

HONORS OUTLOOK



SEMESTER SNAPSHOT

DR. KELLI SLUNT, DIRECTOR OF THE PROGRAM

As the spring semester comes to a close, we celebrate a term marked by exceptional achievement across the Honors community and UMW. Our students have excelled in the classroom while also earning prestigious recognition beyond it. Congratulations to Ned Gable ('27) for receiving a 2026 Goldwater Scholarship; Morgan Hicok ('25) and Val Cotton ('26) for receiving Fulbright awards; and Julia Franck ('27) for receiving the Roy Smith Phi Beta Kappa Award. Many of our students have been inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Eta Sigma, and other honorary organizations. Numerous Honors Scholars will also present their research and creative projects at events associated with the 20th Annual UMW Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium. These accomplishments reflect not only academic excellence but also the curiosity, discipline, and commitment that define Honors at UMW.

Equally inspiring is the breadth of student engagement across our community. Honors students have led organizations and programs such as Honor Council and COAR, contributed meaningfully on the athletic fields, and enriched campus life through music and theatre performances. We are especially proud of the numerous Honors Scholars recognized through the Eagle Awards, a testament to their leadership, service, and impact. Beyond these program-wide recognitions, individual students continue to distinguish themselves at the state and national level. Congratulations to Sarah Moon, named to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia list of the Top 50 Virginia Interns for 2026.

While it is bittersweet to see our graduating seniors leave, we are excited for all that lies ahead for them. We encourage you to read about their future plans and reflections on their Honors experience in this newsletter. As we celebrate their accomplishments, we also invite you to explore the many courses and activities highlighted here that showcase the vibrancy of Honors at UMW. Looking ahead, we are eager to welcome the fall semester and are already preparing to host the Virginias Collegiate Honors Council (VCHC) conference at UMW in September, where we will highlight our signature City as Text program for Honors programs across Virginia and West Virginia.

HN-DESIGNATED COURSES

Pages 2 - 5

A snapshot of the ideas, challenges, and growth happening in honors courses.

BE MORE

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Real student experiences —from field trips to everyday moments.

GRADUATING SENIORS

Pages 10 - 24

Our graduates, their stories, and what comes next in Life After Mary Wash.

WHITMAN & DICKINSON

BY: AINSLEY GRAF, CLASS OF 2027

Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson are profoundly different poets—Whitman’s long, ambitious lines compared to Dickinson’s notably compact, feminine lines drive the perception of their dissimilarity. Dr. Scanlon’s ENGL 391C, Whitman and Dickinson, is a digital intensive Honors course that explores the space between the poets. Deep analysis of the poets’ works, where themes of religion, humanity, sexuality, politics, gender (and much, much more) are visited continuously, shows us that the space between Whitman’s and Dickinson’s works is not all that vast. ENGL 391C has fostered an environment of growth for myself and students like myself—ones that don’t always get poetry.

The digital intensive nature of the class prompts our implementation of a course blog, where our posts—both formal and informal—capture our opinions of and connections to Whitman’s and Dickinson’s works. We use the blog to gush over our favorite moments in our readings and as a place to express any frustrations and/or confusions we may feel. This blog has been a place where our words, Whitman’s words, and Dickinson’s words can interact.

In addition to our blog, the digital aspect of our course is supported by our archive projects, and we have one for each poet. These projects use online archive databases that maintain firsthand materials of the poets that we might not otherwise have access to. The archive projects are greatly open-ended, allowing each student to explore the archives on their own

volition. The archives act as historical artifacts, allowing each of us to form our own forms of familiarity and intimacy with the poets. There is seemingly

“Dr. Scanlon’s poetry expertise has enriched our study of Whitman and Dickinson in many ways.”

no end to what the digital archives have to offer, and getting to explore the depths of these poets’ works, artistries, and lives is fun, interesting, and deeply enlightening. We have been given a chance to create our own relationships with the poets, which is something we are all very confident the poets would have taken great pride and joy in.

Dr. Scanlon’s poetry expertise has enriched our study of Whitman and Dickinson in many ways. My personal favorite has been our lessons on scansion—analysis of a poem’s metrical pattern either by line or verse. We have learned about common meter and how to detect it, particularly in Dickinson’s poetry. To our great delight, common meter is the metrical pattern of many well-known songs, such as Amazing Grace or America the Beautiful, so we were able to sing several of her poems in class to tunes that we knew.

THE ART OF CHEMISTRY

**BY: ZAHRA SAFAZADA, CLASS OF 2028 &
LEANNA GIANCARLO, INSTRUCTOR OF CHEM 112**

The Honors section of General Chemistry II (CHEM 112HN) provides students (both Honors and non-Honors alike) with a unique laboratory experience in which they are exposed to the various subdisciplines in Chemistry, including Organic, Biochemistry, Physical, Analytical and Inorganic through multi-week projects and training in formal scientific writing. Students use advanced equipment, including single and dual-beam UV-Vis spectrometers, an argon inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectrometer, and our 400-MHz nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer, to investigate topics presented in the lecture portion of the course in a more research-based environment.



From L-R: William Routhier, Quinn Hernandez, Dr. Nicole Crowder (Inorganic Chemist), Quiann Sun, Aksel Naumann, and Travis Jimenez

As a pre-med, biomedical science major who is not an Honors student, I have found this class to be very exciting and engaging. It has inspired me to ask more questions like “Oh, how would this affect this” or “what would happen if this happens?” I have always enjoyed chemistry labs and looked forward to every one we performed.

Some labs involved kinetics, butterfly peatea and equilibria, the effect of solvents on organic dyes, and the Inorganic Chemistry lab.

Inorganic Chemistry was the final project this semester designed and co-led by Dr. Nicole Crowder, and we students synthesized an iron (III) oxalate complex using techniques, like vacuum filtration, typically introduced in upper-level courses. This iron (III) oxalate complex is a known photosensitizer, reacting with ultraviolet light in a predictable and quantifiable way. We reacted the photosensitive iron (III) oxalate complex with ferricyanide ion to form Prussian Blue. Prussian Blue has many commercial and artistic applications, including the production of cyanotypes, one of the oldest photographic processes. After forming Prussian Blue, we used the solution to paint watercolor paper. We placed objects we brought to lab on this now greenish paper and brought them outside to expose them to sunlight. The color surrounding our objects changed from green to blue and the portion of the paper the object covered changed to white, producing a cyanotype image.

I will miss this class and my classmates and would recommend it to other students. While the lecture mostly contains algebra-based math applied to science, we are taught to critically think and use logical reasoning skills. The chemistry labs are like “cooking” classes, but, as with this last lab, they can be art too!

THE ART OF CHEMISTRY



Zanra Sarazada's Cyanotype



Zahra Safazada and Her Cyanotype



Emma Terry Painting Her Paper



*Emma Terry's Cyanotypes
Before Sunlight*

CULINARY LANDSCAPES OF SPAIN

BY: CARSON FRANK, CLASS OF 2027

Culinary Landscapes in Spain is the embodiment of food fueling the mind. It is a newly offered course, and it immediately caught my attention for a couple of reasons. First, the professor, Profesora Delgado-Poust, knows the material better than anyone. Although she was born in the U.S., both of her parents were born and raised in Granada, so she grew up surrounded by Spanish culture. I had her last semester for SPAN 305: Conversation and Grammar and thoroughly enjoyed that class, so I knew I wanted her as a professor again. Second, the course aligns perfectly with my Spanish minor and my upcoming study abroad trip to Spain this summer. I wanted to learn more about Spain's food culture, both its historical roots and its modern expressions.

When registering for the class originally, I assumed it would be taught in Spanish since I was already familiar with Dr. Delgado-Poust from previous Spanish courses. I found out on the first day of classes that the course was taught in English, which makes the course accessible to everyone. Reading articles, analyzing recipes, watching videos, and doing independent research on current topics of the class provides a variety of work that keeps the class interesting and fresh. One unique aspect to this class is the optional Spring Break trip to multiple regions of Spain. I personally didn't go, but many classmates did and had an amazing time applying what we had learned in the first half of the class. They also were able

to create personal travel journal while on the trip as part of the "Spain travelers" midterm project option.

"Culinary Landscapes in Spain is the embodiment of food fueling the mind."

A highlight of the class is being able to try different foods we're exploring in class and discussing different elements and their significance. Pan con aceite y ajo, bread with olive oil and garlic, is a Spanish staple that represents Mediterranean simplicity (as long as the oil is authentic). Conservas such as canned clams and mussels are a common delicacy meant to preserve the Atlantic's abundance originating in Northern Spain. Finally, Paella, which we made together as a class, represents a shared meal creating community with rice originally introduced by the Moors and a traditional pan introduced by Romans.

Overall, I had an amazing time in the class learning about food and identity in Spain. You explore most, if not all, regions of Spain and the culture of food in each, whether it be Pintxos in the Basque region or Paella in Valencia. I would highly recommend this class to anyone who considers themselves a foodie, has an interest in Spain or Spanish culture, or is looking for a memorable elective where they can make meaningful connections.

FIELD TRIP TO THE VMFA

BY: SAM BARLOW, CLASS OF 2027

During our recent trip to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Honors Program had the chance to explore the Giants exhibition, which brought together a wide range of influential artists and styles. From the moment we entered the galleries, there was a lot to take in, with each section offering something different to look at and think about.

"We need to be our most giant selves: to think our most giant thoughts, express ourselves in the biggest way possible, and give ourselves permission to be giants."

—Alicia Keys

One of the first works that stood out to me was the photography of Gordon Parks. His black-and-white images captured scenes from Civil Rights protests, with signs that read "Police Brutality Must Go" and "Liberty or Death." Seeing these photographs in person made them feel more real and immediate than they do in textbooks. The images were simple but powerful, showing how photography can be used to document history while also making a strong statement about injustice.

As I continued through the exhibit, I came across the work of Mickalene Thomas, which had a completely different look and feel. Her pieces were colorful and detailed, using patterns, textures, and layered materials to create portraits and interior scenes. I spent some time looking at how much was going on in each piece, and it made me think about how identity and self-expression can be shown in different ways through art.



In addition to the exhibit, the museum itself added to the experience. When we visited, it was Family Day celebrating the Lunar New Year, and there were activities and decorations throughout the space. The atmosphere felt especially lively, with families, performances, and interactive stations that made the museum feel more welcoming and engaging. It was interesting to see how the museum created a space not just for viewing art, but for community and cultural celebration as well.

By the end of the visit, it was clear that the Giants exhibition was not just about showcasing well-known artists, but about highlighting how art can reflect both personal experiences and larger social issues. Experiencing the museum during its Lunar New Year celebration also added to the trip, making it a great opportunity to step outside the classroom and engage with both art and culture in a more meaningful way.

WHAT WE DO AND WHY

**BY: IAN FRAZIER, CLASS OF 2028 &
ROBERT WELLS, INDIAN MUSIC ENSEMBLE DIRECTOR**



The UMW Music Department's many ensembles allow students from across the university, regardless of major, to gather and make music. While the larger ensembles like the UMW Philharmonic, Choirs, and Jazz Ensemble are popular options, we would like to describe our experiences with one of UMW's newest small ensembles. The Indian Music Ensemble, founded in 2018, emerged from a student inquiry into the possibility of sitar study at UMW. The ensemble is distinctive in welcoming students with no musical training alongside those with substantial musical experience. Moreover, UMW Honors scholars have been active participants in the ensemble since its inception. This said, we offer two

perspectives on the ensemble—one from an Honors student, and the other from an Honors Program Associate Director.

Ian: Living in Richmond, I had heard several performances of Indian classical music, especially Hindustani violin, before I came to Mary Washington. These concerts captivated me; the style and manner of playing was so different from anything that I had studied on the violin before, and the performers even played with a completely different posture! The music that resulted from this I remember as being very beautiful and flowing, and I thought that if I ever had the chance, I would learn how to play in that style.

When I learned about the Indian Music

WHAT WE DO AND WHY

**BY: IAN FRAZIER, CLASS OF 2028 &
ROBERT WELLS, INDIAN MUSIC ENSEMBLE DIRECTOR**

Ensemble here at UMW and heard them perform my freshman year, I resolved to join them, and I have been in the ensemble for the past two semesters. I was especially

“... I have enjoyed learning completely new instruments and looking at music in a way I have never seen it before has really opened my eyes...”

eager to start learning the Hindustani and Carnatic violin styles. Dr. Wells started us out each semester, however, learning the theory behind the Tala and the Raga, similar to western concepts of rhythm and scale, as well as vocally learning the compositions we would perform. Gradually, we moved on to instruments, and I have enjoyed learning multiple percussive and melodic/droning instruments as well as the Hindustani and Carnatic violin. I think that it has been a great experience for me, and learning completely new instruments and looking at music in a way I have never seen it before has really opened my eyes and allowed me to look at musical traditions, systems, and music as a whole more subjectively. I am personally very glad that I joined the Indian Music Ensemble, and my skills as a

musician have grown as a result. I am sure I will be looking to rejoin the next time it is offered.

Dr. Wells: As a graduate student in music theory and piano, I was initially introduced to South Indian Carnatic (classical) music in a seminar on musical improvisation around the world. It was here that I became drawn to Indian classical music’s beauty and complexity, and Carnatic music eventually became one of my primary music-theoretic research areas. I have also more recently had the opportunity to take lessons in Indian classical vocals, tabla (North Indian drum), and South Indian percussion (mridangam, khanjira, and ghatam).

What I especially appreciate about the Indian Music Ensemble is that it demands direct, embodied engagement with the music. Students are not just learning about the music in abstraction, but are playing traditional instruments, singing in classical styles, and performing rhythmic recitations. I also enjoy seeing students break out of their comfort zones, helping share our ensemble’s music with the Fredericksburg community, and getting to know the wonderful performers and teachers of Indian music in our area. Guest artist visits are a special highlight, allowing me to sit alongside the ensemble members and be a student again. I will look forward to seeing how the ensemble continues to grow and evolve in its capabilities, repertoire, and community engagement as the years go by!

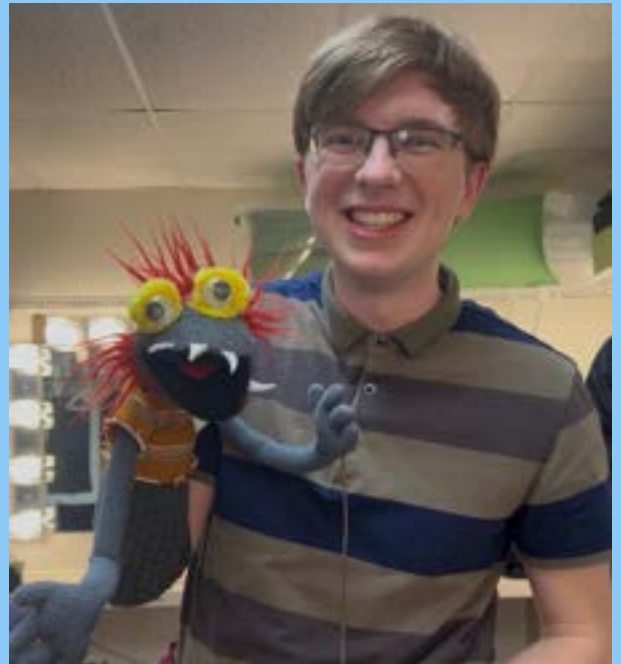
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

BY: LUCAS BICKFORD, CLASS OF 2028

Everyone I know assumes I'm a theatre major. You can reliably find me chatting with my fellow students in Dupont, there are show posters plastered all over my dorm room, and I have been involved in multiple productions with UMW Theatre, both on and offstage. Most recently, I had the wonderful opportunity to play both the mild-mannered Jason Stevens and his maniacal hand puppet, Tyrone, in *Hand to God*. However, what those people watching me in the audience don't realize is that I can just as reliably be found playfully jousting with friends in Combs Hall over the merits of different kinds of architecture, and those posters of past productions sit side-by-side with an illustrated list of historic buildings in my hometown of Fairfax. Although everything about me screams "theatre kid," I am actually majoring in Historic Preservation.

Folks are always incredulous when they learn about my major. If I enjoy theatre as much as I seem to, why would I major in something so totally different like preservation? They don't always seem to understand that that seeming dichotomy is a huge reason that I chose Mary Washington in the first place. When I toured this school, I saw its various small and superb departments as the perfect way to become involved in as many things that I love as possible.

Historic Preservation is something I have a great passion for; I believe that preservation is an environmentally friendly,



human-centric way to improve our communities and the world. I also love theatre; I have acted in various programs for the past fifteen years, have forged some of my closest friendships in the fires of theatrical productions, and cannot imagine my life without the stage. While many other schools' structures would end up forcing me to choose, UMW provides me with a place where both of my passions can be pursued. Its theatre program is accessible and welcoming, so much so that a non-major like me, someone who loves theatre but doesn't want to pursue it as a career, can still find a home and be given amazing opportunities to expand my craft. I am aware about how exceptional this environment is and am grateful every day that I get to learn and grow within it.

GRADUATING SENIORS

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



SOFIA SZCZEPANKIEWICZ
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

I am attending pharmacy school starting this Fall (2026), and I will be pursuing a PharmD. degree. After graduation, I expect to enter a residency as a pharmacist. I am unsure right now what my specialty in pharmacy will be as a resident, but I am currently interested in oncology because of my undergraduate research experience here at UMW in Dr. Sipe's breast cancer research team.



EDWARD VILLEGAS
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

After graduation, I plan to apply to medical schools in May! While I wait to hear back from programs, I will continue to work as a server at Foodē in downtown Fredericksburg. I'll also remain a CNA at Mary Washington Hospital to continue gaining clinical experience, while shadowing doctors in my spare time. Most importantly, I'll take the necessary time to travel and spend time with loved ones before I move on to higher education.



MALLORY THOMPSON
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

Through the early selection program, I will be attending the George Washington School of Medicine in the fall. I am deeply grateful to Dr. Slunt for her guidance and support throughout this journey, and I truly appreciate the impact the Honors Program has had on my experience at UMW!

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



EMILY BOYD **BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE**

I plan to return to my home in St. Mary's County, Maryland to work as a medical assistant and study for the MCAT. This will give me clinical hours for Med School and PA school as I am still debating these professions.



CARLEIGH WOOD **BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE**

I will be attending George Washington Medical School, starting in Fall 2026!



WILLIAM BURKEY **BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE & APPLIED PHYSICS**

I plan to attend veterinary school, enter general practice, and ultimately become a board-certified veterinary surgeon.



JESSICA KAMEL **BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE**

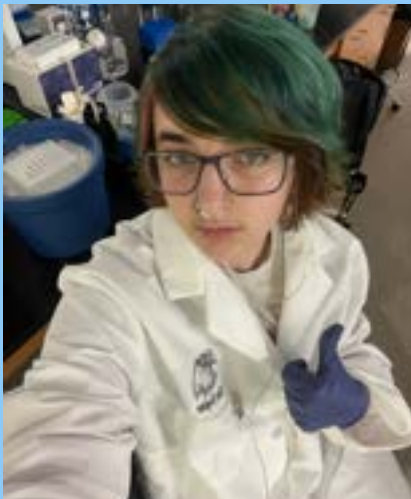
I plan to attend dental school in the future, but first I will take a gap year to work as a dental assistant.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



REBECCA CHERIAN ***BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE***

This fall, I will be attending the George Washington School of Medicine and Health Sciences. There, I hope to continue building on the knowledge my undergraduate coursework and experiences have given me in order to become a well-rounded physician. I aim to embody the compassionate approach to service and leadership the honors program has taught me in all my future endeavors.



ELENI KEPLER ***BIOLOGY***

Starting this coming August, I will be attending Texas A&M University as a member of their Genetics and Genomics PhD Program where I intend on completing research in protein aggregation disorders (CJD, Alzheimers, or ALS). Following completion of my doctoral program, I hope to work a postdoctoral position studying prion pathogenesis. Eventually, I hope to lead my own research project investigating the initiation, propagation, and specific cellular effects of infectious prions as a professor.



TYLER DOWNS ***BIOLOGY***

After graduation, I will be pursuing a PhD at the University of Georgia to continue studying the genetic basis of infectious disease. The Honors Program facilitated my entry into this field with the Phage Hunters class, and I am forever grateful. I hope to combine my passions for research and mentorship throughout my career.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

RODAS TEKA **BIOCHEMISTRY**

After graduation, I plan to attend medical school to pursue my goal of becoming a physician and contribute to improving patient care.



JILLIAN PABALAN **CHEMISTRY,** **AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY**

Working in the chemical industry, then pursuing graduate education in the sciences after a few years of industry experience.



IAROSLAVNA KOVALENKO **CHEMISTRY,** **AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY**

I plan to attend graduate school at the University of Virginia to pursue a PhD in Chemistry.



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



CALLEIGH KEELEY
APPLIED ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

I will be attending grad school at Virginia Tech getting a thesis-based Master's in Soil and Crop Sciences.



MARIANA LIRA
APPLIED ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

This fall I will be attending Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia, to commission as a Marine Corps Officer.



JOEY GASINK
***APPLIED ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, BIOLOGY,
& CERTIFICATE IN GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
SYSTEM***

After graduating from UMW, I am going to continue my education and attend Virginia Commonwealth University to work towards a Master's degree in Biology.



AINSLEY LORD
***APPLIED ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE,
CONSERVATION BIOLOGY, & CERTIFICATE IN
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM***

I will be a Raft Guide in Moab, Utah, and am hoping to eventually go to grad school to study river conservation.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

GRACE HANNAH BUCK

HISTORIC PRESERVATION, ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY, & CERTIFICATE IN GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

Over Summer 2026 I will be participating in Maine Preservation's Patricia Anderson Fellows Program in Historic Preservation to gain experience in preservation policy, nonprofit work, and the preservation trades. After that, I hope to enter the workforce in preservation pursuing architectural conservation.



GRACE GOWER

HISTORIC PRESERVATION & CERTIFICATE IN GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

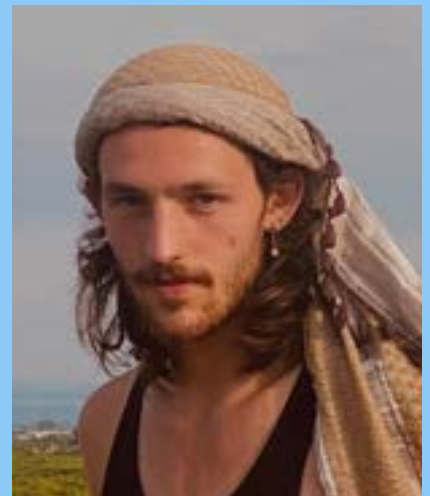
After graduation, I plan to work full-time as a GIS technician. In a year or two, I would like to pursue a masters degree to further my long-term career goals as an architectural historian or similar cultural resource field.



ATTILIO PIAZZA

CLASSICAL ARCHAEOLOGY & CERTIFICATE IN GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

Following graduation this May, I will be returning home to St. Louis to allow myself the summer to focus on further developing my French, German, and Georgian language skills. In addition, I will be working to progress my skills in experimental archaeology including the production of stone tools, tandoori ovens, and traditional mudbrick construction techniques. These efforts will be made with the intention to pursue a graduate program in Prehistoric Archaeology and, hopefully someday, become a professor to keep passing on the passion.



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



DONALD EDWARD GLANDER ***HISTORY & SOCIOLOGY***

I plan to take a few years off to work and save money and plan to live in Fredericksburg. After a few years, I plan to go to law school.



MATTHEW CLARK ***POLITICAL SCIENCE & GEOGRAPHY***

I will be pursuing a Master's of Public Policy.



MIRANDA LENIHAN ***HISTORY***

I will be completing a masters at Middle East Technical Institute (METU) in Ankara, Türkiye.



MAXWELL HIZNAY ***HISTORY***

I will be working as a public school teacher and will pursue either a Master's or a Doctorate in History.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

MAKAYLA BOWMAN

ANTHROPOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

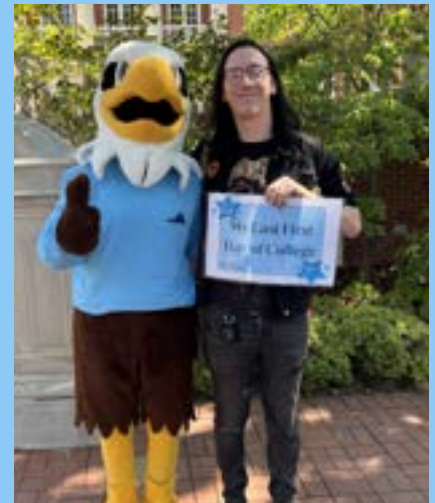
I will be working in a small house museum and will be pursuing a graduate degree after a year or two!



NICO INDOVINA

ART HISTORY & CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION

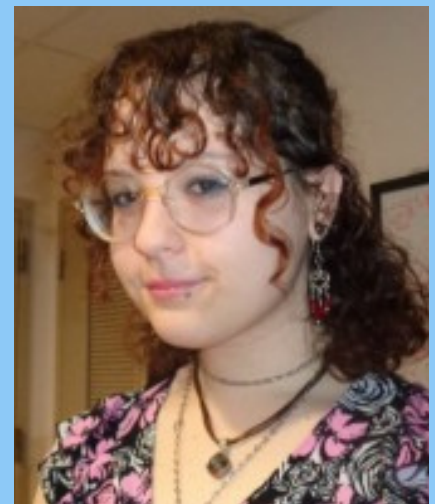
I plan to return home to Williamsburg after graduation and to work in museums in the area. I also plan to present my senior thesis at the Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies Conference.



ALLISON PARRISH

GEOGRAPHY

I am currently working for the National Housing Trust as their Community Outreach and Impact (COI) intern until the end of this year. After I do plan on going to grad school for Geography.



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



KYNZIE JOHNSON ***HISTORIC PRESERVATION***

I will be spending the summer here in Fredericksburg, finishing up my internship with the City of Fredericksburg's Planning Department. Following that, I will be returning to my hometown to begin my career at Commonwealth Preservation Group in Norfolk, Virginia. I currently do not have set plans to attend grad school, but may decide to continue my education in the future.



LAURA CONNORS ***HISTORY & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS***

I plan to pursue a Master's in Food Studies, get a PhD in History and then eventually teach as a professor.



ZOE MUELLER ***INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS***

I plan to pursue a masters in International Affairs and Middle Eastern Studies and work in foreign affairs.



SAVANNAH SINOR ***INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS***

I am taking a gap year to save money and gain more work experience before applying to law school. I am considering several dual degree programs around the country that allow participants to earn a master's in international affairs as well as the law degree.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

CONNOR O'BRIEN **PRE-LAW & HISTORY**

I plan to get my Master's degree abroad in either history or law, with a particular interest in international. I am looking forward to living with my dog, Bongo, and continuing my education. I am grateful for my time at Mary Washington and the many things I learned here.



CIAN BATARLA **PRE-LAW**

I will be taking a gap year and working. Following that, I will be applying to grad school!



ADELAIDE GILL **PRE-LAW**

I am going to the University of Richmond to pursue a J.D.



LILITH MIZOE **PSYCHOLOGY**

I plan to attend graduate school for Clinical Psychology.

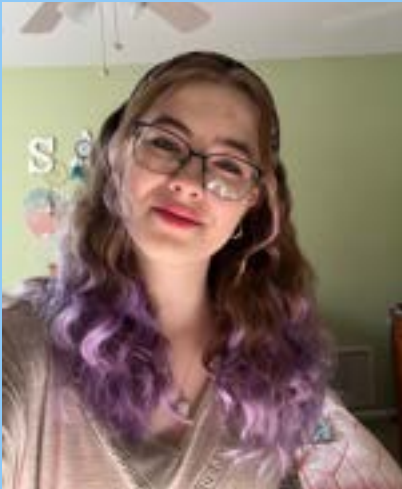


COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



DESTINY PACCHELLI **PSYCHOLOGY**

I will be continuing my education at Radford University's Clinical Mental Health Counseling M.S. program. In the future, I would like to continue my education to earn a Ph.D. in Counseling or Clinical Psychology. I want to become a licensed clinical/counseling psychologist and treat LGBTQ+ individuals and their mental health, as well as pursue research opportunities to explore the unique experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals and other diverse, underrepresented groups in the world of psychology. The Honors Program has taught me the potential I have in this world and that I have the opportunity to make a change for individuals and seek a world with more equality for all.



SARAH ESHBACH **PSYCHOLOGY**

I plan to continue running my business Cats N Co (catsncoshop.com).



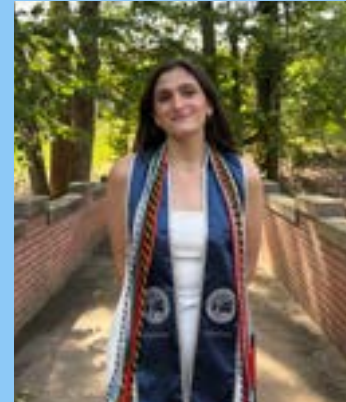
ANNALIESE GYPSON **PSYCHOLOGY**

After graduation, I plan to attend VCU's graduate program for Occupational Therapy!

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

VICTORIA SMITH **PSYCHOLOGY**

This fall, I will be attending William and Mary for graduate school and completing an Ed.S. in school psychology.



VALENTINE COTTON **ENGLISH**

This fall, I will be heading to Kyustendil, Bulgaria as an English Teaching Assistant through the Fulbright program. After my grant year, I plan to teach high school English.



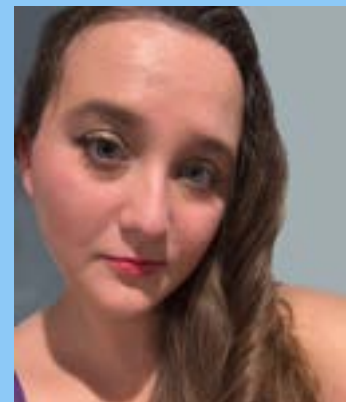
ASUNTA ROSS **ENGLISH**

My plans for the future include taking a much-needed break, completing a copywriting internship, and finding a full-time job in a creative role!



EVELYNE BREED **CREATIVE WRITING**

I will be pursuing a Masters of Education in Applied Developmental Psychology at the University of Virginia.



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



ILSE CASTANEDA-FORKEL
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

After graduation, I plan on working as an elementary school teacher starting in the fall of 2026.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



JACKSON RHODES
FINANCE

I plan to pursue a career in wealth and asset management.



MATT VIEROW
COMPUTER SCIENCE

I will be working at Amentum as a software engineer.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



MADISON McCARTY **COMPUTER SCIENCE & BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

I am looking at some graduate schools. I would like to pursue a career in data science or computer science and will take the best opportunity I get to support that goal.



BETHANIE HACKETT **COMPUTER SCIENCE & POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Following graduation, I have accepted a position as a software developer at the Naval Surface Warfare Center at the Dahlgren Naval Base in Dahlgren, Virginia. In the near future, I plan to pursue a master's degree in software engineering or a similar field.



MADISON HINTON **COMPUTER SCIENCE & STUDIO ART**

After graduation, I will be working as a full-time Software Developer for CACI International in King George, VA. I intend to continue creating artwork part-time through local artist residencies and galleries.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



RYLAN SEDLACEK **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

In June, I will start my Software Engineering role at BNSF Railway under their BNSF I tech division. I plan to work remotely from Washington D.C. for a few years. After that I plan to return back to school for my Master's and possibly a P.h.D.



ASHLYN DIEDERICH **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

My plans for the future are to begin my MBA at UMW in May 2026 after graduating from undergrad and complete it in one year. While in grad school, I will continue working as the Aquatics Coordinator of Goolrick Pool, continue my internship with Gazed Technologies, and compete in my fourth and final year on the UMW women's swim team.

OTHER GRADUATES

The following Honors Scholars will also be graduating this spring; we are pleased to recognize them and celebrate their accomplishments.

VANESSA WU
ECONOMICS

LEAH PERDUE
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION
& HISTORY**

HONORS STAFF

Kelli Slunt

Director, Honors Program

Professor of Chemistry

Brooke Di Lauro

Associate Director, Honors Program

Professor of French

Robert Wells

Associate Director, Honors Program

Associate Professor of Music Theory

Kasey Morello

Honors Program Coordinator

Center for Community Engagement Office
Manager

CONTACT US

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***WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING
YOU ALL NEXT SEMESTER!***