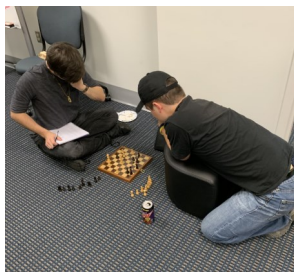


HONORS OUTLOOK

HONORS PROGRAM FINDS A NEW HOME

by Elizabeth Kondzella and Brian Wolf, Class of 2023



On the third floor of Lee Hall, to the left of the bookstore, lies an unassuming room, with students filtering in and out. This is the Honors Commons, a space recently relocated from Dupont Hall because of program growth. Inside the various spaces—a kitchenette with coffee and tea, group and individual study (or hangout) spaces, a Mac/PC computer lab complete with a printer, and Honors staff offices—you may find board games, seasonal decorations, and students of varying levels of productivity. A whiteboard sits in the back, displaying either the fruits of a study session or kind-hearted pleasantries in a myriad of languages. Another infamous presence on the whiteboard was a month-long debate on the proper way to abbreviate “political science.” This whiteboard symbolizes everything UMW Honors is about:

intellectual pursuits and communal support. The lounge binds us together; even strangers laugh and joke together during well-deserved study breaks.

However, on a more personal level for us, the Honors Lounge is home to countless merciless chess matches, the intensity of which would make even the biggest adrenaline junkie sweat, with check-mates that would shock millions. But the matches always end in handshakes and laughter and no hard feelings, because the journey and companionship are infinitely more important than the conclusion. Here, in the little unassuming room in Lee Hall, is a community built on a foundation of trust and compassion, dedicated to academics and extracurriculars alike.

SCHOLARS GROW THROUGH WORKSHOPS

by Aber Gadelrab, Class of 2023, and Katia Savelyeva, Class of 2022

During the Fall 2019 semester, the UMW Honors Program hosted two professionalization opportunities. First, we were introduced to Handshake, an online resume and employment hub made specifically for university students. Assistant Director for Career & Professional Development Bianca Hightower taught us how to build profiles and search for employment and internship opportunities. Before attending the workshop, Handshake features were difficult to use and follow. However, hearing an explanation of the different features made our experience with Handshake more understandable.

The second, Accessibility 101, was offered by ODR Director Jessica Machado and reviewed accessibility and its relevance on UMW’s campus and beyond. She also suggested potential ways we could promote accessibility on campus. We were reminded of our UMW motto, ASPIRE, and how it connected to accessibility and inclusion. While ‘accessibility’ is a term that we all agree is important, many of us don’t fully understand its extent and intention. The workshop encouraged us to think about how accessibility could be improved in our workplace and classroom settings.

Workshops like these go beyond the classroom, teaching students what to expect of the workplace and to consider our community both on- and off- campus.



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SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE

by Mady May, Caitlin Holt, and Maggie Damico, Class of 2022

Noticeable branding is crucial in today's media-oriented society, as daily feeds are often inundated with advertisements. While most of these images are intended to sell users products, some work for the greater good, using profit only to help others. The Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank does just that; their volunteers collect donations, host food drives, and help people to be able to provide meals to their families. It's their kindness that continues to power the Fredericksburg community; however, they will be the first to admit that their branding is lacking. That's where we come in. Our Honors Service Learning team has been working with FRFB to create new logos to help the non-profit be more recognizable, improving their community outreach. We've had fun working on our own time and self-managing our team, and we're currently in the editing stage of our designs. Look out for our completed logos soon!

HONORS FIRST-YEAR ORIENTATION: CITY AS TEXT 2019 EDITION

by Liliana Ramirez and Maya Jenkins, Class of 2023

The day before we were released into Fredericksburg for the City as Text program, an Honors pedagogy used in our orientation this fall, we received integral training to prime us for the full experience. Drs. Leslie Martin and Jason James helped us develop field work techniques to study Fredericksburg and its people, while Mayor Greenlaw showed us how its history connects to its current makeup. Dr. Andi Smith explained the city's common models of architecture and what it suggests about its history, allowing us to create insights that we otherwise would not have had. Dr. Marion Sanford helped us recognize the limits of our perceptions in her implicit bias training.

We walked in with raw perspectives. The lectures before City as Text added bright colors to the black and white world we had always seen. From the population makeup to the micro-aggression awakening, City as Text not only gave us the ability to see Fredericksburg, our new home, but it allowed us to see our place in it, and which ways we could add to it.



UMW HONORS PROGRAM
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INTO THE WILD: FALL HONORS FIELD TRIP

by Rebecca Kellam, Class of 2022, and Abby Delapenha, Class of 2023

On November 2nd, over 20 Honors scholars and staff members braved the chilly, 30-degree weather and set off towards Crow's Nest Natural Area Preserve for a 5.5-mile hike along the Crow's Nest Point Trail. Crow's Nest is located on a



peninsula between Potomac Creek and Accokeek Creek. Comprised of about 2,942 acres, the preserve contains a number of natural marvels, including tidal and non-tidal wetlands and mature hardwood forests. Mike Lott, steward and supervisor of Crow's Nest Preserve, Dr. Jackie Gallagher, chair of the UMW

Geography department, and UMW Alumni Blake Gostelow guided us through the beautiful nature preserve with an insider's look. Along the hike, we learned about the ecosystem of the area and how the preserve is managed. In a unique opportunity, our guides took us off the trail to visit the location where the Daniel family plantation once stood and indicated where the remnants could still be seen today in the form of bricks left behind near indentations which marked the former cellar and icehouse. At the end of the trail, we were able to take a break to look out and see the beautiful Potomac Creek below. Seeing the gorgeous water surrounded by colorful fall leaves made the trip through the cold worthwhile. Overall, the hike was much needed break from classes, and what better way to relax than to enjoy nature?

THE ANXIOUS PENGUIN: HONORS JOINS NATIONAL DAY ON WRITING

by Hannah Harris, Class of 2023, and Jane Hill, Class of 2021

On October 21st, the Honors Program set up a table outside of Lee Hall to help UMW mark the National Day on Writing, enlisting the UMW community to help us construct a "Neverending Story" written one word at a time, starting with a simple "why." After four hours, this story grew into a thrilling saga of sunken ships, hungry dolphins, and a very GPA-conscious penguin.

Of course, many people found the nearly-directionless story amusing, as characters were created and dropped rapidly, but, most notably, people related to the short tale of the anxious penguin. To us, this shows the power writing has to act as a mirror and unifying force for people, with this penguin reflecting well the collective student body. As members of the Honors Program, we were happy to be part of a program that sparked a great deal of creativity and joy among the campus community and allowed individuals to showcase #WhyIWrite.

