

Honors Outlook*

**Pandemic Edition? Fifth in a Series*

TO ANOTHER SPACE AND TIME

BY BELLA MOLSEED, CLASS OF 2025

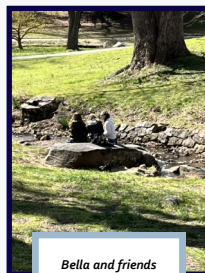
After a three-semester hiatus, the Honors Program was able to return to its practice of taking a field trip this spring! When my friends and I first saw the announcement for a field trip to Maymont, we immediately shared a thought: “We need to go, and we need to dress fancy.” Perhaps it was not an entirely practical dress code considering the petting zoo, but I still concluded that it is absolutely necessary to go to a historical mansion and picnic in the gardens in one’s best dress at least once in one’s life.



Maymont is a stunning Gilded Age mansion in Richmond, complete with a multistory stained glass window and several sitting rooms worthy of Versailles, as well as a spectacularly themed swan bedroom. The Honors Program got a private tour of the house before the park opened to the public, learning about the Dooley family that lived there and planned for its future as a museum. My friends and I spent the tour imagining what it would be like to dwell in the mansion (in spite of the tiny bathtubs)—but the history of

racism that affected the house’s daily functioning and even architecture was a good reminder that an elegant past can still be deeply flawed.

After the tour, we scattered to admire the equally enchanting gardens and petting zoo. I’m happy to report that goats were present. It was such a lovely opportunity to explore such a beautiful museum with the friends I have made through the Honors Program and to spend our time reflecting and discussing our experience together. Our trip to Maymont made one of my favorite days I’ve spent in my time at Mary Washington.



*Bella and friends
at Maymont*



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First Person Singular: What/Why I Do

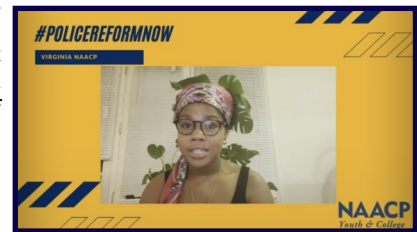
by Maya Jenkins, Class of 2023

Hi! My name is Maya Jenkins, and I am a Political Science and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies double major. I also stand as the President of the Mary Washington Chapter of the National Association of the Advancement of Color People (NAACP). When I started here, I never saw myself occupying the spaces I do now. More than anything, I did not believe I had the stamina, drive, or confidence to make meaningful change. However, when I attended the Club Carnival in the Fall semester of 2019, everything shifted. I met Black women who were not just at this university to learn. They wanted to make UMW a sanctuary for Black students. I did not comprehend what that meant at the time, but as I became integrated into the organization and the James Farmer Multicultural Center, I started to rethink who I was. That led me to an initial leadership position as the Secretary of our chapter.



Jenkins at podium

Following the racial uprising of 2020, I, along with my fellow members, surveyed over 300 students and authored a 60-page report titled "UMW Campus Police Assessment Report: Safe for Who?" There, we curated a list of problems, demands, and solutions regarding University policing and racism in the administration and in campus classrooms. This allowed me to be a student representative on the Presidential Community Advisory Panel for Policing, where I aided in the creation of recommendations on campus safety for the Board of Visitors.

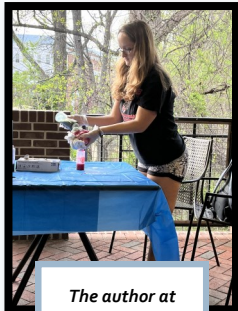


Through my leadership with the NAACP@UMW, I have created material change on ways to make Black students feel safe.

Along with the rest of our student body, my chapter and I have been facing some post-COVID whiplash. I arose into my leadership as President amid the COVID pandemic. We are trying to find our footing in this changing environment. However, through this new world, I have learned to define myself, not by what I complete, but by who I am. I am not the leader I thought I was going to be. But, through looking at other leaders in extraordinary circumstances, I now know I have the stamina, drive, and confidence to create something great.

HSAC BUILDS COMMUNITY MONTH BY MONTH

by Sofia Taylor, class of 2024



The author at work

The Honors Student Advisory Council has been busy in Spring 2022! Now that the COVID-19 pandemic is settling down a bit, HSAC was able to lead multiple events this semester engaging with and building the Honors community (and offering some study breaks) by bringing students together. Beginning in February, HSAC led a Valentine's Day card and cookie decoration. Cookies were consumed on the spot, but the Valentine's Day cards were sent to Mary Washington Hospital healthcare workers to spread some love. March included a Saint Patrick's Day scavenger hunt, where all students were welcome to search around campus for green and gold painted rocks that would win them a prize! An Honors student banner was made containing the message "all hands on deck" with multiple painted handprints of members in the Honor Program, and now hangs in

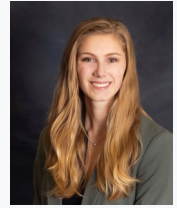
the Honors Commons, adding some color to the quiet study and computer room. The final event in April was tie dying, allowing students to show off their Honors Program pride as they individualized Honors t-shirts. Providing a sense of community, lending a hand to others, and decompressing from semester stress were goals of HSAC's events this semester, and hopefully these themes will stay with Honors scholars for the future!



Maddie K shows off her creation

SPOTLIGHT ON SENIOR HONORS SCHOLARS

Sally Burkley: I am attending William and Mary Law School in the fall! I am so thankful for the Honors Program as it pushed me to always take what I was learning and apply it to outside events and other courses as well. From volunteering, to politics, to technology, and beyond, everything is connected and it is important to understand those connections.



Hannah St. Onge: After graduation, I will be starting my MS in Historic Preservation at Clemson University in Charleston, SC. My hope is to one day build a career in digital preservation, especially digital reconstruction of buildings and sites that are no longer extant. I am incredibly grateful to have been a part of the Honors Program as it provided me with a supportive community from day one at Mary Wash. I met my two best friends during the City as Text™ orientation and in our Honors FSEM. The Honors Program brought us together and helped us bond from the very start, and four years later, we are still cheering each other on!

Katie Warlick: I will be attending the University of Rhode Island in the fall for a Master's of Science in College Student Personnel! I think that the academic rigor of the Honors Program and the way I've been challenged as a student, a scholar, and a leader will prove to be advantageous as a graduate student in the fall, and for that I am very thankful!



*Afoot and light-hearted I take to the open road,
Healthy, free, the world before me,
The long brown path before me leading wherever I choose.
—Walt Whitman, "Song of the Open Road"*



Vanessa Fickes: Although I am graduating this year with my Bachelor of Arts degree in English, I will be spending a year of graduate school at UMW to complete a master's degree in Secondary Education. After my graduate year, I hope to work in a local school district as a high school English teacher, where I will finally have the opportunity to bring my passion for learning to a new generation of young minds. UMW's Honors Program has helped me grow as a scholar and a person over the last four years. My favorite experience as an Honors scholar was volunteering to tutor children from immigrant families living in the community as part of my service project. I also enjoyed the City-as-Text™ experience my first year as well as presenting research at the Honors Symposium during my final year. As an Honors scholar, I am proud to reflect that I have experienced learning at UMW as illuminating, adventurous, cathartic, and simply wonderful.

Saraid Satterfield: After graduation, I intend to pursue a job in Software Engineering or Software Development using my B.S. in Computer Science and Mathematics. I also hope to eventually work toward getting my master's in the Computer Science field. The Honors Program set me up for success by encouraging me to fully capitalize on Mary Wash's liberal arts ideals and take classes outside of my primary disciplines. These experiences helped me to become a well-rounded student and person, which allows me to succeed in many different environments.



Thomas Blackburn: I will miss the tight-knit community at Mary Washington. I know that come August, I will want to return to Fredericksburg. After graduation, I look forward to traveling this summer and starting work in September. I have accepted a full-time offer to work at an IT consulting firm in Fairfax. The confidence and skills I have gained over my four years here will be indispensable in my future career. The Honors program has been a great asset. Being part of a community of scholars has helped me keep pace with school work and maintain good academic standing. Additionally, the trips sponsored by the Honors Program have been enriching and fun experiences. I especially liked the performance of *The Color Purple!* While I will be moving away this May, Mary Washington will always be a part of me. (pictured with Nina Burgess, UMW Honors 2021)

SENIOR SCHOLARS CONT.



Chloe Martin: Beginning in the fall of 2022, I will be attending the Clemson Master's of Science program in Historic Preservation, housed in Charleston, South Carolina. This program will be an incredible opportunity to further the skills that I have already learned as a Historic Preservation major at UMW, focusing on some amazing hands-on field experiences within architectural preservation in the first year and on writing a graduate thesis in the second year. I can't wait to begin this next chapter, and I'm so thankful for the help that I have gotten from UMW and the Honors Program in getting to this point!

Ashley Dimino: I absolutely loved my time in the Honors Program at UMW. From *City as Text*™ to getting to attend the *Dear Evan Hansen* novel release to getting to go see Maymont Estate this semester, it's been full of incredible experiences and opportunities. The Honors community is super supportive and friendly, and I really enjoyed getting to socialize in the Honors Commons and popping in just to say hi to Dr. Slunt and Dr. Scanlon. After graduating this spring with a BS in History and a minor in Digital Studies, I will be returning to UMW in the fall to complete my master's in education, then moving on to hopefully teach in the Fredericksburg Area.

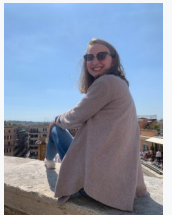


Jacob Kautzman: After graduation, I plan to take one class in the Fall of 2022 and use my last year of eligibility to play soccer for the University. Following my final semester at the University, I plan to join the United States Air Force as an officer following the family tradition of both my parents. I am hopeful that I will be able to find a career field in biological warfare using my degree in biology and research with viruses.

Maddy Slunt: I am graduating with my bachelor's in Mathematics. I plan to eventually attend UNC Chapel Hill to work toward a master's degree in occupational therapy. The Honors Program has provided me with lifelong and meaningful friendships during my time here!



Morgan Freeman: In my time at the university, I was trained as an opera singer within the University's music program, while also completing the pre-medicine track. My hope after graduation is to commission into the Navy with a specialty in medicine or intelligence while also continuing to accept singing jobs.



Jane Sullivan: I have recently accepted an offer to work for the Navy as a biologist at Dahlgren. I've been interning in one of their research labs for about a year, and am very excited for the opportunity to join their team full time!



Anoli Mehta: Throughout my time as an Honors scholar, I have particularly enjoyed the co-curricular events. Each year, I have loved attending and performing at Taste of Asia with Eagle Bhangra! It helped me make connections within the community of minorities that UMW has created; the performances showcase my culture, as if a small piece of me is part of the larger UMW community. After I graduate, I will pursue a career as a medical speech language pathologist, so I plan to attend graduate school to get my master's degree to become a clinically competent certified clinician. I am currently looking at programs at JMU, GWU, UVA, and Longwood University, and this summer will complete the Speech Pathology Prerequisites Program at Longwood University. I fell in love with the culmination of the creative and medical aspects of the career when I shadowed the Poly Trauma department at the Veteran's Affairs Hospital in DC. It is a job that allows me to fulfill my main goal in life to help make a difference in the lives of others! Attending UMW, although it got cut short, has been one of my happiest core memories thus far in my life. I have had the opportunity to make connections with professors at a personal and professional level that I couldn't have imagined being able to do anywhere else, and I made friends for life from within my classes as well as my freshman year roommates, who became my best friends!



SENIOR SCHOLARS CONT.



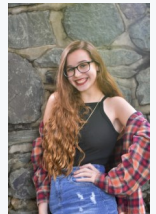
Kaylee Deardorff: The Honors Program's emphasis on service and leadership helped me grow into a more confident and compassionate student leader. I also loved the opportunity to develop an interdisciplinary Honors Capstone on LGBTQ+ health disparities. After graduation, I look forward to continuing my education at the UNC School of Medicine.

Morgan Gilbert: I am graduating this year with my bachelor's degree in History and will be graduating in the Spring of 2023 with a master's degree in Secondary Education from UMW's graduate Education program. I joined the Honors Program after my first semester at UMW, and can confidently say it impacted my time here for the better. As a student-athlete, the Honors Program allowed me to make a better class schedule because of priority registration, and it kept me involved in other aspects of campus life with co-curricular activities. I am very grateful for the opportunities and resources the Honors Program allowed me during my time here.



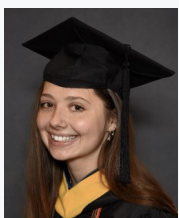
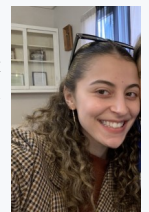
Rebecca Kellam: I am grateful that the Honors Program encouraged me to take classes in a variety of disciplines and provided me with the opportunity to dive deep into my academic interests through the Capstone Project. Those experiences helped shaped my academic career at Mary Washington. After graduation I plan to intern at an architectural firm before going abroad to work as an English teaching assistant in France.

Rosemary Pauley: In the fall of 2022, I will begin the master's program for information sciences at the University of Tennessee. I am looking forward to combining the skills I have learned as an English major and Digital Studies minor as I follow my dream of being a librarian. I am incredibly thankful for the opportunities that the Honors Program has given me, especially the Honors Service Learning course. This course enabled me to experience working with librarians for the first time and inspired me to pursue a career path in information sciences. I hope to use my time at the University of Tennessee and the wonderful experiences I have had with the UMW Library to achieve a future position in an academic library.



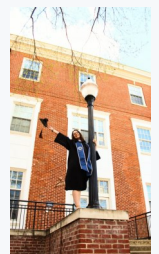
Sterling Barbett: After UMW, I plan to work at a TV station in Richmond while pursuing my goal of becoming a professional voice and film actor in Atlanta. In the Honors Program, I have truly enjoyed and found the ability to thrive in the push for leadership. I have become a stronger and more confident person after taking that big step! Also, I have loved learning about the importance of self-reflection throughout my years in the Honors program, and how much it has helped me grow in all areas of my life.

Mariam Dames: After graduation I will be attending JMU to get my master's in Communication and Advocacy. I'm very excited about this opportunity because I was given a full tuition waiver and a stipend position as a graduate teaching assistant at the university! I'm grateful for the Honors Program, which pushed me outside of my comfort zone and led me to take classes I wouldn't have otherwise taken! Go Eagles!



Nyah Hizer: After I graduate, I will be applying to Virginia Veterinary Centers in Fredericksburg to become an assistant. In September, I will be applying to multiple Veterinary Medicine medical schools. While I work at VVC, I will be gaining experience and learning more about the veterinary field. When I get accepted to medical school, I will complete my doctorate and become a full-fledged veterinarian.

Jessica Morin: The Honors Program has pushed me to become my best self at Mary Washington. I've learned to lead, help others, and be active in my college community while also forming life long friendships that I would not have without the Honors Program. It has been an amazing four years!

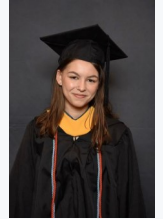


SENIOR SCHOLARS CONT.



Sydney Baylor: Following graduation, I plan to attend the College of William and Mary to pursue my master's degree in American Studies. From there I hope to find work as a historian or curator for a museum, conducting research and educating visitors! I loved the camaraderie of the Honors Program, especially in the Honors Commons. Everybody would say hi to everyone, even if we didn't know each other! It felt like a really close knit little family, and the free popsicles were also amazing!

McKayla Shaffer: My four years at the University of Mary Washington have been spent studying Psychology and Special Education as well as learning about my love for ceramics and student leadership. After graduation I will be furthering my studies through the College of Education. I will be finishing up my 5th year and I will graduate in 2023 with my master's degree in Special Education. My plans after my grad year are up in the air but I am hoping to pursue a job in higher education. I am passionate about student leadership and club involvement as well as disability advocacy. I'm excited to find out what my future holds!



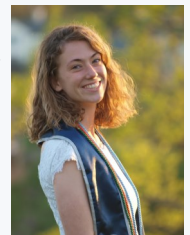
Kerri Lynch: After graduation, I will be returning to my internship at the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency! I currently work as a geospatial/imagery analyst and aim to convert to a full-time position by the end of the summer. In the near future, I plan on pursuing a master's degree in Computer Science and/or Geospatial Analysis (hopefully with a specialization in Remote Sensing).

Leigh Hatton: After graduating from Mary Washington, I will be pursuing a master's degree in Public Health with a concentration in Policy. I will also be continuing my athletic career by joining an NCAA D1 rowing program. I hope to work in health policy or administration in the future.



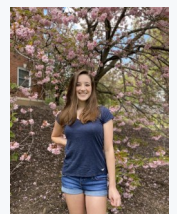
Bennet Varghese: I am an Honors Biomedical science graduate. This fall I am planning on attending the George Washington University School of Medicine for medical school. I owe my whole future to the Honors program; I got accepted to GW because of the accelerated program offered through it! Dr. Slunt was my advisor and she helped me prepare my application and coached me for my interview during my sophomore year. With all of the support from my family at UMW, I was accepted! The program has also given me the accountability to do what I had always wanted to do in college. We all say we want to step up in leadership, service, and extracurriculars but all of that means nothing until you have experienced a year in college . . . The Honors Program has forced me and allowed me to pursue the foundational virtues I came to college with and refined my college journey to still focus on what is important. There is something so magical about UMW and specifically the Honors Program; I encourage anyone who reads this to apply and try to join by any means necessary—you can thank me later!

Carleigh Rahn: After graduation, I will continue my education at UMW in the Master's of Education Program for Secondary English Education. I plan on teaching in the Fredericksburg area after grad school and staying here for quite some time! I have learned to love Fredericksburg through my work at UMW and I'm glad that my future plans allow me to stay in the city. I owe a lot of this love to the Honors Program and City as Text™. My first few days in Fredericksburg, and all the ones after it, have made this place, and the people in it, my home.



Mady May: Through my experience as a UMW Honors Scholar, I have had plenty of time and many opportunities to explore my creative interests, for which I am grateful. I have found my niche in projection art and themed entertainment, so I am excited to say that I will be doing the Disney College Program following graduation and hope to work as a creative engineer or theatrical designer in the future.

Vivian Hyatt: I have been accepted to William James College's PsyD program in clinical psychology, and I will be attending beginning in the fall. I hope to eventually work as a correctional psychologist in a women's prison.

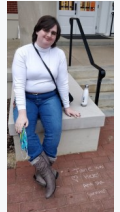


SENIOR SCHOLARS CONT.



Keegan Fredrick: I am a graduating senior from the Honors Program. Through my transfer to Mary Washington, I studied a mixture of Political Science and International Affairs and discovered my passions for studying gender issues in domestic and international politics. With this, I culminated my time spent at UMW by doing a thesis in the Honors Program analyzing how gender inclusivity impacted levels of sexual assault reporting in the military, specifically within the United States, Canadian, and Israeli military. During my senior year, I additionally interned with the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) on disability inclusivity within America's traffic and transportation system. After graduating a year early, I will be interning this summer for the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration, traveling, and preparing to apply to law school.

Jane Hill: The past four years have had their highs and lows for me, but I'm glad I could spend them at the University of Mary Washington as a member of the Honors Program. The Honors Program gave me some of the tools I needed to succeed as a Computer Science major, and as a young adult coming into her own. After my graduation, I have the whole rest of my life ahead of me and that feels great. I'm going to be looking into work in Computer Science, but I think after all the difficulty it took for me to get here that I'm going to take it easy for a while.



Sarah Kerner: I am a graduating environmental science major with a minor in environmental sustainability and GIS certificate. I will be continuing my education at UMW with the Master's of Science in Geospatial Analysis 4+1 early program this coming year. I hope to gain experience through internships before finding a job after graduate school. The Honors Program has enabled me to do my best, and what I took away from this experience is to always look at things with interdisciplinary perspectives to understand all sides of life. I am glad to have been in this community of great people!

Celia Shively: After this year, I will be at Mary Washington for my fifth year in the College of Education. I will be working to finish my Master's of Education. After I finish my grad school, I hope to teach in my hometown and bring the love of learning that I have gained at Mary Wash back to Southwest VA. My time in the Honors Program helped me learn skills that I will utilize every day and I have made lifelong connections with other Honors scholars.



Celeste Lockwood: After graduation I'm looking to find a position as a laboratory chemist/biologist. The Honors Program has definitely had a significant impact on that decision and I've met so many wonderful people. The best part will always be the friends I'm leaving this university with and my S.O. whom I met at City as Text™.

Christine Wehner: After graduation, I'm hoping to get my PhD in Clinical Psychology! I'm really interested in doing research on how complex trauma affects children, as well as working with children who have experienced trauma. My dream graduate school is the University of Missouri St. Louis! I have gotten so much from the Honors Program – having a community that loves to learn has been a huge blessing!!

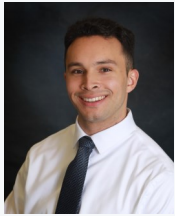


Megan Riley: After graduation, I will be starting a job as a Limited Term Heritage Resources Planner in Fairfax County on June 6. I also hope to start grad school in the spring of 2023 to get my masters in Urban Planning. Should I have the time, I also plan on coaching volleyball at my old club. The Honors Program granted me the chance to conduct research in my field and complete a thesis on Virginia's Historic African American Cemeteries, allowing me to grow and learn how to take on a project such as this.

Rory Black: Starting this coming summer, I will be attending UVA to earn an M.S. in Data Science. Beyond that, I will be looking to get a job somehow related to the field of Data Science. I appreciate the Honors Program pushing me to pursue leadership opportunities. Had it not been a requirement, I may have never applied to be a Peer Tutor with Academic Services. Being a Peer Tutor has been such a great experience and has given me the opportunity to serve as an academic leader among my peers.

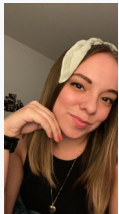
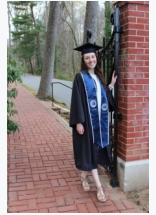


SENIOR SCHOLARS CONT.



Steven Deverteuil: After UMW, I will be working as a Software Developer Intern at the Mitre Corporation in McLean, VA. Then, come late August, I will begin classes at Virginia Tech for my Master's of Engineering in Computer Science. During my time at UMW, I can certainly say that the Honors Program has made me a better leader, community member, and researcher. I've learned that stepping into a leadership role requires thoughtful preparation and the ability to think on your feet. My leadership role as a discussion leader for UMW Honors Service Learning sections proved this point to me and gave me a taste of what it means to lead a group. Additionally, the value of service to others was reinforced to me through my service-learning project. Giving back to the community is extremely important and rewarding when your heart is in the right place. Lastly, I've learned that research is not as daunting as it may seem, and that discoveries, no matter how small, are well worth all the effort. Research is truly the process of illuminating the dark through the skills you possess.

Natalie Mroz: After graduation, I will be working for the Centers for Advanced Orthopaedics in Maryland, and hope to attend graduate school within the next few years. I am grateful to the Honors Program for first introducing me to some of my closest friends!



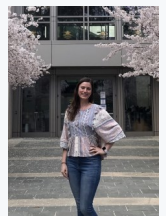
Jasmine Villanueva: I am a Sociology major and a Spanish minor in the Master's of Elementary Education Program. I enjoyed that the Honors Program has encouraged me to remain involved in the community around me, and not just let myself fall into my studies. After graduation, I will be returning to Mary Washington in the fall semester as a student intern. I will get my master's in elementary education and begin teaching at an elementary school locally until I get my feet under me, at which point I plan to teach a little further from home and explore other education systems.

Justin Mittereder: I will be working at Booz Allen Hamilton in D.C. as a Data Science Consultant upon graduation.



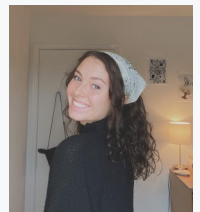
Molly Curling: I accepted a position on April 15, 2022, at SWCA Environmental Consultants as a natural resources technician based out of Raleigh, NC. I will be travelling to different sites in the eastern US to assist with collecting biological data, working on restoration projects, and conducting vegetation and wildlife surveys as well as writing scientific reports and possibly doing some GIS projects. I'm so excited!!! I think this job is really going to push me to grow and help me develop important skills in my field.

Alexis Kochanski: After graduation, I will be attending Duke University's Fuqua School of Business for a Master's of Quantitative Management in Business Analytics. One of my favorite memories from UMW will be participating in the Honors Program's City As Text™ incoming student experience every year as a student leader. The experience is what created the foundation of my relationship with the city of Fredericksburg and I am excited to take what I have learned as a leader with me to Durham, NC!

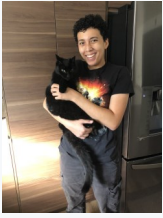


Elsa Baumgartner: After graduation, I will be working as a research assistant for the Center for Integrated Healthcare at the VA in Syracuse, NY. My experience in the Honors Program has allowed me to grow as a student, leader, friend, and professional, all of which will prepare me for life after UMW, no matter where it takes me.

Mallory Karnei: I've been in Honors since my second semester of Freshman year. I've really enjoyed being a member of the Honors Program because it encouraged me to apply my education not only in the classroom but also around campus and in the greater Fredericksburg community. After graduating this spring, I plan to come back to UMW for one more year to get my Master's in Education and then move abroad to teach. I'm not entirely sure where yet, but I'd love to see how other countries approach their education.



SENIOR SCHOLARS CONT.



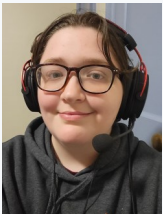
Kree Pace: I am taking a year to work and volunteer before pursuing further education. My long-term goal is to work in dementia care.

Cosmy Pellis: The Honors Program has been an inspirational experience. I feel incredibly lucky to have had the support and guidance of Dr. Scanlon and Dr. Slunt during my time at Mary Washington. My favorite aspect of the program has been my Honors Capstone, an archival project where I explored and responded to my uncle's poetry through collage, erasure poems, and my own original poetry. The Honors Program gave me the opportunity to begin processing grief and memory with a strong support system; I also plan to continue this project next year and work towards its publication. After graduation, I am moving to Richmond and pursuing a job in publishing, creative writing, or journalism!



Katia Savelyeva: I'm looking for and open to a wide variety of jobs in the editing, writing tutoring, and publications fields, while making time in my day-to-day life to continue writing on my own time.

Jospeh Ritter: After graduation, I plan to return home to Northern Virginia and work with my family's construction company over the summer. Late summer I plan to travel to Valencia, Spain, where I hope to live for up to a year coaching and playing semi-professional Rugby. Eventually, I plan to return to school and get my master's degree in Architecture; however, whether that will be here in the United States or Spain is still undecided!



Alex Huber: My immediate plan after graduation is to relax after four years of hustling and bustling, but after a little relaxing I'll be looking for a job in the field of editing. During my time at UMW and in the Honors Program, I've discovered a true passion for copy editing, and ideally, I'd like to work in that field. Someday, I'd like to write my own novel, but until then I'm looking forward to editing others'.



Congratulations!

We are so proud of you and can't wait to see all you become and do.

Honors Conference Lets UMW Scholars Shine

The UMW Honors Program welcomed the chance to return in person to the annual Virginia Collegiate Honors Council conference at the University of Lynchburg, April 8-9, 2022, which took “Reconnecting” as its theme. VCHC membership is comprised of both two- and four-year Honors programs from West Virginia and Virginia. Drs. Slunt and Scanlon were joined at the conference by two Honors scholars, Hannah Harris (Biochemistry and English, class of 2023) and Katia Savelyeva (English, class of 2022), who each presented work on a student panel.

Hannah Harris presented “Entropy in Victorian Literature,” drawing on the Honors Capstone project she is completing this semester under the guidance of Professor Eric Lorentzen. Katia Savelyeva presented “Tea with Mr. Darcy: Bath’s Jane Austen Centre, Commodification, and Audience,” an analysis of the tourist site in Bath, England, where in Fall 2021 she studied abroad through UMW’s affiliation with Advanced Studies in England.



Hannah Harris



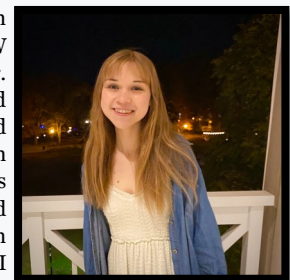
Katia Savelyeva

Two other UMW Honors students represented the program as University nominees for the 2022 VCHC Honors Scholar of the Year and VCHC Emerging Honors Scholar of the Year.

Carleigh Rahn, English and Secondary Education, class of 2022, was the UMW nominee for Honors Scholar of the Year. Having been in the initial iteration of City as Text™, Carleigh remained deeply involved with the program, serving in 2021 as the inaugural Lead Student Coordinator as our City as Text™ program transitioned into HONR 101. In addition to many other roles on campus, Carleigh is also COAR Staff Director, exemplifying the Honors Program’s values of leadership and service. She notes, “On principle, many of the choices I make rest on the answer to one question: what will bring people closer to one another? And I have spent my time at Mary Washington trying to answer it.”



Sasha Murphy, Biochemistry with a minor in Neuroscience, class of 2025, was the UMW nominee for Emerging Honors Scholar of the Year. In her first year at UMW, Sasha became involved in the Honors Student Advisory Council and attended our weekly community meditation sessions. In addition to other things, she has trained as a new tutor at the Writing Center and worked with the UMW Humanist Club, through which she articulates and mobilizes a core value: “I believe that our common humanity is reason enough to do good for others.”



Congratulations to each of these excellent students!

A large light blue rectangular area containing the UMW Honors Program logo, which consists of two concentric circles. Below the logo, the text reads "UMW HONORS PROGRAM" in black and "BE MORE" in red.