

Honors Outlook

Celebrating 10 Years of Honors

Story by Corbin Poyer, class of 2024
Photos by Sarah Sklar, class of 2023

This March, the Honors Program celebrated an important milestone: its tenth anniversary as a part of UMW. To mark the occasion, a “greatest hits” panel gathered, inviting alumni of the program to share favorite Honors Program stories, impart their experiential wisdom to current students, and celebrate the success of the program at UMW. Panelists were chosen from each graduating year of the program (2014 – 2022), with a wide variety of careers and post-UMW experiences to share. From placements in masters and doctoral programs, to jobs in teaching middle school to national security, these panelists emphasized the diversity of interests and multitude of opportunities that the Honors Program provides. On a drizzly Saturday in the newly-renovated Seacobeck Hall, attendees were able to hear the discussion panel and get their burning questions answered by the guest alumni. Highlights included learning about everyone’s funniest moments in the program and the history behind the creation of the coffee and tea station, featuring the quest to attain a dedicated (but now retired) Honors Program Keurig.

Afterward, in the Dome Room, the celebration continued with a reception of light hors d’oeuvres as well as some raffle prizes from a variety of local businesses and organizations. And yes, the cake pops took center stage. Speaking of the experience, junior Hannah Lee remarked how the event “really emphasized how the Honors Program has changed previous students’ lives in ways that they didn’t even realize.”

At this point, allow me to own my bias about this event’s success. Last summer, Drs. Slunt and Scanlon reached out to current Honors Program students for volunteers to assist in planning how to commemorate this anniversary, and I gladly joined the planning team.



Drs. Slunt and Scanlon with alumni panelists



HONORS PROGRAM STAFF

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Director, Honors Program

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Honors Tenth Anniversary continued

During the following months, I was able to get to know Dr. Slunt, Dr. Scanlon, and Program Coordinator Kasey Morello even better, but I also gained a deeper appreciation of the Honors Program, of the work everyone contributes to create a fulfilling and satisfactory experience for every student in Honors. Faculty in the program work to create an environment which celebrates and supports each Honors student. Regarding this particular event, Kasey said, "It took a lot of planning, but it was definitely rewarding to see so many students come out to the event." I readily agree with this sentiment, as one of my greatest joys attending UMW is seeing the students, faculty, and alumni come together at such celebrations. Being able to gather in person, marking these occasions, creates a welcome atmosphere sorely missed during the "Covid-restricted" years.

Looking to the future, prospects are high for similar ceremonies to recognize other important Honors Program milestones. "I definitely want to do more events like this in the future. It was a lot of fun to coordinate," said Kasey, and Hannah summed up the student experience of the event succinctly, stating, "I am excited to see what the Honors Program holds for the future!" I agree completely with both perspectives; since participating in planning this event, I am excited to come back as an alumni to see what new and exciting changes occur after I graduate. Overall, I would mark the 10th Anniversary celebration a success, providing an experience for all Honors students and alumni, as well as including community members, to gather and celebrate the program. But also, this was an opportunity for me to be even more involved within the Honors Program, granting me the privilege to better know the wonderful faculty committed to guide and support students as we develop into scholars. At the very least, I have memories of this event I will cherish.



Alumni panel shares its wisdom and perspective



2016 alum reunite



Catching up after the panel



Congrats to Kelli Slunt, founding Director of MaryWash Honors



Honors video by Katie Reif, class of 2025

Senior Hannah Harris Earns Rare Distinction



Hannah Harris, class of 2023, was recently named the Honors Scholar of the Year by the Virginia Collegiate Honor Council, a consortium of Honors programs and colleges in Virginia and West Virginia. The award was chosen by a committee of Honors program directors and was presented at the VCHC 2023 Conference, held at Longwood University April 14-15. This is the only time a UMW student has earned the Scholar of the Year distinction (so far!).

A 4.0 student, Hannah is a double major in Biochemistry and English. This fall she will begin medical school at the George Washington University School of Medicine, which she accessed through the early selection program agreement UMW Honors has with GWU.

In the Honors Program, Hannah has done everything from painting the chalkboard wall to running a tie-dye T-shirt event, acting as chair of our Student Advisory Committee to assuming the crucial role of Lead Student Coordinator of our City as Text program. No matter the size of the job, she does it with grace, generosity, energy, and humor. And that represents only a fraction of her involvement with UMW organizations and offices. Many congratulations to Hannah Harris, VCHC Scholar of the Year! We await your very bright future.

First Person Singular: What/Why I Do

by Sara Radford, Class of 2023

For my senior Honors Capstone, Women In Business: Analysis of Growth and Expansion Plan, I have partnered with Dr. Alexandra Dunn and the College of Business (COB). In the Spring of 2022, COB faculty nominated me to join the Women In Business (WIB) program, which is both academic and SAE recognized. I absolutely loved how monthly meetings were led and facilitated by student members on topics chosen by students such as negotiation, gaining respect in a male-dominated field, how to approach difficult and crucial one-on-one conversations and more. WIB empowers women by not only providing the tools and resources they need to succeed, but also being a supportive community that can provide friendship.



During my time as a member of WIB, I have learned valuable advice from Fredericksburg businesswomen, connected with peers, and expanded my professional network. Having worked in multiple male-dominated fields, my passion to empower and advocate for women in the workspace grew. As I approached my senior year and decided on a topic for my Honors Capstone Project, I knew I wanted to focus on expanding the WIB program and I was enabled to take a non-traditional route by the Capstone's flexibility.



My project had two anticipated outcomes: 1) a fully developed growth and expansion plan of the WIB, focused on increased awareness and membership numbers rather than a traditional profit-driven growth, and 2) an event held on International Women's Day. The growth plan can be broken down into three different sections: 1) why Women In Business matters and what we do, 2) the International Women's day event evaluation, and 3) recommendations moving forward.

Secondly, on International Women's Day which fell on Wednesday, March 8th, 2023, WIB hosted a Women's Day Trivia Night. This event was open to all and provided a space to celebrate progress made and reflect on work to be done. I ran the event with members and other volunteers. I also had created a powerpoint to showcase the trivia

questions I had created. There were three topics: women in history, women in media, and women in business. The first topic allowed for reflection on how a majority of women's rights we have now were granted less than a century ago. The second topic allowed for celebration of great works of art by women. Lastly, the topic women in business showcased shocking statistics about women in the workforce and the gender pay gap. This was WIB's first post-pandemic event and it was a huge success with over 40 attendees participating! This project was a culmination of all the professional skills and academic knowledge I have gained in regard to networking, research, data analysis, and communication.



Honors Scholars Spring Field Trip!

by Thalia Sabat, class of 2026

This semester the students in the Honors Program were given the opportunity to visit the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond, and I was excited for my first Honors activity. Being a Track B student, I was very new to the program and only knew my roommate, but all the other students and supervisors of the trip were incredibly welcoming. We split up for the majority of the trip and explored the museum on our own. There were so many different exhibits, but the ones with animals were my favorites. My friend and I spent most of our time with the live animals, which was a temporary exhibit that we were lucky enough to see. There were snakes, lizards, frogs, fish, insects, and many different species of spiders. Right outside there was an exhibit of different sharks, with jarred skeletons, eggs, scales, and even full-sized smaller species, like dogfish. Another animal exhibit, and one of the museum's main attractions, was rat basketball. The rats were trained using classical conditioning to carry a ball into a basket for a treat. One of the rats was a seasoned player, but her two opponents were still in training and though they were less motivated they were just as entertaining to watch. We were also given a ticket to watch one of the two films presented in the theater they call the Dome, where the screen covered the entire room besides the floor. My friend and I watched "Great Bear Rainforest," a documentary named after the endangered forest in Canada. The Great Bear Rainforest is one of the few marine rainforests in the world and is home to many spirit bears, a subspecies of black bears with lightened fur, and many different species that need protecting. After the film we checked out the gift shop and then drove back to the university. It was a nice change of pace to be outside the university and I look forward to the next Honors field trip.



SPOTLIGHT ON HONORS GRADUATES



Olivia Foster: After I receive my BA in history this semester, in 2024 I will be living in Argentina to fulfill my Fulbright Grant Award to work as an English Teaching Assistant! The Honors Program opened my eyes to so many different opportunities and experiences at UMW and beyond, and I am grateful to have been a part of it during my time here at Mary Wash!



Liliana Ramirez: After graduation, I plan to take a gap year to work on an internship at one of several zoos I have applied to. Once I gain about a year of experience working in a laboratory, I will apply for graduate schools to pursue an advanced degree in wildlife endocrinology. This, I hope, will lead me toward a career working with endangered species to help promote their conservation through endocrine monitoring and advanced reproductive techniques.



Brian Wolf: Once I graduate I'm going to go work for NSWC Dahlgren Division. I will be working there as a Computer Scientist while living in Fredericksburg for a few years. I hope to start getting my Master's degree from Virginia Tech within the next two years as well!



Val Ortiz Jimenez: After graduation, I will be pursuing my life-long dream of becoming a dentist at Harvard School of Dental Medicine! I will be moving up to Boston in August and am excited to see what this next chapter of life has to offer. Through my time at UMW, I have had the opportunity to take honors-based courses. The courses' level of rigor, diversity and depth aided in my preparation for the DAT and will also help with my course load at Harvard.



Kate Gruber: This fall, I am thrilled to share that I will be going to George Mason University to pursue my M.A. in anthropology, with a concentration in bioarcheology. I have absolutely loved my experience at UMW, especially due to the amazing friends I've made in the Honors Program, and am nervous to start fresh. But, if UMW has taught me anything, it's that I am capable of more than I ever knew. This summer, I plan on swimming in the river, reading (for fun!), knitting a scarf, and adopting a cat (fingers crossed!).



Carolyn Willmore: Following graduation, I will be interning at FMC Corporation, which supports agriculture through innovation in crop protection technologies. After the internship, I hope to work full-time at FMC as an environmental toxicologist. I also hope to attend graduate school to pursue a Master's Degree in ecotoxicology in the future, though not immediately.



Nicholas Ciuffreda: After graduation, I will be working for KPMG as a Federal Audit Associate in Washington, DC. I also plan on getting my CPA license within the next two years. I have enjoyed my time in the Honors Program as it has given me many opportunities to network and further develop my educational experience at UMW.



Marianne Beaulieu: I have been accepted into Virginia Tech's Infectious Disease Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Program in which I will have the opportunity to participate in three 4-week rotations with labs before I choose that lab where I will get my Ph.D. I hope to also get a Master's of Public Health or a Master's degree in statistics while I work on my Ph.D. When I finish my education, I hope to work with public health in epidemic response and studying the epidemiology of zoonotic diseases.

Jane Kisselev : I am very excited for my next chapter after graduating from the Honors Program! I will be joining Fannie Mae as a Climate Impact Analyst in July. Following my previous summer internship, I will be assessing and mitigating environmental risks in the company. I also plan on taking a few trips before my start date, including some surfing lessons in Nicaragua and a hiking trip to Acadia National Park. I am very grateful to the Honors Program for supporting me throughout my time at UMW; I wouldn't have been able to do it without them pushing me out of my comfort zone.



Ryan Meek: After graduation from UMW, I plan to begin applying to nonprofit organizations working in medical missions both in the US and globally and applying to medical school as I pursue my dream of becoming a physician. My time in the UMW Honors Program has been so influential on my college experience as it has greatly added to my college education and helped me be a more well-rounded person. Honors coursework and cocurricular events helped me think critically and practice self-reflection, both of which I foresee benefitting me in my future career.

Helen Dhue: After graduation I am headed to Gulf Islands National Seashore to work as an interpretive ranger for a season. I am excited to talk to the public about the history and expand my understanding of the past. I have enjoyed my time at Mary Washington and the opportunities to work in the historical field in the Fredericksburg area.



Hayden Wedgewood: I plan on going to graduate school in a couple of years, but for now I'm hoping to find a music-related job that will allow me to be creative and continue to hone my craft. I feel that this time in between will be great experience that will prepare me even more for graduate studies, where I'll pursue a Ph.D. in either music theory, composition, or both.

Jack Bulger: After I graduate, I have an environmental internship/maybe a job lined up starting in the summer. I'm planning on hanging out with friends and catching up with people I haven't seen in a while back home.





Eli Keith: Following graduation, I will be doing my fifth year to complete the Master's program for secondary education. After that I will move on to teach English somewhere, likely in or around Richmond. I am looking forward to fostering passion and power in my students in their use of language, something I was fortunate to experience across many subjects in my time here at UMW and in the Honors Program.



Addie Norden: I am graduating with a Bachelor's in Biochemistry. I plan to work full time as a paramedic at Berkeley County Emergency Ambulance Authority for a year before attending medical school. I am primarily interested in attending WVU, GW, or GU. I will also continue to teach paramedic certification courses at Associates in Emergency Care and have accepted an additional teaching position for a cardiology course at Blue Ridge Community and Technical College.



Jay Boudreau: I will be working for a non-profit organization - LifeNet Health! The company is an organ procurement organization that connects donors with recipients and does the processing needed between those two points. I was offered the position of a full-time night-shift Processing Support Technician. My role as processing support will include preparing samples for processing and transport afterward. I am moving to Virginia Beach for this position as well! The Honors Program was a lovely contributor to my graduation. Without the support from other scholars or Dr. Scanlon/Dr. Slunt, I would not have made it through.



Aber Gadelrab: After I graduate, I plan to take a year off to explore and travel the world. I might, during that time, find an internship that coincides with the public health field. Because I found my love for ultimate frisbee at UMW, I am also planning to continue playing, whether that is finding a club team to join or play some pick-up games here and there. After a year off, I plan to pursue a Master's in public health and see where life leads me.



Dylan Crann: I will be attending the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine to pursue my Doctor of Dental Medicine degree! Additionally, I hope to be involved with providing accessible and high-quality patient care to people of all backgrounds. The UMW Honors Program's offerings have enhanced my intellectual and personal growth in numerous ways, and I will carry what I have experienced and learned into the foreseeable future!



Hollis Cobb: As of March 30th, 2023, I am proud to announce that I began working as the Development and Outreach Coordinator for Communities in Schools of Chesterfield! In this capacity, I am serving over 11,000 students in Chesterfield County, VA. I am also excited to continue to grow the Bookmobile Fredericksburg nonprofit that I started as a UMW student. Thanks to the values of service that were instilled by the Honors Program, I am now on a lifelong mission to serve the students and schools in my community. Thank you, Dr. Slunt and Dr. Scanlon!



Sierra Hunter: I am graduating from UMW with a B.S. in Chemistry with ACS certification. After graduation, I will be attending graduate school at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. I will be pursuing a Chemistry Ph.D., although the discipline is still to be determined. As a grad student, I will be working as a teaching assistant for at least my first 1-2 years. My current goal is to go into industry after I complete graduate school but it is still a bit early for me to say with any certainty where exactly I want to end up.



Abby Delapenha: After graduation, I will be attending medical school at George Washington School of Health and Medical Sciences. My past four years in the Honors Program have been filled with long lasting friendships and incredible opportunities. I am sad to see my time at UMW end, but I have learned so much from my time in the Honors Program and I am excited use what I have learned in life after UMW.

Stephanie Martens: After graduation I am going to grad school at UVA for school counseling. I plan on being an elementary school counselor!



Sara Radford: Upon graduation this May, I will join CrossVue as an Associate Human Capital Management Consultant. I am so thankful to the Honors Program and my mentor, Dr. Dunn, for their expertise and support that enabled me to earn this role. The highlight of my academic experience at UMW was without a doubt my Honors Capstone Project, Women In Business: Analysis of Growth and Expansion Plan. I encourage current students to complete their project in the Fall of their senior year, as it is so engaging and allows for a lot of opportunities you can further explore in the Spring.

Riley Smith: After graduation, I will complete the MBA program at UMW before attending law school. I hope to use my experience in business administration to enter the employment law field. My older siblings live in Raleigh, North Carolina, so I plan to apply for jobs in that area to be near family! The Honors Program is an excellent opportunity to take classes outside your major with people you may not have otherwise interacted with, which definitely benefitted me during my experience at Mary Washington. The Honors Program also provides an additional support system at Mary Washington because all the faculty and staff involved with the program are enthusiastic, kind, and eager to help from the moment you join the program until graduation.



Annie Wadovick: After graduation I plan to join the workforce. I have accepted a position as an income tax accountant at Dollar Tree's corporate office. I also want to continue my life as a cheerleader by coaching a local middle or high school team. After working for a few years, I want to return to school and pursue a Master's in finance, business, or computer science. The Honors Program has allowed me to push myself and pursue my passions in life.

**“This is the urgency: Live!
and have your blooming in the noise of the whirlwind.”**

Gwendolyn Brooks
“The Second Sermon on the Warpland”



Maddie Phillips: Following graduation, I intend to take a gap year while I apply to medical school. I hope to work at the hospital or a medical practice, and as a high school assistant track and field coach. I hope to matriculate to medical school in the fall of 2024 or 2025.



Daniel Walker: With my degree in history and political science, I am hoping to join the intelligence field to support national security. My dream is to work as an intelligence analyst somewhere abroad. I hope to use the skills UMW taught me over the years to reach my career goals in intelligence.



Shreya Murali: After graduation, I plan to go to the University of Virginia to obtain a Master's in Public Health with a concentration in Research in Practice. I plan to apply to medical school after I get my MPH. Throughout my experience with the Honors Program, I have learned how to think critically and have learned valuable leadership and communication skills. Without the Honors Program, I would not have been able to meet some of my closest friends and become the person that I am today.



Sonia Joshi: Well, for this summer, my best friend is coming up and we're going to see each other for the first time since college started (we're also going to see Paramore in concert!!!). But in terms of life plans, I'm hoping to start out in remote transcription. Eventually I want to work my way to simultaneously writing my own novels and short stories, as well as working for a game development studio as a story writer, either to help them come up with new storylines or flesh out the ones they have. My big dream is to live in an old (preferably haunted) Victorian home with some pets, but that's quite a few years down the road.



Karissa Highlander: I plan on attending graduate school to obtain a Master's degree in biology/biomedical sciences. I hope to continue research in microbiology or medicinal chemistry at the graduate level. Although not definitely certain of which career path I wish to follow at the moment, I know I have goals to start a career within the medical field. The Honors Program has given me the opportunity to grow into a better, more versatile version of myself through the challenging academic courses, leadership positions, volunteer involvement, and much more!



Laura Baldwin: After graduation, I am returning to my hometown of Carrboro in North Carolina's Research Triangle Park, where I hope to find a job in public service and give back to my community. During my time at the University of Mary Washington, as an Honors Program scholar and as a history major, I have learned the importance of community and the bonds of shared history. My experience studying abroad in Rome both expanded applications of what I learned and further honed my skills. I am so grateful for all the friends I have made and the supportive Honors Program community.



Esther Cuyjet: After graduation, I will be continuing working at Scenthound, a dog wellness and grooming business. I will also continue my small pet-sitting business. I plan to pursue a career in animal care and conservation in the long-term, so I hope to get a job at an accredited zoo or animal sanctuary in the next year or two. The UMW Honors Program has been a wonderful resource and community in my time at UMW, and I am so grateful to have participated in the program!



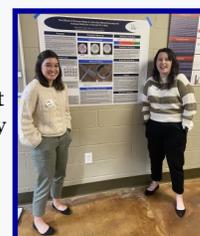
Emma Dabolt: After graduation I will attend George Mason University's College of Public Health. I'll be a part of their Master's in Social Work program. My goal is to use my MSW to become a mental health professional.



Abigail Algeier: After I graduate, I plan to take a gap year to work and gain experience in the medical field. I will study hard for the MCAT in the meantime. Being in the Honors Program has been the greatest... well, honor of my undergraduate career, and I have made lifelong friends who I will always remember.



Eliza Van Essendelft: In the fall, I will be starting pharmacy school and will eventually get my doctorate in pharmacy! I will be attending VCU Pharmacy School in Richmond, Virginia, and as of now, I plan to use this degree to become either a community or pediatric pharmacist. I think that the UMW Honors Program prepared me for this journey by challenging me academically and pushing me to participate in things that were initially out of my comfort zone— like holding leadership roles and conducting individual research.



Emily Landry: I am attending Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee for their physician assistant program. This program is 14 months didactic with a 13 month clinical. I am interested in specializing in Emergency Medicine or Interventional Radiology, but I am keeping my mind open.



Hannah Chester: I will go on after graduation to work as a marketing and outreach coordinator for professional theatres in the DMV area, as well as continuing with my acting career. I have been so fortunate to graduate from UMW with two majors that will help me further the arts community in terms of inclusion, advancement, and spreading the impact of arts programs for patrons of all ages and backgrounds. My experience in the Honors Program has given me a great deal of experience in leadership and hands on community involvement that I will take with me long after graduation!



Emily Malone: After graduation, I will be moving to Fredericksburg and working in direct care for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities while gaining experience and training to further my career in this field. The Honors Program has taught me so many skills to take with me into these next stages in life by encouraging me to push myself academically, pursue leadership positions, and be more involved with my community. My experience at UMW would not have been the same without the Honors Program.



Dillon Durocher I plan to go back to my job as a forklift operator for a few months after graduation. I've been in school for 16 years and I'm a little tired of sitting at a desk. After that I'll go into an actual career related to my major. I'm looking at maybe being a financial advisor.



Eugene Hlaing: After May 6th hits, I plan on dipping my toes into the pond of the Accounting field (my entire foot and a bit of my ankle is already in the Historic Preservation field) and gaining some real world experience in Richmond until my 12 month lease ends. With a solid 40-hour work week, I'm going to go home at 5 pm every day and work on creating fake comics for fake websites, make silly little short films, and have fun. After a few years of figuring it out, I may return to school for a masters, or I may not! The world is the oyster!



Megan Carr: After I graduate, I'll be working at a local animal shelter and shadowing a veterinarian to build up my resume for vet school. I'm hoping to start vet school in either the fall of 2024 or 2025. I'm crossing my fingers for the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine in Blacksburg, VA!



Rachel Battiston: I am an Accounting major and a Financial and Quantitative Analysis minor. Following graduation, I will begin working in the Federal Advisory section at KPMG. I am also planning to complete my CPA following graduation. My time with the Honors Program has been great! They have pushed me to go outside of my comfort zone to take different classes, volunteer at different places, and attend different events. Thank you UMW & the Honors Program for a great 4 years!



Kayla Kippes: After graduation, I plan to continue my education at North Carolina State University to obtain a Master's of Statistics. I hope to get a job as a Data Analyst or work with some type of data. Overall, being in Honors has given me the opportunity to really push myself academically and become a leader.



Madelyn Gedney: My four years at the University of Mary Washington have been spent studying Psychology and Practical Ethics. After graduation, I plan on continuing school to become an elementary school guidance counselor! My hope is I can work in a school district in Pennsylvania. My experience in the UMW Honors Program has allowed me to grow as a student, which will prepare me to pursue my masters.



Sarah Blevins: After graduation, I am starting my Master's in Computer Science through Georgia Tech. I also am going to continue working full-time as a software developer while continuing my education. I am glad that the Honors Program has pushed me to continue my education after undergrad and helped me become a well rounded individual.



Emily Marie Hemphill I plan to spend the summer working in Wales and then return somewhere in northern Virginia or the Richmond area to pursue a career in journalism.



Abigail Seputro: I am a graduate in ACS certified chemistry, graduating one year early. I will be working as a process engineer at a semiconductor fabrication company in northern Virginia. The company is a world leader in innovative memory solutions that transform how the world uses information. Their products include memory storage in smartphones, tablets, virtual reality glasses, autonomous vehicles, and more. I interned as a process engineer full-time last summer, and I absolutely loved the work. I am excited to help develop storage solutions that will evolve how we communicate and live. The Honors Program has opened doors for me, and has given me lifelong connections to professors and peers.

Maya Jenkins: I really enjoyed my experience with the Honors Program! From the classes I took to the events posted in the newsletter, the Honors Program completely altered my intellectual experience at Mary Wash. After college, I plan to work for one or two years before entering grad school.



Kristin Haes: My experience in Honors has been priceless. I would not be where I am today without the Honors Program. Being a transfer student, the program helped me find a caring community of scholars. I plan to continue this legacy and take my education into the community. I'll be taking a year of rest and then I plan to further my education. I want to thank all of the professors who have made this program possible and thank you for helping me get to where I am today.

Audra Young: After graduation, I will likely be working remotely at the company I worked at last summer, isiFederal—they've told me they would love to have me back! I will be moving back home to Maryland following graduation, at least for the time being. I'm not sure where my path will lead from there, but I am excited to graduate and see what the future holds. It's been amazing getting to be a part of the Honors Program here at Mary Wash, and I wish my fellow graduating Honors scholars all the best as we move into the next stage of our lives!



Mariana Haugh: After graduation, I will be moving to Hawaii and working as a Research Assistant as well as teaching indoor cycling classes part time. Once I've gotten my footing in the research field, I hope to get a Ph.D. in Behavioral Neuroscience to pursue psychopharmacological research in non-human animals. My time in the Honors Program has been so supportive and I look at all the experiences I have had in this community with fondness and joy. From City as Text to picking up my graduation stole, I have felt so important and valued in this space and couldn't be more grateful!

Jessoca Thorne: After graduation I am planning to attend graduate school at Tufts University to study Classical Archaeology, and will start there in September. After completion of this program, I will have a Master's degree in Classics, and will look into a Ph.D. program in the same area of study. This summer, I am returning to Romania for archaeology field school at a Roman villa. I am super excited for both of these things, and I am so grateful for the wonderful experience I got with the Honors Program that helped me get to this point.



Liz Kondzella: Post-graduation, I will be pursuing archaeology and urban planning— most likely not together, those are just the two career paths I've found most appealing so far. Grad school will likely be in the picture eventually, but right now I'm most looking forward to getting a good, long study break via joining the workforce. I'll still be around the East Coast, and am also in the process of applying to a couple of Americorps programs. I appreciate the Honors Program for helping me get and stay involved on campus throughout undergrad, and I would do it again in a heartbeat!



Ava Spencer: After graduation, I hope to attend a fellowship program that I have applied to where I would be working on a farm and learning about sustainable business practices. In the long run I hope to learn more about food and cooking and eventually own my own sustainable restaurant/homestead. Several people have been key pieces to my UMW experience and many of them are friends that I met doing City as Text! I will always be grateful to the Honors Program for facilitating the opportunities for me to meet these wonderful people who I'm sure will stay in my life for years to come.

Hannah Harris: I will be moving to DC to attend the George Washington University School of Medicine in the fall. I plan to continue combining science and English in all ways possible and am excited to see how GW's Scholarly Concentration in Medical Humanities will help me do just that. The Honors Program has been central to my Mary Washington experience. From leading City as Text to tie dying t-shirts and Thursday meditation, I will miss every part of it, but I know I will take all I have learned with me wherever I go.



Sophia Stil: After graduation I will be attending graduate school to pursue a Master's in Human-Computer Interaction! I plan to enter a field surrounding User-Experience research! My time in the Honors Program at Mary Washington has prepared me greatly for life after graduation. I hope to apply my academic experience to graduate school by undertaking leadership positions, engaging in research, and achieving high academic success.

Molly Sharman: After graduating I plan on working in D.C. within the government. I am applying to internships over the summer and then wish to continue after that working in either local government in Northern Virginia or staying in D.C. Being a part of the Honors Program has helped me gain experience in my field of political science through my volunteer work and senior capstone.



Maddie Killian: I'm excited to announce that after graduation I will be pursuing a Ph.D. in Atmospheric Physics at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. The Honors Program community has always supported me through my unique educational path as a Physics and Spanish double major. Dr. Slunt and Dr. Scanlon encouraged me to take on leadership roles and engage with both the UMW and Fredericksburg community, which led to some great opportunities. I am so lucky to have met my best friends and share great memories through the Honors Program!

Madison K. Minvielle: I will be moving to Richmond in August to study at VCU for the next 5 years, working towards a Ph.D. in Chemistry. After graduate school, I hope to work in a forensic science laboratory. The Honors Program has greatly impacted my academic career in encouraging me to study subjects outside my major and has helped me develop the critical thinking and analysis skills that I will use in graduate school and my future career.



Eleanor Haas: My plan for after graduation is to get my Master's degree in Cybersecurity. After that I am going to continue working at Dahlgren Naval Base for another few years, then take the Foreign Service Exam. My experience in the Honors Program was a great help in preparing me for my future career in government!



Kaelyn Escudra: After graduation, I plan to move down to Richmond with my partner. In Richmond, I hope to pursue a career in the arts and work on developing my portfolio, and also get a cat :). I have really enjoyed my time at Mary Wash, though, and especially within the Honors Program! Being an Honors scholar really helped push me out of my own boundaries with the classes I took and the things I was learning. And I always felt inspired by Honors leaders and peers to excel and do the best I could, both academically and out in the world!

**“Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?”**

Mary Oliver
“The Summer Day”

Eden Shenal: I am going to be attending George Washington University for their graduate program in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies. I will be working and going to school there in DC to get my Master’s in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies. My ultimate career goal is to pursue a career in higher education and human rights advocacy.



Caitlin O’Leary: I am planning on getting certified as a certified nursing assistant (CNA) this summer and working in the hospital as a CNA for about a year in order to gain patient care experience so I can apply to PA school in the fall of 2024. I am hoping to attend PA school somewhere in Maryland, Virginia, or Florida and using my experience at UMW and in the Honors Program to help me with this process!

Sarah Sklar: After graduation, I’ll be taking a break before applying to grad school, during which I expect to make some serious progress in my “to read” and “to knit” lists. I’m also looking forward to learning new things such as sewing, quilting, and having a kitchen to cook in again! The Honors Program introduced me to many of my friends, provided me with an additional support system that proved to be rather important, championed independent study, and encouraged me to attend all kinds of fun events on campus that I wouldn’t have known about otherwise (post-grad Mondays won’t be the same without Dr. Scanlon’s bulletin).



Vonne Daszkilewicz: After graduation, I plan to gain some internship and job experience before eventually pursuing graduate study in archaeology or heritage conservation policy/law. The Honors Program motivated me to take classes in disciplines that I would not have normally considered, such as Political Anthropology. The course supplemented my majors and coursework very well. The Honors courses are very interdisciplinary and I found new topics and ideas that I am interested in!

Julia May: After graduation, I will be working as an AmeriCorps fellow, serving as a mentor and teaching assistant in Connecticut for a year. I then plan to attend graduate school, focusing on translation. I hope to eventually work for the Department of State as a translator. I am very grateful for the experiences the Honors Program has provided for me, especially the grant money to travel abroad to Madrid in December, as part of my Honors thesis for my Spanish major. I am also very fortunate for the friendships I have made throughout the program.





**What a long, strange trip it's been, Class of 2023.
Thanks for traveling it with us. We will miss you!**

Dr. Slunt and Dr. Scanlon

**“Alice had begun to think
that very few things indeed
were really impossible.”**

Lewis Carroll

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland



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