Hello, I'm Matthew Butera '12, and I graduated from the Honors Program with a degree in Actuarial Science and Economics. I have worked as an Actuarial Analyst and Client Manager at Conrad Siegel, a Harrisburg-area actuarial consulting firm. Since then I have also completed my CEBS (Certified Employee Benefit Specialist) certification. A great deal of professional and personal success I'm having is directly traceable to the values, such as intellectual curiosity, a strong work ethic, and a desire to serve my community, developed during my four years at Elizabethtown College. I recall professors and classes such as Tim McDevitt's cryptologic mathematics course, Donald Kraybill's Amish in Modern Society course, and, of course, Coach Skip Roderick's demanding badminton course. While at Etown, I worked in the Admissions Office as a tour guide and also as a Peer Mentor, along with tutoring in the math lab. I served as Photography Editor on The Etownian, intramural captain of various sports, Honors Council President, radio show host (still surprised after an hour's worth of training I was given an entire semester's worth of time slots!), and Emotion (not sure if there were many dancing actuaries before or since).

I was able to study abroad in Galway, Ireland in the spring semester of my sophomore year. The ability to travel and study in places previously out of my reach was very influential into developing the person I am today (also, thanks to the Honors Program for helping me with the cost of the airline ticket!). I have close friends who also studied abroad, and we are able to relate our cross-cultural experiences to one another. I have also worked to serve Etown long after I have graduated. I have participated in Into the Campus, which works to beautify the campus each spring, and I also currently serve as the Vice President of Membership for the Elizabethtown College Alumni Council.

All of these experiences directly influence the work I do today. My company helps manage and protect the well-being of workers decades from now when their careers are over. I see my job as extremely important as it is a way for me to apply what I have learned over my time at Etown to help those around me in my community. It may take thirty or forty years for my efforts to be realized, but I understand that sometimes the most rewarding work takes time to see the benefit.
Honors Alumni Spotlight

Emily Seratch ‘19

In October of 2022 I was named as a Harrisburg 20 in Their 20s award recipient. I am deeply honored to have been nominated and selected out of a group of more than 50 nominations. I can attribute part of my success to the education and experiences I received while attending Elizabethtown College. While at the college I was involved in many different clubs and activities while studying to receive my Bachelor of Science in International Business. One of the activities I was most fortunate to be a part of is the Honors Program. In high school I rarely raised my hand during class and tended to stick to what I knew well. The Honors Program forced me to change those old habits. I was encouraged to speak up with no fear of being wrong and challenged to think outside the box. I have carried these new habits with me into my life after college. My newfound thirst for knowledge and desire to speak up continues to propel me ahead of my peers both in the workplace and in my community. Although scary at the time, the Honors Program pushed me outside my comfort zone and I am forever in debt to the skills I gained from the experience.

We would like to congratulate Emily Seratch on being named to 2022’s 20 in their 20s list published in “The Burg’s October issue. She is an Etown IB alumna ('19) and now has a seat on our IB Board of Directors. Congratulations!!

Learn more: https://bit.ly/3Sq1ZMX.

#NRHC2023 in Pittsburgh!

We are pleased to announce the following details for next year’s NRHC (Northeast Regional Honors Conference) conference.

Dates: Thursday, March 30 to Sunday, April 2, 2023

Call for Proposals to Present at NRCH 2023:

The 2023 Conference Theme is Building Resilience from Tragedy: Understanding Hate, Violence, Loss and Reconciliation. You can find the full conference theme statement by clicking here.

If you would like to submit a proposal, please check out this flyer to give you some preparation tips, for submitting your proposal. When you are ready, go to the NRHC 2023 conference proposal submission website, to submit your proposal. Proposals are due by Monday, November 14th at 11:59 pm.

More details can be found on the NRHC website! Email honors@etown.edu if you are interested in attending or presenting.
Honors students Jess D’Iorio, Andrew Furman, Charlotte Long, Bella Mendez, Hayden Mitchell, and Darci Ott along with Professor Benowitz will be heading to Dallas, Texas for the National Collegiate Honors Council’s 2022 conference from November 2-6. They will all be participating in City as Text in Dallas exploring the streets, neighborhoods, institutions, and public art that illustrate and represent Dallas and its people. They will also be attending sessions to learn about best practices within honors and bring back new ideas to our Honors Program here at Etown.

If you are interested in attending a conference in the future, check the weekly announcements and issues of the Honors Reports for upcoming conference opportunities.
Welcome Stamps Scholars Class of 2026

Etown Stamps Scholars Class of 2026 with President Rider and Dr. Jean Pretz
Not pictured: Essex (E.J.) Finney

Callie Asper | Biochemistry (Intended)
Essex (E.J.) Finney | Business (Intended)
Erina Fortune | Biology (Pre-Med) (Intended)
Madilyn (Maddy) Fratis | Communications (Intended)
Aurora Lefever | Public Health and Psychology (Intended)
Alysse Smith | Biology (Pre-Med) (Intended)
Hanna Tran | Biology (Pre-Physician Assistant) (Intended)
Elsa Woodarek | Public Health (Intended)

Honors Council’s Homecoming Parade Float Design Wins for 4th Consecutive Year!

Honors Study Abroad Presentations

On Friday, November 18th at 4:00 pm in the Honors Center Conference Room, we will be having study abroad presentations from Honors students who have studied abroad. If you are considering studying abroad, or are interested in hearing about these students’ experiences, please plan to attend. We will also have pizza for everyone to enjoy at the study abroad presentation event.
Honors Student Summer Scholarship, Creative Arts and Research Projects

This year many 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.

Nicholas Erisman ’24
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology major
Project: Luminescence from Metal-Organic Frameworks
Other Student Researchers: Brandon Molina ’23
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jeffrey Rood

Emily Erdlen ’23
English major
Project: Promoting Access to Archival Information on the Amish
Staff Mentor: Rachel Grove Rohrbaugh

A.J. Botticelli ’25
Computer Science and Data Science major
Project: eTherapy App Development Phase II
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kurt DeGoede

Meghan Williams ’23
Physics Secondary Education major
Project: Mastery-Based-Learning to Study Anxiety and Belonging in Circuit Analysis
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mark Brinton

Kyla DeWittle ’24
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology major
Project: Optimization of Simple and Inexpensive Paper-Based Assay for Lead
Other Student Researchers: Yudeliz Sanchez ’25

Thomas Urrunaga ’25
Engineering major
Project: Surface vs. Force: Myth or Truth?
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kurt DeGoede
Tristan Mabee ’24
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology major
& Angelina Giglio-Tos ’25
Chemistry major
Project: Nucleobase-Modified Peptide Nucleic Acids for Sequence Selective Triple-Helical Recognition of Non-Coding RNA
Faculty Advisor: Dr. James MacKay

Emily Ward ’23
Fine Arts and Mechanical Engineering major
Project: Laser Cutting and Engraving Designing in the Digital Age
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Milt Friedly

Isabella Goebel ’24
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology major
Project: Tumor Virus Upregulation | Vanadium Complex Effect
Other Student Researchers: Camillo Arenas ’23, Alec Delgado ’24, Justin Enochs ’23, Julia Randazzo ’23, & Brandon Baxter ’24
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jane Cavender

Justin Cosgrove ’25
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology major
Project: Development of Sensitive and Fast Immunoassay for Lyme Disease
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lauren Toote

Veronica Zerebilov ’23
Occupational Therapy major
Project: Exploring Anatomy in Everyday Life
Faculty & Staff Advisors: Dr. Anya Goldina & Carol Ouimet
Prestigious Scholarships & Fellowships Opportunities

William D. Clarke, Sr. Diplomatic Security (Clarke DS) Fellowship
The Clarke DS Fellowship provides academic funding (up to 42,000 annually for two years), two summer practicums, professional development and mentorship. After successful completion of all requirements, fellows receive an appointment in the Foreign Service as a DSS Special Agent. Applications for the 2023 are being accepted through November 30, 2022. Women, members of minority groups underrepresented in the Foreign Service, and those with financial need are encouraged to apply. Here is the web page for the fellowship program: https://twc.edu/programs/ClarkeDSFellowship To be eligible, applicants must be seeking admission to a two-year full-time master’s degree program beginning in fall 2023. Deadline is Wednesday 30 November 2022. To apply, make an appointment to meet with Professor Benowitz (benowitzj@etown.edu).

U. S. Department of State’s 2023 Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program
The U. S. Department of State’s Critical Language Program is about intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences designed to promote rapid language gains. Depending on language and level, U.S. students can either apply for the overseas CLS Program or the virtual program -- CLS Spark. The CLS Program offers in-person cohort-based programs at partner institutions abroad that provide instruction at various levels for U.S. graduate and undergraduate students in 14 critical languages: Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bangla, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili, Turkish, and Urdu. CLS Spark provides virtual instruction to U.S. undergraduate students at the complete beginning level of Arabic, Chinese, and Russian, specifically targeting students who do not have access to studying these languages at their home campus. The CLS Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by American Councils for International Education. It is part of a wider government initiative to expand the number of Americans studying and mastering foreign languages that are critical to national security and economic prosperity. The CLS Program plays an important role in preparing students for the 21st century's globalized workforce and increasing national competitiveness. More information on eligibility is available at: https://clscholarship.org/applicants/eligibility. The application is available at https://clscholarship.org/apply. The deadline for applications is 8:00 pm Eastern Standard Time on Tuesday, 15 November 2022. To apply, make an appointment to meet with Professor Benowitz (benowitzj@etown.edu).

Harry S. Truman Scholarship Program
The Truman Scholarship application is open, this is a highly competitive, merit-based award offered to U.S. citizens and U.S. nationals from Pacific Islands who wish to go to graduate school in preparation for a career in government, the non-profit sector or elsewhere in public service. Truman Scholars participate in leadership development programs and have special opportunities for internships and employment with the Federal government. In order to qualify for this benefit program, you be planning on attending graduate school to further a career in public service. At the time you apply, you must either have junior-level academic standing or senior-level standing in your third year of college enrollment. Truman Application Deadline: February 7, 2023. To apply for a Gilman Scholarship make an advising appointment with Professor Benowitz at benowitzj@etown.edu.

Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship Program
The Goldwater Scholarship Program application is open, one of the oldest and most sought-after undergraduate scholarship in the natural sciences, engineering and mathematics in the United States, the Goldwater seeks to identify and support college sophomores and juniors who show exceptional promise of becoming this Nation’s next generation of research leaders in these fields. The characteristics the Foundation seeks in a Goldwater Scholar include: (1) effective display of intellectual intensity in the sciences, mathematics and engineering, and (2) strong commitment to a research career in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering, (3) potential for a significant future contribution to research in their chosen field. Scholarships of up to $7,500 a year are provided to help cover costs associated with tuition, mandatory fees, books, room and board. A sophomore who receives a Goldwater Scholarship will receive up to $7,500 in each of their junior and senior years. A junior who receives a Goldwater Scholarship will receive up to $7,500 in their senior year. The application deadline is the last Friday in January by 5pm Central To apply for a Gilman Scholarship make an advising appointment with Professor Benowitz at benowitzj@etown.edu.
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.

Honors Thursday Sessions

This year we are excited to announce weekly Honors Thursday Sessions held each Thursday of the semester offering discussions on current events, topics, and U.S. Foreign Policymaking. Attending and participating in any of the following Honors Thursday Sessions each counts for one hour toward your co-curricular requirement.

U.S. Foreign Policymaking Leadership Sessions with Ambassador John Craig

Thursdays at 7:00 pm in the Honors Center:
- October 27

Politics & Religion: Let’s Talk! Discussions led by Luke Mackey

Thursdays at 7:00 pm in the Honors Center:
- November 3
- November 10
- November 17
- December 1

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.

Honors Course Registration Advising Session

Please review the virtual advising and course registration session for Honors students which covers questions regarding choosing courses, especially for the Honors Program, and building your spring semester schedule for the Spring 2023 semester. The link is to the recorded Zoom session is: https://cutt.ly/advisingspring23 or use the QR code. If you would like to schedule an Honors advising meeting with Dr. Ozkanca, Honors Program Director or Luke Mackey, Honors Program Assistant, please email honors@etown.edu.
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.

Follow us on Instagram: @etowncollegehonors

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/EtownCollegeHonors

Tweet us on Twitter: @EtownHonors

Follow us on LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/groups/9028630

LEARN, SERVE, AND LEAD

Sponsored by THE HERSHEY COMPANY