

HONORS OUTLOOK

FIRST-YEARS EXPLORE FREDERICKSBURG

By Carleigh Rahn and Ty Stephenson, Class of 2022

When we walked onto campus on Move-In day, we didn't know what was in store for us. Barely after we finished unpacking, we were immersed in a thoughtful program that would change how we viewed the city and each other.



Our first day of college was spent in the City As Text™ program, an honors students pedagogy used across the country. Each group of 12 was assigned a section of Fredericksburg to explore and learn from as if it were a textbook. We spent the day wandering around our section of the city, truly wandering. We only had one instruction: Go explore and tell us about what you learn.

After five hours in the August heat and rain showers, we created a five minute presentation about our "neighborhood." These presentations were entirely student driven: it was our raw interpretation of the city.

That night, we attended a formal dinner and presented our findings. At this dinner were esteemed UMW and Fredericksburg officials: department heads, President Paino, and even Mayor Greenlaw. While we felt the nerves given our audience, we all were confident, and we all had something valuable to share.

City As Text™ provided us with the first, real taste of our new home. We instantly connected with like-minded students and it is safe to say our first welcome to Mary Washington could not have been better.

Learning through Service

By Morgan Mumford, Class of 2020

College is not simply about providing knowledge; it is crucial to prepare students to be active members of their community. Honors Service Learning is a 1 credit course that seeks to build a relationship between Honors scholars and the community, promoting civic engagement.

I chose to volunteer with the local Fredericksburg SPCA primarily because of my love for animals. I have exchanged some of my time in return for the skills to interact within the Fredericksburg community. Since the organization is flexible, I can walk dogs and promote pet adoption to students on campus in my free time.



HONORS PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. Kelli Slunt

Director, Honors Program

Professor of Chemistry

Dr. Mara Scanlon

Asst. Director, Honors Program

Professor of English

Ms. Amanda Ronay

Honors Program Coordinator

CONTACT US

HONORSPROGRAM@UMW.EDU

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Instagram – [umwhonors](#)

FACEBOOK: [HTTPS://
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
MARYWASHHONORS/](https://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MARYWASHHONORS/)

SCHOLARS TRAVEL TO NOVEL LAUNCH

by Chloe Martin and Abby Buchholz, Class of 2022

On October 9th, 2018, a group of UMW Honors Program students were given the opportunity to go to the novel release and panel discussion of Dear Evan Hansen in Washington, DC. When we arrived at the panel, we were greeted with signed copies of the novel that we all promptly began to read and discuss in relation to the play that was our UMW Common Read experience. When the actual panel began, we were immersed in an in-depth discussion with the authors about what it takes to update such a popular work, as well as the primary focus of Dear Evan Hansen as a whole: mental health and well-being.

The night was filled with music, laughter, and thought-provoking discussion that carried itself well into the bus ride back to campus. This experience was truly one to remember, and one that we never would have dreamed of having before the UMW Honors Program made it possible. Events like these not only promote a love for reading and academia as a whole, but also a love for discussion, opinion, and a diverse community of critical-thinkers.



Brompton Oak
(photo credit Terry Cosgrove)

Stick together, work together... help it grow.

As a relatively new program, it's important that we work together and help one another in order to create a strong foundation for the future of the Honors Program.

—Honors Student Advisory Committee 2018-2019

HONORS SCHOLARS MAKE HEADLINES

Jeremy R. Engel recently co-authored an op-ed in *The Washington Post* with Professor Steve Farnsworth, entitled “Ralph Northram’s Excellent Timing.”

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/ralph-northams-excellent-timing/2018/10/05/0459d64c-c33b-11e8-b338-a3280f6cb742_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.46c6f20cff65

This fall **Andy Unger** opened his own pop-up LGBTQ+ bookstore in Fredericksburg.

<https://www.umw.edu/news/2018/10/02/pop-up-startup-classics-major-opens-lgbtq-bookstore/>

In September, **Emily Voorhis** published a column in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* called “School Shootings: No Student Should Spend their Childhood in Fear.”

https://www.richmond.com/opinion/their-opinion/guest-columnists/emily-voorhis-column-school-shootings-no-student-should-spend-their/article_e6fb62b-ead-5fa6-b2c9-566e86860c5c.html

A LABORATORY FOR DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP

By Emily Contompasis, Class of 2019

I first began lab aiding to fulfill the Honors Program leadership requirement. In the fall of my junior year, I was assigned to a general chemistry class. I acquired lab experience that helped me in my own classes, assisted students, answered questions, and gained work experience to add to my resume and CV. I enjoyed this job so much that I continued working for the Department of Chemistry the next semester and also in my senior year.

Additionally, my experience with lab aiding for the leadership requirement enabled me to be recruited to work as a lab aid for the Department of Biological Science's genetics courses. Last spring, I was the junior genetics lab aid and this upcoming spring I will be the senior lab aid and in charge of training the junior lab aid.

Honors leadership has helped me tremendously in improving my laboratory skills, earned me applicable work experience, taught me to take charge when needed, and made me a better student and scientist overall.