Each year as part of orientation programming Honors students participate in HOOT: Honors Outdoor Orientation Trek. Typically HOOT happens in Mt. Gretna, PA at the Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center. Honors students engage in outdoor high ropes & low ropes climbing/hiking teambuilding exercises. This year, the leadership team from Gretna Glen facilitated HOOT on-campus in collaboration with the Honors Council and FYS Peer Mentors leading activities in the remote and outdoors. HOOT provided incoming Honors students with an opportunity to learn about themselves, learn to know each other, and introduced everyone to the Honors program community and campus.

Welcome Class of 2025 & Best Wishes From Dr. Ozkanca

Link for Dr. Ozkanca’s new piano piece to welcome the Honors Class of 2025: https://use.vg/cu6XBl

Dr. Ozkanca
Honors Program Director
Welcome New (and Returning) Honors Program Student Employees

We are happy to welcome two returning Honors Program student employees: Lauren Comly (left), Class of 2023 (Engineering Major and Interfaith Leadership Studies & Physics Minors) & Gillian Conner (middle), Class of 2023 (Early Childhood Education Major and Psychology Minor) and one new student employee: Evan Shaffer (right), Class of 2024 (International Business Major and Economics Minor).

Welcome Mr. Luke Mackey, ’17 B.A. ’18 M.P.P.

Luke started his position as our new Program Assistant in August! Luke was an Interfaith Studies major during his undergraduate years at Etown and went on to do the Master’s in Public Policy program with Etown. Luke is an alumnus of the Momentum Program. We are excited to welcome him to our team at the Honors Center!

“I am excited to be back on campus and I enjoyed meeting the new students during the Honors Orientation in August and hope to meet more students in the coming semesters. I look forward to working with the Honors Students and helping them achieve their academic goals.” - Luke

Administrative Updates in the Honors Program

Dr. Oya Dursun-Ozkanca was appointed as the Director of the Honors Program in July 2021. She is on a sabbatical in Fall 2021, serving as a Visiting Scholar at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University, working on her new book project on the regional balance of power in the Eastern Mediterranean. In her absence, Professor Jean-Paul Benowitz is running the day-to-day business of the Honors Program in Fall 2021, including advising, stacked courses/contract courses application and grants application evaluations, coordinate activities with the Honors Council, teaching Honors FYS, and advising students applying for Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships. Dr. Ozkanca continues to coordinate with Prof. Benowitz and Mr. Mackey about the important business of the Honors Program, chairs the Honors Committee and continues to be available to discuss matters related to longer-term/strategic direction of the Honors Program.
Honors Students’ Scholarship Featured In Local News

Professor Benowitz’s course: Honors 201/Public Heritage Studies 201 “Elizabethtown History: Campus and Community” is offered every spring semester, it is repeatable, counts for Honors credits, SLE Community Based Learning, and the annual 15 hours of service. Students’ scholarship is used to inform public policy regarding local historic preservation public works projects. In the spring semester of 2021 Honors students studied and documented the history of the Pennsylvania Canal in Marietta. A local news source, The Marietta Traveler featured an article about this Honors student project. View article here: https://tinyurl.com/mariettatraveler or by scanning the QR code:

On the left, Honors student Kyle Cappucci, Class of 2022, who has is taken for the third time, HONORS 201/ PUBLIC HERITAGE STUDIES 201 "Elizabethtown History: Campus and Community” taught by Professor Benowitz. On the right, Carl H. Doan Elizabethtown College Class of 1973. Majoring in History, Carl Doan took courses taught by Marietta resident, Professor Scott T. Swank Elizabethtown College Class of 1964.

The Honors 201 community based learning course is based on the National Collegiate Honors Council’s active learning pedagogy called Place As Text™. This approach to learning integrates Honors students into the local community strengthening town and gown relationships. The course and pedagogy align well with the Honors Program’s motto: “Learn, Serve, Lead” and with the motto of Elizabethtown College: “Educate for Service.”

Honors STEM Majors, Scholarship, & Civic Engagement

In the Spring Semester 2021, Honors Engineering students engaged in a Sophomore Engineering Project working with the Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society in Bainbridge, PA. The Haldeman Mansion along the Susquehanna River in Bainbridge, PA was the home of Samuel S. Haldeman (1812-1880) a distinguished scientist, author, and leading authority on natural history. This and a collection of historic properties known as the Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society are listed on the National Register of Historical Places and open to the public. The aim of the Board of Directors of the Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society is restoration and preservation of the birthplace of Professor Haldeman and its architectural significance. This location is nationally recognized as a site of archeological importance in the study of Native Americans in Pennsylvania. From left to right: Honors students Lauren Comly Class of 2023, Mr. Ken Beard, President of the Haldeman Mansion Preservation Society, Ms. Fay Landis Burke, Ms. Doris Burke, Drew Riley Class of 2023, Ruth Jacob Class of 2023. Honors STEM students were tasked with re-creating the original floor plans for the Haldeman Homestead Mansion built in 1767, later razed to build the Billmeyer Quarry. Fay and Doris Burke were the last residents of the Haldeman Homestead Mansion. The group stands in front of the neighboring original Haldeman Mansion built circa 1730s.
Honors Student Summer Scholarship, Creative Arts and Research Projects

This year a record number of Honors Students participated in SCARP. SCARP supports independent student research under the sponsorship of a faculty mentor. SCARP counts for Signature Learning Experience SLE Supervised Research. Dr. Ozkanca and Professor Benowitz supervised SCARP projects this summer. All our Honors students presented at the 12th Annual Landmark Summer Research Symposium. Hosted by Goucher College on July 22, 2021.

The Implications of Greek, Turkish, and U.S. Triangular Relations on Transatlantic Security
Laura Cardona, International Business & Political Science Majors (Class of 2022)
Dr. Oya Dursun-Ozkanca

The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Elementary School Teachers’ Stress, Coping and Burnout: Identification of Protective and Exacerbating Factors
Victoria Vaughn, Psychology Major (Class of 2022) and Meghan Keenan, Psychology Major and International Studies and Spanish Minors (Class of 2022)
Dr. Elizabeth Dalton

Distribution and Reproductive Strategies of Hydra Species in Lancaster County
Kayla Morrill, Biology Major (Class of 2022) and Katie Hollen, Environmental Science Major and Mathematics Minor (Class of 2022)
Dr. Diane Bridge

Low-Cost, Electrical and Mechanical Stimulators for Non-Invasive Sensory Feedback
Alex Kobilnyk, Engineering Major (Class of 2023) and Joseph Kutteh, Computer Engineering Major and Computer Science Minor (Class of 2023)
Dr. Mark Brinton

Synthesis of Lipid-Appended Porphyrins
William Davis, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Major (Class of 2024)
Dr. Tom Hagan

Ecological and Economic Revitalization Through Historic Preservation of the Northwest Lancaster County River Trail in the National Historic District of Marietta, Pennsylvania
Kyle Cappucci, Accounting Major (Class of 2024)
Professor Jean-Paul Benowitz

Small-Scale Experiment on Steel Tanks Subjected to Fire
Ruth Jacob, Engineering Major and Architectural Studies Minor (Class of 2023)
Dr. Jean Batista Abreu
Creating Instructional Videos to Aid in Infusing Fitness and Wellness Programming into the First Year Seminar Program
- Rachel Little, Communications Major and French Minor (Class of 2022)
- Dr. Kirsten Johnson

Optimization of Simple and Inexpensive Paper-Based Assay for Lead
- Kyla DeWittie, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Major (Class of 2024) and Sagar Patel, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Major and Psychology Minor (Class of 2023)
- Dr. Lauren Toote

E-MAT 2: Utilizing Notch® Sensors
- Colin Elliot, Physics and Mathematics Major (Class of 2022)
- Dr. Kurt DeGoede

Optimization and Scale-up of a 2-Aminopyridine Derived Peptide Nucleic Acid Monomer
- Tristan Mabee, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Major and German Minor (Class of 2023)
- Dr. James MacKay

Nucleobase-Modified Peptide Nucleic Acids for Sequence Selective Triple-Helical Recognition of Non-Coding RNA
- Emily Harding, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Major (Class of 2023) and Kyle Hess, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Major (Class of 2023)
- Dr. James MacKay

Writing Priorities Across Academic Disciplines
- Ashley Conway, Mathematics and English-Professional Writing Major (Class of 2023)
- Dr. Tara Moore

Medical Writing Practices: An Inquiry into Writing Standards and Career Development Opportunities in Healthcare Communication
- Carly Miller, English-Professional Writing Major and Psychology Minor (Class of 2023)
- Dr. Tara Moore

Investigating How Sex Influences Nicotine’s Ability to Drive Reward-Based Learning and Ability to Promote Relapse
- Brendan Atticks, Neuroscience Major and Biology & Biochemistry Minors (Class of 2022)
- Dr. Robert Wickham
Kyle Cappucci Internship with Ernst & Young Made Possible Through Grants by the Honors Program and Prestigious Scholarships & Fellowships

Kyle Cappucci received grants through the Honors Program and Prestigious Scholarships & Fellowships to make his internship possible. See more information regarding applying for grants in the box below.

This past summer, I completed an internship experience at Ernst & Young in the Assurance Services (Audit) Practice, working out of the Baltimore, Maryland office. Most of my internship was completed virtually, although I was fortunate to have the opportunity to work on-site at both a client site and the EY office on several occasions. My responsibilities as an Audit Intern allowed me to work in a role equivalent to a full-time staff accountant on two different engagement teams, Keller Holdings Ltd, and WillScot Mobile Mini.

During my internship, I learned quite a bit about myself, as well as what it is like to work at a Big Four accounting firm like EY. I believe this internship was perfect for someone like myself, who was not exactly sure what I wanted to do going into my junior year (last year). Before this year, I had not even considered Audit as an option since all I have known my whole life is tax, thanks to my aunt. After this internship experience, I am confident in my ability to be an audit professional. I believe I have the personality and intrapersonal skills to work at EY. I already feel a strong connection to the firm due to the tight-knit community and culture of the Baltimore Office. Which leads me to the next thing I learned, just because it’s the “BIG” does not necessarily mean “BIG.” Entering this internship, I already knew four other interns before we started in June, which says a lot about how small the area really is. Well, little did I know how the Baltimore Office is such an amazing group of individuals reminding of Etown because it seems as if everyone knows everyone.

I can truly say this internship exceeded my expectations since I was under the impression I was going to struggle to learn as well as fail to make connections professionally in the virtual internship format. I think going in person allowed me to experience what the true world of audit truly looks like.

I am excited to announce I have accepted a full-time offer from EY after my amazing internship experience. This internship was everything I could have asked for and more and I am super excited to see what my future holds at the firm!

Honors students in good standing who have completed 16 credit hours of Honors courses may apply for academic research grants up to $1,000 total to support research and scholarly activity. The Office of Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships offers Summer Enrichment Grants up to $1,000 to help fund summer research, selective internships, or enrichment travel related to course of study. Summer Enrichment Grants are for Honors students who are on a path enabling them to apply for prestigious scholarships and fellowships in the future. These nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships fund such opportunities as specialized study abroad, independent research, and graduate study.

Community Engagement & Leadership Guidelines

In line with our College’s motto – Educate for Service – and the Honors Program’s motto – Learn, Serve, and Lead – the majority of our Honors Program students already engage in service, community engagement, and leadership opportunities. The Honors Program requires students to submit yearly reflection papers on their 15 hours of volunteer service, community engagement, and leadership opportunities annually as part of the Honors Program’s co-curricular requirement.

You can find the full guidelines, suggested engagement opportunities, and log-sheet here: https://www.etown.edu/programs/honors/engagement-and-leadership.aspx
Upcoming Honors Events

U. S. Foreign Policymaking Leadership Sessions with Ambassador Craig

Thursday, October 14 & 28, and November 11 @ 7:00pm
in the Steinmen Brinser Lecture Room

Attending all sessions count for community engagement and leadership service hours.

The U. S. Department of State and many other national and international organizations offer scholarships and fellowships to fund undergraduate scholarship, research, travel; as well as study abroad; and post-graduate endeavors as such as graduate school aboard, international careers, the U. S. Foreign Service, and opportunities for humanitarian/service abroad. Come and hear from Professor Benowitz, Director of Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships, and from Honors and Stamps Scholars who have been awarded Prestigious Scholarships & Fellowships and those in the process of applying right now.

How, When, & Why Should I apply for Prestigious Scholarships & Fellowships Presentation

Wednesday, October 13, 2021 from 3:30-4:30 PM
Schlosser Residence Hall Main Lounge

The Honors Program is a community of scholars comprising a wide variety of perspectives and backgrounds. Our supportive network of Honors students, alumni, faculty, and staff approach scholarship and service with an interdisciplinary approach. Consistent with our commitment to the College’s mission of peacemaking and social justice, we are a community of learners celebrating diversity with an international and cross-cultural perspective.
Know of Something Newsworthy?

Feel free to send your accomplishments to honors@etown.edu for us to feature in our next newsletter. Please be sure to include a picture.

Our newsletters are published the middle of each month so please keep this deadline in mind when submitting your accomplishments.

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