During my sabbatical in Fall 2021, I served as a Visiting Scholar at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. It was an intellectually stimulating and refreshing semester. I am deeply grateful to have the incredible assistance and support I received from Professor Jean-Paul Benowitz and Mr. Luke Mackey on my Honors Program duties, which enabled me to allocate time for my intellectual journey during my sabbatical. At Harvard, I wrote three articles on topics ranging from Turkey-European Union relations, Turkey-West relations, and on the foreign policy of the Republic of Cyprus, worked on my third book, tentatively titled, *The Eastern Mediterranean Powder Keg: Regional Alliances, Rising Geostrategic Competition, and Implications for Transatlantic Relations*, and conducted elite interviews with policymakers and diplomats from the US, France, Turkey, and Greece. I attended various workshops throughout my Visiting Scholarship to exchange in intellectual give-and-take with other fellows and scholars at Harvard. I was invited to give talks at Harvard, Tufts, Stanford, and Emmanuel College. I also had the honor of giving a keynote speech at the Opening Ceremony of the 2021 Geneva Peace Week on “Confronting Inequalities and Advancing Inclusion, Peace, and Sustainable Development Goal 16.” At the end of my sabbatical, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that I received the Ranck Prize for Research Excellence at Elizabethtown College, which proved to be such a wonderful way to end my sabbatical. Every day, I am inspired by our Elizabethtown College Honors Program students and our wider campus community and experience the privilege of living by our Honors Program’s own motto – *Learn, Serve, and Lead*!
Honors Student Spotlight

Amelia Wittmaier, Class of 2025
Mathematics Education Major

I have had a very positive experience in the Honors Program so far. I became a member of the Honors Program when I first applied to Elizabethtown College. On my first day of school, everyone in the program was extremely welcoming, and I really enjoyed HOOT and the orientation offered to the Honors students. Throughout the entire orientation weekend, I grew closer to everyone in the Honors Program. Living in the Honors residence in Schlosser Hall has also provided an opportunity to get to know the members of the Honors community extremely well since they are the people I interact with the most. As a member of the Honors Program, my FYS class was Honors. My FYS has been one of the best classes I have taken so far in my college career. Every week each person in my FYS met with Professor Benowitz, and I have felt as though this really helped me improve my writing. It also helped me become less stressed about my college career because Professor Benowitz spaced out our research paper, while I heard from most of my friends in their FYS they were expected to write the entire paper at the end of the semester. I am a part of Student Senate, and this has been a very valuable part of college. I have felt more connected with the student community because I have been able to have a connection between staff and students. I can bring up the issues my classmates have raised while also continuing to be informed at the meetings to share with my classmates. I have also become close with many of the Senators, allowing me to get to know more of the student body here at Elizabethtown College. Overall, I have really enjoyed my college experience, and I feel as though being in the Honors Program has really helped me grow as a student and feel a part of a supportive group in my college journey.

Honors Academic Research Grants

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.

Deadlines for application submission are April 15 for the Spring semester. Academic Grant applications will not be approved until after the semester’s application deadline, and applications must be approved before funds will be disbursed.

You can find the application on the Honors Program website:
https://www.etown.edu/programs/honors/resources.aspx
Honors Community Engagement & Leadership

Student Spotlight

Sagar Patel, Class of 2023

Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Major

Psychology Minor

To promote the College’s motto “Educate for Service,” I had the wonderful opportunity to volunteer my time at two different but unique locations. The first place I was able to volunteer at was at Hershey High School for their annual “Ben and Tim Day” in August of this past year. I did this along with some of my fellow cross-country teammates. During “Ben and Tim Day,” people raise money in order to honor Ben Yupcavage and Tim Russell, who were tragically killed in an automobile accident. They do this by organizing a 5-kilometer race and a 1-mile fun run at Hershey High School. So many different types of people come to race here, from people who have been running for decades to children who have never raced before in their life. This experience gave me the opportunity to learn, serve, and lead. I learned a lot about the sport of running. Not only does it promote physical fitness, but it also promotes mental toughness and is a great source of therapy. I served my community by supporting fellow runners as they were racing in the 5-kilometer race and the 1-mile fun run. I cheered for some of the runners as they ran past my teammates and me. I handed out medals to racers who finished in the top 10 of their age group. I also handed out goody bags filled with candy and participation medals to children who participated in either race. I lead during this experience by organizing the event alongside with other great people during the process. My teammate and I ran the merchandise table, as we sold different kinds of shirts, hats, and headbands in honoring Ben and Tim. We raised a lot of money that day, and that puts a warm smile on my face to help a great organization.

The second place I volunteered at was called the Health Center at Galloway. This is a nursing home and a rehabilitation center located in Galloway, New Jersey. I mainly volunteered with the physical therapy department and the occupational therapy department over the winter break. I had the wonderful opportunity to meet some of the physical therapists and occupational therapists and get an introduction to how to help people in the medical field. They taught me a variety of life skills, such as empathy, communication skills, and patience. I also had the ability to develop good relationships with some of the residents inside the nursing home. I had the opportunity to help some of them learn how to walk again, put on their clothes, and use a recumbent bicycle. Through this experience, I learned that it is okay to ask for help from other people. I also learned that we should learn how to care for other people, especially if they have a mental health issue. As a society, we should be more open and more willing to help everyone, because at the end of the day, everyone is a person.

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. Students should submit their log and reflection paper by the beginning of their sophomore, junior, and senior years. Senior students are exempt from the co-curricular requirements.

Community-Based Learning courses fulfill the 15-hour co-curricular requirement for the Honors Program. Please check the Registration & Records Course Listing page to view all of the CBL courses offered during the semester.

Please see the Honors Program Canvas page for details and submission information.
Professor Benowitz Appointed to NCHC Places As Text Committee

Professor Benowitz has been appointed to a new term on the Places as Text Committee of the National Collegiate Honors Council. His committee term began on 1/1/2022 and will conclude on 12/31/2024. The NCHC Places as Text Committee is a group of faculty who lead Professional Development programs for honors faculty through facilitating Place As Text Faculty Institutes across the nation. The committee plans and offers City As Text and Place As Text experiential learning (on site in various cities) master classes for honors faculty. The committee offers all the City As Text programming at the NCHC annual meetings. NCHC Faculty Institutes are development opportunities for honors faculty and administrators who wish to incorporate interdisciplinary and field-based elements into their courses and programs. The City as Text experiential strategies of the Institute include reflective practices and projects adaptable to study abroad, service learning, student orientations, campus assessments, and professional development workshops as well as honors courses in any discipline. Identifying and transferring principles of integrative experiential learning are important goals of the Institute. Professor just completed his last three year term and has been asked to continue serving on the committee.

Changes to the Honors Handbook Effective Spring 2022

Based on the latest meeting of the Honors Committee, here are the changes to the Honors Program's policies:

Effective Spring 2022, in the event of an Honors student’s alleged conduct violation, the Honors Program Director will be notified by the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Honors students directed to participate in a conduct process are expected to comply with the directives issued by the conduct hearing officer. Honors students found responsible and sanctioned to Disciplinary Probation will be notified by the Honors Program Director of their loss of access to Academic Grants and will be ineligible to overload for free. Honors students found responsible and sanctioned to Disciplinary Suspension or Disciplinary Expulsion will be notified by the Honors Program Director of their removal from the Honors Program and loss of all privileges associated with the Program.

In case of lack of submission of the annual log of activities and the annual reflection paper for the 15-hour annual co-curricular requirement of the Honors Program, the students that did not submit the log and reflection paper will be ineligible to apply for Academic Grants and overload for free.

Moving forward, stacked courses will be renamed professor-contracted courses, and contract courses will be renamed student-contracted courses.
Meet the Honors Council

Darci Ott, President – “I’m excited to lead such an amazing group of individuals and bring new opportunities to the program!”

Jessica D’Iorio, Vice President – “I’m looking forward to working with my fellow peers to improve the campus community.”

Hayden Mitchell, Secretary – “I’m excited to organize and attend holiday events...also the murder mystery event!!”

Brendan Atticks, Treasurer – “I’m excited to get to know the new Council and program members, and hope to build upon the wonderful repertoire of events we have put on in the past.”

Alex Lynch, Representative – “I’m excited for the murder mystery! I can’t wait to see if anyone can solve our crime.”

Ruth Jacobs, Representative – “I’m excited to see what kinds of projects and events Honors Council takes on this year. I would love to contribute to them by offering new ideas to improve Council as a whole.”

Jasmine Romano, Representative – “I’m excited to represent this program and to plan different events to bring us all together!”

Jordyn Diel, Representative – “I am excited to be more involved with the Honors Program and have the chance to represent my fellow classmates!”

Meghan Williams, Representative – “I’m excited to participate in events and to get to know more members of the Honors Program!”

Courtney Katch, Representative – “I am excited for our events and creating opportunities for students to grow.”

Piper Wright, Representative – “I’m excited to help plan fun activities for outside the classroom to help us de-stress and have memorable experiences!”

Kyle Hess, Representative – “I am excited to involve the new students in activities.”

Kaleigh Christ, Representative – “I am excited to represent my peers and implement fresh ideas that will foster the further development and success of the Honors Program.”

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Grow Your Strengths

The Honors Council hosted a Grow Your Strengths event with Stacey Zimmerman to help Honors students maximize their natural strengths while guiding students in planting succulents.

Be on the lookout for more event announcements coming from the Honors Council!
Call for Applications for 
HON 207 Peer Educator Seminar

The Honors Program is seeking applications for one HON 207 Peer Educator course (for a team of Peer Educators in the case of team-taught proposals) to enroll in a 2-credit Pass/No Pass Peer Educator Seminar with Dr. Ozkanca, which will provide teacher training, and to lead a 1-credit Pass/No Pass Peer HON 208 Reading Seminar in which up to twelve Honors students may enroll in Spring 2023. The Peer Educator will select a theme and three books (fiction, non-fiction, or a combination of the two) related to that theme. In the Peer Reading Seminar, the Peer Educator will lead discussion of those books on a weekly basis. Essentially, the Peer Reading Seminar is a type of credit-bearing book discussion group.

No later than Wednesday, September 7th at noon, junior or senior students desiring to serve as Peer Educators should submit seminar proposals, which will be placed before the Honors Committee. The Honors Director will select one Peer Educator and one alternate (or in the case of team-taught proposals, one team and one alternate). The proposal form is accessible via the following link: https://forms.office.com/r/ujRkvBnwRS or the QR code.

Both Peer Educator Seminars and Peer Reading Seminars will apply to Nest no. 1 in the Honors curriculum. Over the course of students’ time at E-town, they may take a maximum of 4 credits for any combination of Peer Educator Seminars and/or Peer Reading Seminars.

Interested in Studying Abroad for Honors Credit?
On Thursday, March 31st at 6:00pm in the Honors Center Conference Room, we will be having study abroad presentations from Honors students who have studied abroad or are currently abroad. This is a great opportunity to learn the value of studying abroad while also receiving Honors credit.

Undergraduate Journal Article Publication Opportunity—Illuminate

We would like to encourage you to submit your presentation electronically to the NRHC journal, Illuminate. This will help you build a stronger resume, especially for graduate school and prestigious fellowships and scholarship applications. Illuminate only accepts academic papers of 5,000 words or less for consideration. For art entries: students are invited to send a detailed summary of their art project and pictures for consideration. Creative works: students are also invited to submit creative writing or other artistic pieces to the journal for consideration. Full submission guidelines are available HERE. The form for submissions will be open by August 30, 2021 and submissions are due no later than May 20, 2022. If you have any questions, you may reach out directly to the editors of Illuminate at illuminatenrhc@gmail.com. We hope you take advantage of this wonderful opportunity!
Upcoming Honors Events

U. S. Foreign Policymaking Leadership Sessions with Ambassador Craig

Thursdays, March 10 & 24, April 7 & 21
@ 7:00 pm in the Honors Center Lounge

Informal Sessions on Wednesdays @ 11 am in the Honors Center Lounge will be held on the following dates: February 16 and March 9 & 16

Attendance at each session counts for 1 hour toward the Honors co-curricular community engagement/service/leadership activity requirement for this academic year 2021-2022.

U.S. Foreign Policymaking Leadership Sessions
Lecture Series with Dr. Selcher

American cultural and public opinion traits and the US leadership style in the world: End of consensus?

Thursday, March 17 in Hoover 212 at 7:00 PM

The US has been the single most influential country in the world since 1945 and claims to exercise world leadership since then. The style of that American leadership, its internal contradictions, and its acceptance or rejection by other countries have significant roots in American values, attitudes, and interests that are not widely shared in other countries, which make up 95 percent of the world’s population. The nature of US public opinion, our political style, and the sharp debate about national goals and what it means to be an American carry over to our foreign relations. This presentation will focus on how American values and the changing US public opinion climate affect our broader foreign policy stances and our characteristic approaches to specific issues. Tips on how to sharpen your own understanding of US foreign policy will be offered as we survey the topic. Attendance at each session counts for 1 hour toward the Honors co-curricular community engagement/service/leadership activity requirement for this academic year 2021-2022.

How to Think Like an Intelligence Analyst

Thursday, March 31 in Hoover 212 at 7:00 PM

This presentation will provide an overview of intelligence analysis as a process and provide tips for more objective and accurate empirical analysis in figuring out foreign situations generally. Our political scene now features a fiercely politicized public opinion climate, identity politics, emotionalism, populist demagoguery, conspiracy theories, stress on partisan orthodoxy, virtue-signaling rhetoric, separate partisan “facts,” and alienation from and loathing of one’s opponents. This is exactly the opposite of how an intelligence analyst must proceed. The goals of intelligence analysis are NOT “fairness,” “balance,” “sensitivity,” “political correctness,” or “social justice,” as praised so much in academics and in some news sources. The goals are accuracy and policy-relevance, which demands intellectual integrity, sound reasoning powers, sound analytical judgement, and skill at building useful scenarios. The analyst must identify current dynamics and future prospects, for the accurate briefing of decision-makers in government, the military, or business. Practical tips on how to be a more discerning student “consumer” of news and analysis will be drawn for you from those practices. Attendance at each session counts for 1 hour toward the Honors co-curricular community engagement/service/leadership activity requirement for this academic year 2021-2022.

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.
Upcoming Honors Events

Poverty Simulation
Friday, March 11 from 4:00-6:30 pm via Zoom

The Honors Program in conjunction with the Stamps Program and the Center for Community & Civic Engagement will be having a Poverty Simulation on March 11th that will be eligible to count toward your Honors co-curricular community engagement/service/leadership activity requirement for this academic year. The Simulation will be held via Zoom from 4 pm to 6:30 pm. Please reach out to honors@etown.edu by March 1st if you would like to register to participate at the Poverty Simulation. If you have previously taken part at the Poverty Simulation, you can still attend this version by requesting us to be assigned a different role assignment.

NRHC Conference - April 7-10, 2022

The Honors Program is delighted to announce that we will sponsor the participation of six Honors students (first-come-first-serve) at the Northeast Regional Honors Council Annual Conference to be held in Philadelphia from April 7th to April 10th. The theme of the Conference is "A More Perfect Union: Creating and Restoring Community in an Age of Disruption." The registration deadline is March 1st. Please send a message to honors@etown.edu, if you would like to be among the six Honors students to attend the conference. There will be a pre-Conference meeting to determine which one of our delegation members will attend which Conference sessions. Upon return from the Conference, there will be a debriefing session to exchange ideas on the insights gained.

Samvid Scholarship Application

Honors seniors, in the spirit of “Educate for Service,” going to graduate school in the Fall of 2022, should apply for the Samvid Scholars a new, merit-based graduate scholarship for leaders and change makers. The Samvid Scholars program supports up to $50,000 per year for two years of graduate study in the United States. In addition to funding for their graduate program, each Scholar will receive two years of leadership development programming. To apply contact Professor Benowitz benowitzj@etown.edu.

Financial Aid for Honors Students to Study Abroad

The U.S. Department of State’s Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program is pleased to announce that the application is open for Gilman and Gilman-McCain Scholarships. This program enables U.S. undergraduate students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad, providing them with skills critical to our national security and economic prosperity.

The Gilman Program offers scholarships of up to $5,000 to U.S. undergraduate students of high financial need (Pell Grant recipients) participating in credit-bearing abroad programs in locations with Level 1 or Level 2 Travel Advisories, according to the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Consular Affairs, or approved Level 3 locations (available on the Gilman Program website, www.GilmanScholarship.org). Eligible in-person or virtual study abroad programs or internships must start between May 1, 2022 and April 30, 2023. Students studying critical need languages may be eligible to receive an additional award of up to $3,000. For more information, please visit: https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/

The application deadline is Tuesday, March 1, 2022, by 11:59pm Pacific Time.

- Advisors must certify applications by Tuesday, March 8, 2022.
- Students and Advisors will be notified of award status in May 2022.

Every Tuesday through February 8th, the Gilman Program will offer 45-minute orientations to provide an overview of the Gilman and Gilman-McCain Scholarships for new and veteran advisors via Zoom from 2:00-2:45pm Eastern Time. You can register here: https://bit.ly/3GHAhFE

To Apply contact Professor Benowitz benowitzj@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.

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