show that if you want to major in science, you don't have to work in a lab all day."

Internships are designed to provide students insight into their careers, whether that be in a laboratory or an office. Ruthie Lucas, a senior art major on a graphic design track, worked on multiple projects for Fruitland OzTech Media, including the design of a logo for Southside RC Speedway. Her internships did not keep her bound to the Eastern Shore, however. Lucas also travelled across the country for Under Armour, flying from city to city in between classes and soccer practice. "It felt like a real job," she recalled. "I gained a lot of confidence, and it's a great portfolio builder."

Ben Lenox, a junior international relations and conflict analysis and dispute resolution double major, built his portfolio at Salesforce, a cloud computing company headquartered in San Francisco. He described his job as "assisting new Salesforce employees in all capacities, anticipating their needs and being a cheerleader for Salesforce." Lenox gained valuable professional skills, as well as contacts within the Silicon Valley area through Salesforce. "My manager changed my life," said Lenox, "and not once was I asked to run and get coffee."

Whether participating in local internship experiences or traveling across the country, Honors students prove that their experiences outside off campus can be just as important as those in the classroom. ■

*Emily Ball is majoring in English with a creative writing track. Emma DePanise is a junior majoring in English and minoring in music.*



# SEARCHING THROUGH THE ARCHIVES

By Valerie Abbott

Microfilms, documents, artifacts: the Edward H. Nabb Research Center holds a bounty of materials for researchers interested in the history of Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Sophomore elementary education major Jaclyn Laman interned there this summer as a curatorial assistant. She not only archived incoming materials, but also compiled research for and assisted with the installation of two exhibits: one for a campus showcase about regional quilt making and an exhibit featured in Salisbury University's new Downtown Gallery. The latter complemented a traveling Smithsonian exhibit titled "The Way We Worked"; to add local perspective, Laman curated photographs and other artifacts that chronicled laborers of the Eastern Shore. "This position enabled me to develop my researching abilities from a macro to a micro scale," remarked Laman. She continues to work at the Nabb Center during the academic year, further developing her skills as she interacts with the history of the Eastern Shore.

The archives are of particular interest to senior Rachel Pierson, a dual environmental studies and geography major. Awarded a Henson School grant, she began research this summer on agricultural drainage ditches of the Eastern Shore for her Honors thesis. Through a myriad of sources, ranging from newspaper clippings to surveyors' notes, Rachel is piecing together the history of these drainage ditches. Her goal is to "start a conversation about this fundamental characteristic of the Eastern Shore." Rachel is presenting at the Pennsylvania Geographical Society Conference in November.

*Valerie Abbott is a junior history secondary education major with minors in social studies and English.*



Curatorial assistant Jaclyn Laman installs the new Crazy Quilt exhibit in the Nabb Research Center in Guerrieri Academic Commons.



Amy Vennos before her piano lecture recital in April.

## UNITING MUSIC AND HISTORY: A RECITAL TO REMEMBER

By Allison Guy

Last spring, junior Amy Vennos combined two of her interests – music and Russian culture – into an Honors Independent Study. With help from her piano instructor, Lyubov "Luba" Paskova, Vennos selected repertoire from six Russian composers and performed five solo pieces in addition to a duet alongside Dr. Leanne Wood, faculty director of the Bellavance Honors Program.

Throughout the presentation, Vennos did more than perform music. She discussed composer backgrounds and events that influenced the composition of each piece. She explained: "I wanted to have a lecture recital where I could play piano and also talk to people, giving them an idea about what Russian music is."

Prior to the recital, she spent three months researching historical context with the help of Dr. Wood. Vennos discovered that Russian composers, through their compositions, responded to societal norms by either conforming to them or rebelling against them.

"Amy was enthusiastic about this project from start to finish," shared Dr. Wood, who said she "enjoyed helping Amy explore scholarship about well-known composers like Tchaikovsky, as well as some that are less familiar to U.S. audiences."

Reflecting on her independent study, Vennos remarked: "If you have an idea of something you really want to do, don't just be quiet about it. Make it happen."

*Allison Guy is a freshman English major.*

HSA members take a break from school at the Assateague Island bonfire hosted at the end of September.



# STARTING AT SALISBURY: THE HONORS EXPERIENCE

By Savannah Swanson and Adam Weeks

As first year Honors students arriving to campus two days before other freshmen, we expected move in day to be hectic and nerve wracking. On the contrary, we quickly felt reassured by the supportive environment of the Honors Freshman Living Learning Communities (LLCs). Upperclassmen volunteers and Honors College faculty smoothed the transition as they greeted the newest members of the Honors family.

Through early move in and Orientation fun, we quickly found our niche among our floormates. After the hard goodbyes to our parents, Honors Orientation was a quick remedy for our homesickness. Dr. James Buss, Honors College dean, organized a trip to the local Crown Sports Complex. More upperclassmen, like our resident assistants (RAs) and Honors Student Association officers joined the fun of arcade games, rock walls, laser tag and roller skating. Food and Culture LLC student Kelsey Pintzow reflected: "I definitely made friends through the group activities like laser tag and roller skating. It was like one giant icebreaker allowing us to forget the stress of move in."

Currently, a majority of our class, the largest yet in the Honors College, participate in five Honors Freshman LLCs; two Food and Culture, one Science and Medicine, one Science and Society, and one Business and Entrepreneurship. We get to live and bond with our classmates while helping one another succeed in our academics, growing closer as a family of Honors students. Nothing beats having your floormates there for you at any time of the day.

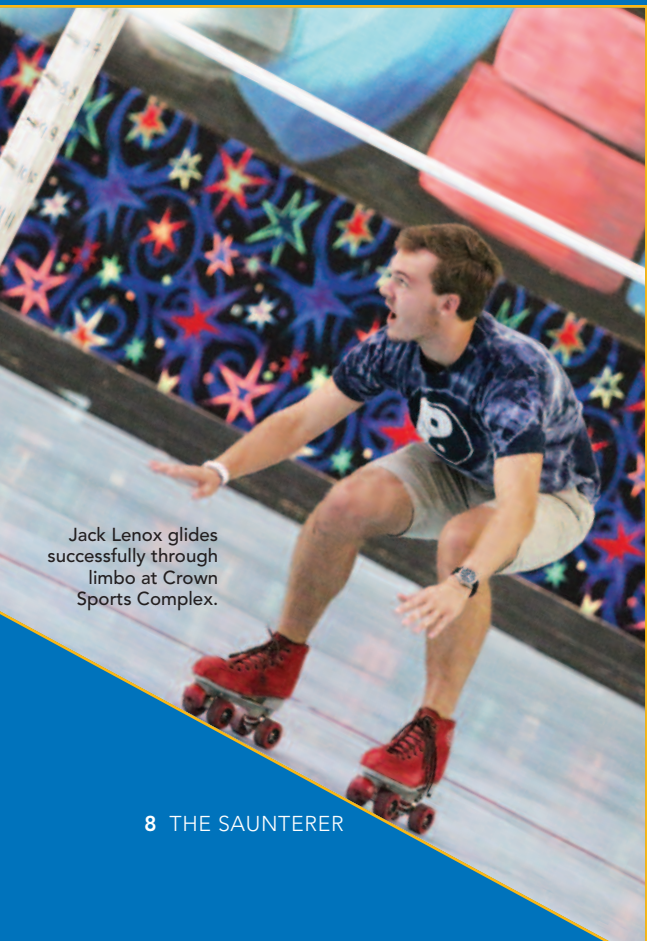
Outside of our residence halls, we spend every other Friday crafting with Dr. Leanne Wood in the Honors House, joined by some upperclassmen. Through the Honors Student Association (HSA), we've also bonded with older students while walking dogs at the local Humane Society or going out to Assateague Island for a bonfire. Between our LLCs, the faculty and HSA, we've even gone out into the community, exploring local farmers markets or attending 3rd Friday in downtown Salisbury.

The Honors College creates a welcoming environment that quickly made us feel at home. It's a group of faculty, upperclassmen and peers who truly care. In Honors we've become more than a number in a school of 8,000 others. The excitement of Freshman Orientation, the opportunities for involvement both on and off campus, and the chance to relax with other Honors students turns Honors into more than just classes; it's become our niche in the daunting world of college.

*Freshman Savannah Swanson is an English major. Fellow freshman Adam Weeks is an English secondary education and philosophy double major.*



RA William McCarthy (middle) and Jamie Barbosa (left) paint doorstops at Craft Circle with some of their freshman residents.



Jack Lenox glides successfully through limbo at Crown Sports Complex.



Professor Kyle Mays prepares for his public lecture in Conway Hall.

## HISTORIAN AND SCHOLAR KYLE MAYS BRINGS INDIGENOUS HIP-HOP TO THE HONORS COLLEGE

By Natalia Graf and Jaclyn Laman

Author of the forthcoming book *Hip Hop Beats, Indigenous Rhymes*, historian Dr. Kyle Mays studies Afro-indigenous and indigenous popular culture in urban areas of the United States. The Honors College invited Mays this past spring to be a guest speaker in Dr. Leanne Wood's Music and Power Honors class and share his research in a public talk titled "Decolonizing Hip-Hop: How Hip Hop is Changing Indigenous North America."

Dr. Mays, who is currently on the faculty of UCLA, discussed his personal background as a Black Saginaw Anishinaabe growing up in Detroit. He also discussed the impact of settler colonialism, problematic representations of

Native Americans and the appropriation of indigenous emblems by (among others) professional sports teams. McKenna Connolly, a Music and Power alumna, described Mays's in-class presentation as "really eye-opening because we got to hear from his personal experience."

Later that day, Honors students were invited to dine with Dr. Mays at the University Commons before his public talk.

"The dinner was a great experience because we had the opportunity to ask him one-on-one questions," recounted sophomore Nicole Hammond.

A diverse crowd of students, faculty and community members attended Mays's presentation, which was punctuated by numerous music videos from Indigenous hip hop artists. His talk sparked a lively Q&A and enthusiastic responses from those in attendance. ■

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Dr. Mays, who is currently on the faculty of UCLA, discussed his personal background as a Black Saginaw Anishinaabe growing up in Detroit.

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*Natalia Graf is a sophomore accounting and information systems double major. Jaclyn Laman is a sophomore elementary education major.*

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LEADS TO RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES AND INTERNSHIPS

By Eleanor Brown and Chloe Birch

Beginning freshman year, the Honors College promotes community engagement through class-based projects that provide Honors students opportunities to become connected with the off-campus community. These projects can lead to long-term relationships for upperclassmen, such as internships and Honors theses.

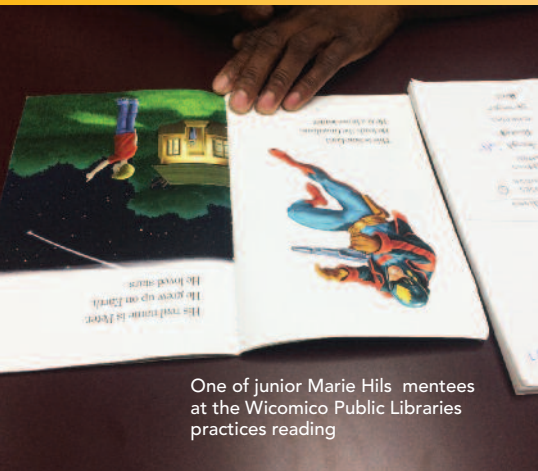
Dr. Stacia Kock, a new full-time Honors professor, explained that the Community Engagement Project (CEP) requirement in the Honors Freshman Seminar (HONR 111) "provides the students with an overview of what it means to be a productive Honors student as well as member of the community. The CEP gives them the opportunity to get to know and work alongside the Salisbury neighborhood." More than simply giving back to the community, these projects encourage students to see the city and surrounding region as a complex and interconnected community – not just a place to attend university.

Freshman Chloe Birch is completing her Community Engagement Project at the Wicomico County Humane Society with a group of fellow HONR 111 students. Chloe's project focuses on providing comfort and care to the homeless

animals. She shared: "We get to provide comfort to the animals who really need it, since they don't get it anywhere else. It's also a really cool symbiotic relationship because it's so stress relieving for us and it benefits the animals." Chloe believes that through the project, her group is now more familiar with the Salisbury area, and that because of the community service aspect, "we've given a part of ourselves to an organization, which is a great opportunity to engage with a local non-profit as freshmen."

Junior Lauren DeLong began getting involved with the Salisbury community her first year and, for the past two years, has focused her attention on the Wicomico Public Library's STEM Saturdays. As a member of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) and president of SU's student chapter, DeLong is passionate about bringing science to life in the local Salisbury community. After connecting with Katherine Potvin, a former Honors student and previous planner of STEM Saturdays, Lauren created an entirely student-led activity called "DNA Discovery." At this event, attendees isolate DNA from cheek cells, learn how to build DNA molecules from candy and end with a decoding activity. As an expanding outreach, ASBMB is planning an event with the Wicomico Board of Education this November.

Junior Marie Hils also partners with the Wicomico Public Library, but her priority is on promoting literacy in the Salisbury community. She was introduced to the library's Project READ Program during a visit organized by the Honors College, and she



One of junior Marie Hils mentees at the Wicomico Public Libraries practices reading



Honors students volunteer with the local organization Sustainable Salisbury to affix "Drains to the Bay" labels on city storm drains to discourage dumping waste.



Lauren DeLong shows entranced middle school student how to model DNA using candy.

since has become a tutor for adult learners seeking to increase their basic adult literacy to improve their employment opportunities and quality of life. Hils stated that though she is “challenged to incorporate meaningful print experiences that are relevant to adult life,” she is “not only changing someone’s life for the better, but developing a relationship with a member of the community that I would not have otherwise had the pleasure of meeting.” Marie plans to continue to promote adult literacy as she works toward a degree in early childhood education with minors in conflict analysis dispute resolution and Spanish.

Another junior Honors student, Eleanor Brown, promotes literacy in a different portion of the community. Since 2016, she has been volunteering as a book group leader at Eastern Correctional Institution in Westover, MD. The book group program provides the male inmates with an outlet to share their experiences and connections to the world through discussing literature, current events and politics. Through this three hour, once-a-week commitment, Eleanor has become immersed in the culture of the prison and its relationship to civilian life. Her community



Junior Eleanor Brown builds a ramp with the SU chapter of the Student United Way.

engagement also directly informs her Honors thesis project, which seeks to determine “the presence of employment discrimination against returning citizens within the region.” Because there is no previous research on this topic for Maryland’s Eastern Shore, Eleanor hopes to collect information for the region and identify employment barriers for returning citizens.

Community engagement often begins rather modestly for students in the Honors College, but it can become a powerful force that shapes a student’s course of study and eventual career. Whether taken on as an extracurricular interest or the foundation of a major research endeavor, these projects connect Honors students to the world beyond Salisbury University in meaningful ways. ■

**Community engagement often begins rather modestly for students in the Honors College, but it can become a powerful force that shapes a student’s course of study and eventual career.**

*Freshman Chloe Birch is a communication arts major. Junior Eleanor Brown is double majoring in social work and political science.*



Faculty Fellows from across campus meet to develop new Honors course offerings.

# HONORS COLLEGE INTRODUCES NEW FACULTY FELLOWS PROGRAM

By Haley Dicks

What makes Honors classes different from other courses offered on campus? That's the question at the heart of the new Honors Faculty Fellows Program, which is aimed at recruiting new faculty members to teach in the growing Honors College.

"The Faculty Fellows Program was designed to create a community of faculty who can be ambassadors for Honors across campus," said Dr. James Buss, dean of the Honors College. When seeking Faculty Fellows over the summer, Dr. Buss asked them to answer two questions: "Why did you want to teach in Honors?" and "What is your dream course?"

Many professors who are new to Honors education believe that Honors courses are designed solely to have a heavier workload with higher expectations of student performance. While that is true to some extent, Honors courses also are designed to take advantage of the smaller class sizes and the increased motivation of students in the class.

The Faculty Fellows Program enables small groups of interested faculty to meet over lunch throughout the semester and discuss best practices in Honors education. Through conversations with Dean Buss and veteran Honors faculty members, participants hope to gain a better understanding of what it means to teach an Honors course. In one early group meeting, for example, the discussion focused on how to construct an Honors course that would ensure students carry what they learned in the classroom into the larger community around them.

Many Honors programs across the country are limited to the liberal arts, but the Honors College at SU is evolving from this structure to accommodate more students and include more classes. These efforts can be seen through the variety of science and math courses offered in the upcoming semester, as well as the development of a new Business Honors Program and a future

Honors Program in the Sciences and Mathematics.

The ultimate goal of the Honors Faculty Fellows Program is to construct more diverse courses for students in the Honors College and educate more members of the campus community as to best practices in Honors education.

Throughout the semester, Faculty Fellows will be asked to think about planning their "dream" course using "backward design" – that is, to begin by outlining student outcomes and then construct assignments that ask students to demonstrate an enhanced understanding of those outcomes. At the end of their second lunch meeting, Dr. Buss challenged the Faculty Fellows to ask themselves: "What might you expect a student to gain from your Honors course that is different than a non-Honors section of the same class?" He hopes that this might serve as a general mantra for faculty hoping to teach Honors classes in the future. ■

*Haley Dicks is a sophomore communications arts major and a marketing management minor.*

# MAKING CONNECTIONS: LEADERSHIP STEMMING FROM THE COMMUNITY

By Mollie Jewell

During the 2015-2016 school year, the Honors College developed a new initiative for Honors sophomore students: a Living Learning Community (LLC) focused on mentorship and leadership. According to Dr. James Buss, Honors College dean, the (then) Honors Program "sought ways to aid students in developing leadership and mentoring skills that might enhance the overall university and encourage Honors students to become more involved in campus activities. One of the missions of Honors at SU is to give back."

While one of the LLC classes, Mentorship, focuses on on-campus leadership among peers, the Leadership Studies course expands outward to the local community, inviting local leaders to speak with the students about their personal leadership approaches. Senior Madison Hill, a pre-law political science and Spanish double major, joined the LLC during its inaugural year. Some of her most memorable speakers were the CEO of Perdue Farms Randy Day and his son, Salisbury Mayor Jacob Day. This father-son duo reflected what to her was an important tenet, that "there is no one way to be a good leader, and no one way that will effectively lead every person. It is just about finding your style."

Last spring, Ryan Weaver partnered with Dr. Buss to teach the Leadership Studies class. A local leader himself who is pursuing a master's degree in administrative leadership, Weaver is involved in many projects with the University and the city of Salisbury. Weaver said his goal is "to guide each student to develop a deeper understanding of their individual story and to provide the

basic structure for each student leader to cultivate contextual, chronological and cultural awareness to meet the demands of leadership in the complexity of their lives.

Michael Bowman, an environmental studies major, praised Weaver as "a very energetic, charismatic and knowledgeable person, extending his energy to the class." Michael and his classmate Jillian Swaim recalled that, through their interactions with community leaders, they gained a better understanding of their own preferences for leading others as

they constructed their personal leadership platforms.

Jillian remarked that Leadership Studies "gives you a better idea of how you want to conduct yourself in your professional career to mirror your own personal values" as she interacted with a diverse range of leaders.

Due to its success, the Leadership Studies course has been opened this year to sophomore non-LLC students, which makes possible even more connections between the campus and the greater Salisbury region. ■



Ryan Weaver and Perdue Farms CEO Randy Day speak to the Sophomore LLC class.

Due to its success, the Leadership Studies course has been opened this year to sophomore non-LLC students, which makes possible even more connections between the campus and the greater Salisbury region.

*Mollie Jewell is a junior biology major with a pre-medical track and chemistry and philosophy minors.*

# ACHIEVING GOLD ON THE FIELD AND IN THE CLASSROOM

By Ellen Berry



For Honors College student-athletes, participating in Salisbury University's Division III Athletic Programs provides an opportunity to continue their athletic career while also pursuing the academic curriculum Honors provides.

Senior Ruthie Lucas, an art major and captain of the women's soccer team, believes that balancing the responsibilities of athletics and academics "helped me to grow as a person."

Senior Alex Potocko, physics major and varsity football player argues that being a collegiate athlete has "definitely given me a sense of purpose on this campus." When not on the football field, Alex provides mentorship to first-year students as a resident assistant, which he has done for three years. He also can be found playing the piano in the Honors House.

Junior Fiona Halloran, a biology major and member of the women's cross country and track teams, agrees. Being a collegiate athlete, said Halloran, "definitely helps me focus." This is evident through her engagement in undergraduate research multiple faculty laboratories, where she focuses on bioinformatics and genomics.

Sophomore Emma Tarnosky, admits that being a pre-nursing major, as well as a member of the women's swimming team and resident assistant for the Honors Freshman LLCs makes planning her schedule tricky. "Without priority enrollment through Honors," Tarnosky said, "it would be impossible to make a schedule that accommodates swimming, Honors courses and the rigorous nursing program."

Ellen Berry, a freshman in the Honors College who also participates on the women's swimming team, can attest to the strong family-like community the Honors College promotes, especially through the Living Learning Communities. "Having a fellow Honors teammate as my resident assistant – Emma Tarnosky – has helped tremendously," Berry admitted. "She has become a guiding mentor as I begin my undergraduate Honors journey. If you are contemplating pursuing collegiate athletics and the Honors College, definitely do both!"

Additional Honors College advising, fellow Honors athletes, and opportunities to become engaged in undergraduate research make balancing the roles of student and athlete worth it.



Above: Varsity Women's Soccer Captain Ruthie Lucas.

Right: Sophomore Emma Tarnosky and freshman Ellen Berry from the woman's varsity swim team.

*Ellen Berry is a freshman majoring in physics engineering.*

## CREATIVE WORKS

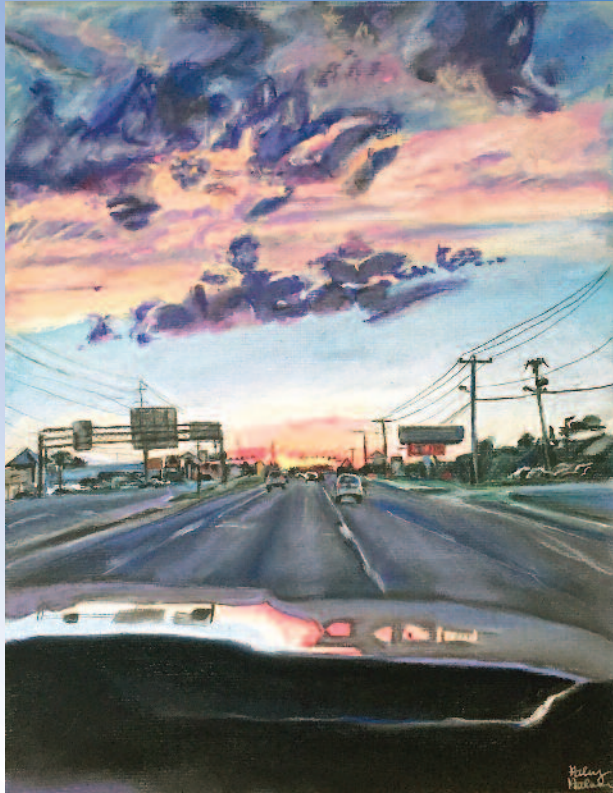
### BY HONORS STUDENTS

**Honors Students are known for their ability to think outside of 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.**





## Coastal Highway Sunset

By Haley Halvorsen

## Frozen in Time

By Abigail Miano-Burkhardt



# TO DAD: FOR WHAT I SHOULD'VE FELT

By Emily Ball

"Grandpa died last night," Dad told me on the way to school, in his red pickup truck with the leather seats. I was something like seven or eight, dressed in uniform for private school.

It was a statement that garnered no emotion from me. I hardly knew him. If anything, I was more cautious around him than other family members. Something about old people made me feel lowly.

I don't remember saying anything.

But I remember the hospital the night before, with all my aunts and uncles crying, telling me it was all so sad. But they knew I wasn't sad.

I remember my mother, a licensed physician assistant, whispering, through the coma, because she knew he could hear:

"You either have to stay or you have to go, Grandpa."

At the funeral, the soldier handed him the flag.

"Do you accept this?"

"Yes," Dad replied. Yes, as the oldest brother, who was now head of the family. Yes, his father, the senior to his junior, who suffered from bipolar episodes sending him to a mental hospital for months at a time, a devoted Catholic who thought his Lutheran wife *might* not make it into heaven but loved his Petunia too much anyway, patriarch of eight but now only seven children, a lover of the phrase "sons of bitches," a man who taught high school English, was dead.

Weeks later, when I asked Mom why Dad was so distant, she said,

"He misses his Dad."

When I asked why he died, my mother, a licensed Physician Assistant, replied:

"He missed Grandma."

# 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 Honors 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](http://www.salisbury.edu/honors) – which includes full profiles for each of the ambassadors.



## JEREMIEROSE BARBOSA

- **HOMETOWN:** Glen Burnie, MD
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## KATIE FOSTER

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## NATALIA GRAF

- **HOMETOWN:** Columbia, MD
- **MAJOR:** Accounting and Information Systems
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## NICOLE HAMMOND

- **HOMETOWN:** Ellicott City, MD
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## BENJAMIN LENOX

- **HOMETOWN:** Odenton, MD
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## MEGAN LYNCH

- **HOMETOWN:** Davidsonville, MD
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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.givecorps.com/causes/4727-the-honors-college](https://salisburyu.givecorps.com/causes/4727-the-honors-college)

