

Honors Outlook*

**Pandemic Edition the Third (and Last?)*

SPOTLIGHT ON SENIORS

As we all know, the Class of 2021 graduates in the oddest of circumstances, having lost the last 2.5 semesters of a typical college experience to the pandemic. Honors scholars have adapted their Capstone Projects, their leadership roles, and more, and now move on to graduate, law, and medical school,; to Fulbrights and internships; and to careers in teaching, business, technology, government, and many other fields. Here we highlight a handful of seniors who chose to share their reflections on the UMW Honors Program.



SHANTHI GNANASEKARAN

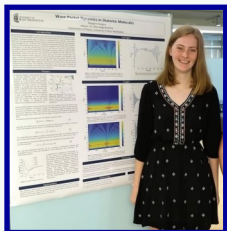
I am graduating with a B.S. in Psychological Science and minor in Neuroscience. My favorite Honors experience, although there are many, was my work through service learning. I was able to teach English to young ESL students at Hugh Mercer Elementary, and through that I experienced a semblance of language immersion with Spanish and Pashto. Another service experience allowed me to work as an intern for Virginia Integrative Psychiatry, where I was able to work with a psychiatrist, and with patients, for valuable clinical experience, especially in novel fields of treatment such as TMS.

JACK LEVINE

Reflecting on my time in the Honors program, I have enjoyed multiple great experiences such as the Honors dinner at Dr. Slunt's house and volunteering at the Fredericksburg SPCA. My favourite memory is the capstone project. I did an economic regression concerning UK food insecurity and thanks to Covid I was able to present not only to the UMW community but also to my UK friends over zoom. Thank you for the opportunities!



MARGARET GREGORY



Working on my capstone project, "Angular Momentum Coherences in Molecular Dynamics," has been, by far, my favorite part of being an undergraduate student. I am really glad that the Honors program requires students to conduct research, as I have learned so much while working on my capstone. The research I have completed at the University of Mary Washington has greatly motivated my plans for after graduation.



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SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

(CONTINUED)

PIPER GIANNINI



The most meaningful experience I have had as an Honors scholar in my three years at Mary Wash would certainly be being a FSEM Peer Mentor for Down the Rabbit Hole with Dr. Scanlon. The group I was able to be a Peer Mentor to has blossomed, and I know that each and every one of them is going to do something great. They are the future of the Honors Program, and I am so glad I have had the chance to work with them. I love them (and Dr. Scanlon!) a lot.



REBECCA YOUNG



All of my experiences in the Honors Program have been memorable—from the field trips and service learning to simple afternoons in the Honors Commons. However, the most meaningful has been the semester-long independent capstone project I completed on representations of disability in children's literature. I had the unique opportunity to design an entire course around my educational interests in English, Disability Studies, and Early Childhood Education and work one-on-one with an advisor, and I was able to share my work with the UMW community at the Honors Symposium!

EMMA SNYDER

Psychology of Women and Gender with Dr. Liss was a class I would never have taken if it weren't for the Honors Program, and it's a course that genuinely changed my life. There was so much I didn't know about gender, stereotypes, stigmas, and feminism - the class felt like a support group, and I'm still friends with people from it. Hands down the best class at Mary Washington, and I wouldn't have known about it without the Honors Program.



HSAC SPREADS THE LOVE

by Chloe Martin '22



The Honors Student Advisory Council, or HSAC, is a group of Honors students who seek to promote the Honors Program's core values of leadership, integrity, and academic excellence. HSAC serves as a liaison between the Honors Program faculty and staff and its students, as well as plans some of the Honors Program events. This spring, HSAC put on two wonderful events to encourage mental wellbeing and community. The first event, the Valentine-grams program in February, gave Honors students the chance to send anonymous Valentine's Day treats to spread love and positivity throughout UMW. The more recent rock-painting event encouraged Honors scholars to paint uplifting messages and imagery on rocks to be hidden outdoors to help beautify the campus. The events were both incredibly well-received and HSAC was blown away by the amount of support received by students and faculty alike! The members of HSAC hope to continue these events for years to come in the hope of promoting and solidifying the Honors Program community.



HONORS SCHOLARS ON THE HERITAGE TRAIL: A WELLNESS AND SERVICE EVENT

by Paige Beidelman '21 and Sarah Kerner '22

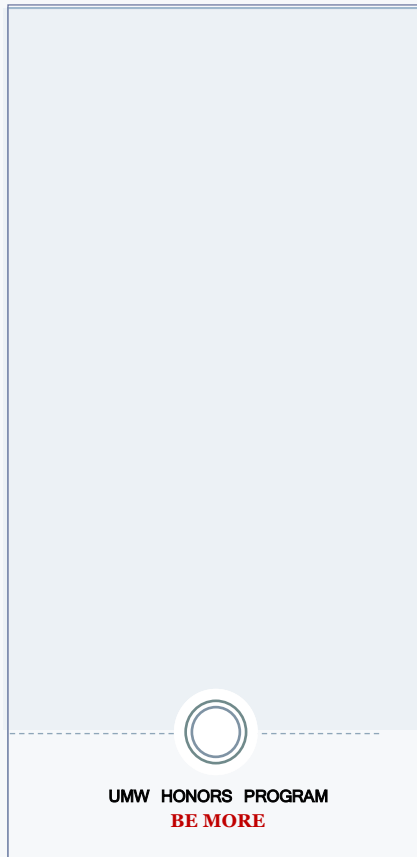


On the morning of March 27, 2021, Honors Program students met with COAR group leaders Paige Beidelman, Kyle Close, and Carleigh Rahn at the Bell Tower at UMW. It was perfect weather conditions for walking through Fredericksburg collecting trash in Kenmore Park, along the Heritage Trail, and at Old Mill Park.

Everyone was enthusiastic to get walking and clean up our town. Being socially distant outside with others helped increase wellness during this pandemic and its challenges we have overcome as a community. Every little piece of litter that caught the eye was picked up and thrown into the provided trash bags with either a litter grabber or gloved hand. As we were picking up the trash along the trails, many walkers, tennis players, and bikers said thank you to us. Once we got to Old Mill Park, the groups spread out to cover more ground including the streams, lawn, and river. Many bottles, cans, old clothes, plastic bags, wrappers, cigarette butts, silly string, and abandoned grills were picked up. We found three different abandoned grills by the river. There was even a wallet found in the sand by the Rappahannock River by Honors Program students Dayton and Kylie. We stayed behind to wait for a police officer to pick up the lost item to return it to the owner.



It is great to give back to the community by keeping it clean and volunteering. Since we are suitemates, we decided to go to the trash clean up together. By the end, we had lots of new friends, who we now say hello to around campus. A clean environment means happy people who can enjoy nature to its fullest in our wonderful Fredericksburg!



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