Connecting to the Past: An Honors Student's Discovery

Honors student Kyle Cappucci ’22 is taking, for the third time, HONORS 201/ PUBLIC HERITAGE STUDIES 201 Elizabethtown History: Campus and Community, taught by Professor Jean-Paul Benowitz. Cappucci discovered a National Preservation Act Section 106 Review submitted 25 May 1973 and authored by Carl H. Doan ’73, who was a student at Elizabethtown College majoring in History. In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson passed the National Historic Preservation Act, establishing the National Register of Historic Places, the List of National Historic Landmarks, and the State Historic Preservation Offices.

From 1966-1974, Elizabethtown College Professor of History Scott T. Swank ’64 was teaching about historic preservation while restoring his home in Marietta, PA. Professor Swank secured for Doan the first college student internship working with the recently established State Historic Preservation Office. Until his graduation, Doan conducted National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Reviews of Marietta, ten years before Marietta was listed as a National Historic District.

43 years later, in 2016, Professor Benowitz, who started teaching here in 1993, began teaching Honors Community-Based Learning courses on historic preservation based on books he authored about local history. In HON 201, students write National Preservation Act Section 106 Reviews about historically significant properties in Marietta. Honors students’ scholarship is used to inform public policy regarding public works projects and historic preservation.

Until Kyle Cappucci's discovery, there was no memory of a faculty member in the History Department at Elizabethtown College teaching preservation and engaging students in civic engagement and community-based learning. Doan, now living in southern New Jersey, was contacted by Cappucci. Doan, amazed the same work is being done 50 years later, visited HON 201 via Zoom this Spring. He will return to share photos from his research.

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The Honors students will use Doan's photos for their ArcGIS maps and SCAD panel presentations. Doan said, "I will bring out my notes and information I collected and donate them..." He will be coming to Marietta this summer to have Cappucci take him on a tour of the Marietta Historic District. Cappucci's SCARP and Honors in the Discipline projects are based on the research he has been conducting for HONORS 201/ PUBLIC HERITAGE STUDIES 201: Elizabethtown History Campus and Community. Doan will be collaborating with Cappucci on the research for these projects.

Doan added, "This is all very gratifying. I find it very rewarding that something I did almost 50 years ago is having an influence in Marietta and on young folks who are the age I was when I did my work there... Too many towns in America rushed to demolish their past and replace it with empty lifeless buildings that have no soul or style. You can't build on your past if you demolish it."

Doan's words articulate the "This Place Matters!" national campaign, created by the National Historic Preservation Trust, encouraging people to celebrate places meaningful to them and to their communities. For the last two summers, and this summer, Cappucci continues to lay the foundation for launching the "This Place Matters!" campaign for Marietta.

Carl Doan is inspiring current Honors students, while having his scholarship as a historian, librarian, archivist and historic preservation specialist validated. His calling, vocation, and purposeful life work matters. Doan also illustrates the Elizabethtown College Honors Program motto: Learn, Serve, and Lead! Doan and Cappucci will learn from each other and share these common experiences. Two students, one who entered in 1969 and the other who entered 2018, engage in the same work, both students learning, serving, and leading. Both appreciating the significance of their civic engagement and community-based learning and recognizing they are standing on the shoulders of faculty mentors and students of the past, being inspired to do the same as they move forward. #BlueJaysAlways

For the full story, click here

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Allison (O'Boyle) Bosse ’12 graduated from Elizabethtown College with a B.A. in English Education. Since her graduation, she worked as a 7th grade English teacher and elementary instructional coach before becoming an English curriculum specialist for grades K-12. Allison works for Shenandoah County Public Schools in Virginia, developing curriculum and supporting English instruction.

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Reflecting Back and Looking Forward: Catching Up with Honors Program Alumni

Allison (O'Boyle) Bosse ’12 graduated from Elizabethtown College with a B.A. in English Education. Since her graduation, she worked as a 7th grade English teacher and elementary instructional coach before becoming an English curriculum specialist for grades K-12. Allison works for Shenandoah County Public Schools in Virginia, developing curriculum and supporting English instruction.
In response to receiving the award, Haley said, “Being selected for the fellowship was a welcoming surprise! Knowing I have the support from NSF, I'm really motivated to continue researching hybrid materials. I'm grateful for the knowledge and experiences Etown gave me. I was able to start research my first year at Etown and the opportunities just expanded from there. The Chemistry program at Etown was rigorous and challenging, but I believe it set me up for success at Penn State and in my graduate work. As equally important as intellectual merit, outreach and impact play a large role in receiving the NSF GRFP. Etown's emphasis on serving others instilled in me the value of using knowledge to help the community. I hope to continue doing that at Penn State, sharing the joys of science with younger generations while doing research I love.”

Haley graduated from Etown majoring in Chemistry and did her senior research under Dr. Lauren Toote in the Chemistry Department, where she studied dye-modified polymer nanoparticles for the development of water quality tests. After graduating, Haley continued to pursue research at Penn State University and is currently in her second year working towards a doctorate degree in Chemistry.

At Penn State, Haley independently pursued an interdisciplinary research project bridging inorganic nanochemistry and semiconducting polymers in labs lead respectively by Dr. Raymond Schaak and Dr. Enrique Gomez. Her work focuses on grafting semiconducting polymers to the surfaces of Janus nanoparticles with the goal of synthesizing hybrid materials. These materials are expected to show synergistic properties that will be beneficial in photocatalysis for water splitting.

Honors Student Ariel Hampton Wins Gilman International Scholarship

Ariel Hampton '22 was recently awarded the U.S. Department of State's Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. When she learned she had won this award, Ariel noted that she was surprised as she had previously applied and was rejected. However, she did not let her rejection discourage her. She worked with Megan Bell, her study abroad advisor, to craft essays that more fully conveyed her thoughts.

Prior to the pandemic, Ariel had plans to study abroad in Tokyo at KCP International Language School last fall. That experience was initially postponed until January 2021, but Japan restricted international travel from the United States due to coronavirus cases. She is still hopeful that she will be able to travel to Japan this summer. She noted that her scholarship money will be immensely helpful.

Learning remotely from home since last March, Ariel has also been participating in the Virtual Study Abroad Program. Elizabethtown College partnered with Kansai Gaidai University to provide classes for Japanese majors who planned on and need to fulfill study abroad requirements. Ariel is taking classes from both Etown and Kansai to meet her requirements. While she is enjoying her classes, she noted that she wished her classes were in person since learning a language remotely can be difficult.

Ariel shared that she was "even surprised to know that I am the first student at Elizabethtown College to win the Critical Language Scholarship. I hope to inspire others during these troubling times to work hard and not get discouraged when things do not go your way. Everything gets better with time."
Honors Student John Talbott Earns Goldwater

John Talbott '21 was recently awarded the highly prestigious Goldwater Scholarship. The Goldwater is a national scholarship granted to less than 400 undergraduate STEM majors each year. Of the three Goldwater scholars in the Department of Biology at Elizabethtown College, John is the first chemistry and biochemistry recipient. His research, “Synthesis of Modified Amide-based Extended Heterocyclic Nucleobases for A-U Base Pair Recognition in Double Stranded RNA,” evolved from his interest in biologically applicable organic synthesis. He joined Dr. MacKay's group and has been conducting research since his first year, including two summers supported by the Scholarship, Creative Arts, and Research Projects program on campus.

This research project, in collaboration with Dr. Eriks Rozners and his team at Binghamton University, focuses on sequence selectivity that identifies double stranded RNA. This area of research has become increasingly important with the onset of biological technology, such as CRISPR-Cas9 and emerging pathogens, including the SARS-CoV-2 virus (COVID-19), which multiplies within cells through RNA replication. This sequence selectivity can be accomplished through forming a triple helix. In essence, they make a strand of nucleic acids in the lab and introduce that strand to the double helical RNA; it binds selectively to form the triplex. With the ability to selectively recognize any strand of RNA, there are numerous applications such as detecting RNA viruses (like COVID-19 or HIV) and potentially silencing them, alleviating the illness.

John has worked as part of a team developing a series of nucleobases. The team was able to publish their work (https://doi.org/10.1002/chem.202005401). Based on their findings, John proposed a new series of nucleobase which he has started synthesizing this semester. He will continue this work this summer at Binghamton University with the support of the American Chemical Society Department of Organic Chemistry (ACS-DOC) summer undergraduate research project (SURF).

John notes, "I am very grateful to Dr. MacKay for his continued mentorship and dedication, especially in his first few semesters when he was very new to research, as well as Dr. Rozners and his research group. Furthermore, the entire Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Etown has and continues to be extremely supportive of all student research projects. Lastly, the comradery of my fellow chemistry students and their continued advice and knowledge has propelled my research experience, particularly Brandon Tessier ('21) who has worked in the lab alongside me from day one. I fully believe I would not have been able to achieve these accomplishments at a different university, where I would not have received one-on-one training with professors to develop my skills as a chemist, especially not as a first-year student. The Office of Prestigious Scholarships and Fellows along with the SCARP program are unique aspects of Elizabethtown College that encourage and aid in success."

Honors Student Kathryn Carter Earns a Research Award

Kathryn Carter '21, a Neuroscience and Psychology double major with a minor in Cognitive Science, was recently awarded the Psi Chi EPA Regional Research Award for her research for her neuroscience thesis. Her work examines the relationship between menthol and dopamine release in rat brains and was presented at the Eastern Psychological Association's convention this Spring. Katie noted, “It is such an honor to have won this award and be able to share my research with a wider audience!” Psi Chi Award recipients must be students who are the first author of an empirical research abstract where the recipient conducted the bulk of the work. Katie also works in Dr. Robert Wickham's addiction lab on campus.

Unfortunately, the pandemic drastically altered her plan for her senior research as the lab on campus was closed last spring and remains unopened. Consequently Katie's 8-week SCARP summer project was shut down. Rather than scrapping her project, she was able to use an unanalyzed dataset Dr. Wickham, Katie's advisor, found from his time at Yale University. This data, from rats that were anesthetized and exposed to either nicotine, menthol, or a combination of both, measured dopamine release in the reward pathway of the brain.

The aim of their research was to determine if menthol alone would elevate dopamine release in the nucleus accumbens, as well as if menthol would have an additive effect on the dopamine release that nicotine elicits in the nucleus accumbens.

Katie spent last semester cleaning and analyzing the raw data. She found that there was no significant change in dopamine from baseline due to menthol alone, there was a significant increase in dopamine release from baseline for nicotine alone, and there was no additive effect on dopamine release when menthol combined with nicotine. They hypothesized that these results may be due to our use of acute menthol and nicotine exposure, rather than chronic exposure. The literature suggests that chronic menthol exposure produces cellular effects where more nicotinic acetylcholine receptors are expressed in the brain.
Honors Program Spotlight:
Communications Student Intern, William Paterson

William Paterson ’21 is a current senior with a dual major in Marketing and Public Relations at Etown. He has been an Honors Program member since his sophomore year. He has been fortunate enough to take honors courses while also taking on multiple professional internships with different companies. Throughout his college career, he has maintained a strong network of connections, and the Honors Program is one place where he has been able to build such connections.

He benefited from his numerous professional experiences, including an internship with Hershey Entertainment & Resorts where he worked in their Employee Support and Human Resources office. The skills he gained there were transferred to his Marketing & Sales Intern role with UGI Utilities where William canvassed commercial and residential properties and shared with the property owners the benefits of converting to natural gas. He worked for Highmark Health as a Public Relations Intern analyzing their response to the COVID-19 pandemic; he worked as a Product Research Intern for SupplyTiger analyzing products; and he developed an email newsletter template for Constance, a telemedicine company based in Lancaster, PA.

Strengthening his professional experiences in the collegiate setting, William served as the Social Media Coordinator for the Department of Business where he managed their Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn accounts. More recently, William helped launch several social media accounts for the Honors Program. He currently serves as the Communications Intern for the Honors Program and manages the Program's Twitter and LinkedIn accounts. His focus is on highlighting content about current students as well as alumni accomplishments.

As a firm believer in the value of acquiring experience early in your college career, William believes the more experience one acquires, the more they understand about the industry they want to go into for a career. They are able to apply the knowledge they get to any future situation. He is so thankful for all the opportunities Elizabethtown College has given him over the years. He noted that everyone has been so supportive in helping him build his career's foundation.

Honors Students Earn 2020-2021 Awards

2020-2021 Distinguished Student Awards
- Natalie Blanton ’22
- Celeste Workman ’22
- Laura Cardona ’23
- Andrew Furman ’23
- Miriam Englehardt ’24

2020-2021 Community Living Awards
- Celeste Workman ’22

2020-2021 Office of the Chaplain Awards
- Matt Smith ’21

2020-2021 Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Title IX Awards
- Celeste Workman ’22

2020-2021 Office of Student Activities Awards
- Celeste Workman ’22

OSA Leader on the Horizon Award
- Emily Smith ’23
Honors Senior Thesis Information

Important Deadlines and Info for SENIORS:

**Deadlines: 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 3, 2021:**
- [Completed Honors Senior Thesis](mailto:honors@etown.edu) as an electronic PDF to the Honors Program.

**Reminders:**
- Upload your Honors thesis to JayScholar (the Honors Program no longer requires bound hard copies of the Honors thesis).
- Insert a signed title page and the completed JayScholar form as the first two pages of the thesis. These documents are available in Appendix C, D, and E (pages 26, 27, and 28) of the Honors Student Handbook.
- Present your thesis in a public forum, which may include:
  - departmental defense or presentation
  - departmental undergraduate conference
  - professional conference
  - Scholarship and Creative Arts Day (SCAD)
- Contact Dr. Ozkanca, the Honors Program Interim Director (dursuno@etown.edu), if you have any questions.

**Special Considerations:**
- If your completed thesis arrives after this date, it will not be considered for the Senior Honors Thesis Award.
- If your discipline has a later deadline, you may submit a draft by May 3rd for award consideration and follow up with the final edition after this deadline.

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Important Deadlines and Info for JUNIORS:

**Deadlines: 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 3, 2021:**
- [Honors Senior Thesis Contract](mailto:honors@etown.edu) with all but the Honors Program Director's signature
- [Senior Thesis Proposal](mailto:honors@etown.edu) of 2-3 pages

**Reminders:**
- Submit by email to honors@etown.edu
- Review the recording of the Honors Senior Thesis Advising Session at: [https://use.vg/8P1Vs2](https://use.vg/8P1Vs2)
- Carefully and thoroughly review Honors Senior Thesis information on the Honors Program webpage and in the Honors Program Student Handbook.
- Be sure to understand and adhere to your Honors in your Discipline (HID) requirements/guidelines.
- If you are not eligible for HID or choose not to complete HID, you may still complete the Honors thesis through an independent study in a minor field.
- Depending on your research, you may need to file paperwork with the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for permission to conduct human subject research.
- Contact your thesis advisor and/or Honors Program Director (dursuno@etown.edu) if you have any questions.

**Special considerations:**
- For departments with a Fall deadline and HID submissions: submit a provisional proposal (1 page) and completed contract (except for signatures). You will submit a completed contract in the Fall.
- If you are in a department that only awards 3 credits for the HID thesis, contact the Honors Program Director to devise a plan so you can earn 4 credits and meet the Honors Program requirements.
Upcoming Honors Events

April 21, 2021 at 7:30pm: US Foreign Policymaking Leadership Session with Ambassador Craig on Jordan
Zoom connection: https://etown.zoom.us/j/92925902800

Friday, April 23 from 3:00-5:00pm: Honors Council Earth Day Event
Join the Honors Council for a fun afternoon of celebrating the beauty of Earth by potting your own plant! Come by the lawn outside the Honors Center to get a plant, enter a raffle, and participate in other Earth Day activities. Check out details on the Honors Council Instagram page: https://www.instagram.com/etowncollegehonors/

Every other Sundays (starting March 14): Coffee with Council
Take a break from homework and studying, meet new people, and relax with the Honors Council. Grab a drink select Sundays and hop on Zoom to socialize with your fellow Etown Honors students at a safe distance. The time will be determined on our Instagram, where those interested can vote on which time works best! Reach out through email or dm us on Instagram (@etowncollegehonors) if you have any questions! We can’t wait to see you there!

Honors Seniors: Send Us Your Pic
We want to celebrate and recognize our Honors Program Seniors. Please share your senior photo (of your choice) with us to share at the Honors Program Senior Graduation Reception and in the Honors Center.

It is simple; just submit to the OneDrive folder: Honors Picture Collection S2021

Cereal Caper Solved
On Saturday, March 20th, several teams of detectives worked to solve the cereal killing of Lucky the Leprechaun in the latest installment of Cereal Killer: When Luck Runs Out. Cereal characters shared clues to help one team solve the murder.

Congratulations to the winning team:
Nathan Tindell, Justin Brown, Libby Eckhart, and Katie Hollen.