Keystone Media Awards Recognizes Two Honors Students

Honors Program students, Jessica Freels '22 and Samantha Seely '21, were recently awarded top honors for the Best Feature (Broadcast) for the 2021 Student Keystone Media Awards. Competing in Division II for students enrolled at four-year colleges and universities with enrollment under 10,000, Jessica's entry, Benny the Bird, was awarded first place, and Samantha's entry, Spotted Lantern Flies, was awarded second place.

Jessica noted, "I'm honored to have won a Keystone Media Award! I received first place for the category Best Feature (Broadcast) for my video "Benny the Bird." This was a news package story that I made for my Broadcast News class. It’s about Benny, the cardinal who kept flying into the Hackman South apartment windows. Throughout the fall semester, Benny would frequently fly into my apartment windows, as well as our neighbors’ windows. Towards the end of the semester, Dr. Johnson asked me if I was interested in submitting my video to the student Keystone Media Awards. I didn't expect anything to come of it, so I’m incredibly grateful that Dr. Johnson saw something in my video and helped me enter the contest. I'm super proud of my fellow Etown peers for sweeping the category with me."

Samantha shared, "I'm surprised and grateful to have been awarded second place for Best Feature (Broadcast) by the Keystone Media Awards. I hope that the video helps convey to people how big of a problem the spotted lanternflies are, and the way they can take steps to stop it. I really enjoyed making this video and putting the techniques and skills we learned in class to practice, and I'm really happy with how it turned out! I also would like to congratulate my fellow classmates, Jessica Freels and Cameron Scandle for winning their awards; their videos were also incredibly well-done!"

The N.E.S.T. Level Podcast

Honors Student Laura Cardona '23 and Kourtney Whittington '22 host a podcast titled, The N.E.S.T. Level Podcast available at this link, to discuss their passions: international news and business developments. They shared, 'Through our podcast, we hope to expose our listeners to a diverse range of topics. So far, we have covered the farmers’ protest in India, the military coup in Myanmar, and consumer business laws in New York. We are actively searching for topics and enjoy exploring how the triple bottom line (people, planet, and profit) is being applied to our daily lives. This is a new and exciting project for both of us, and we are grateful for the opportunity!"
Say 'Hello' to the Honors Program Student Assistants

Next time you are in the Honors Center, you might be helped by one of our new student assistants. We are excited to have Lauren, Gillian, and Jordan as team members! They provide support for the Program in person and remotely through managing the daily operations of the Honors Center, assisting with Program communications and marketing initiatives, providing office support, and supporting Program events and outreach efforts.

My name is **Lauren Comly '23**, and I am a sophomore Engineering Major with a concentration in Biomedical Engineering and minors in Interfaith Leadership Studies and Physics. I participate in Women in Engineering, Habitat for Humanity, Spanish Club, and am in an SDLC! My long-term career aspiration is to work at a Veterans Administration hospital working with veterans and fitting their prosthetics. I am heavily involved in the Venturing Program offered by Boy Scouts of America, which provides me the opportunity to travel all around the Northeast! My favorite Honors Program memory so far is during FYS my first semester we took a day trip to Washington, DC, and it was so much fun with Prof. Benowitz. Some of my hobbies include camping (hammocks are the way to go), bread baking, and having long FaceTime calls with my best friends in other states.

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Hello everyone! My name is **Gillian Conner '23**, and I am a sophomore Early Childhood Education major here at Etown! I am also minoring in Psychology! I want to start off with teaching 1-3 grade, but ultimately hope to become a school counselor or school psychologist at the elementary level. I am involved in the education clubs on campus, and also play on the women’s volleyball team! Besides being the Honors Program Student Assistant, I am also a Blue Jay Ambassador and a tutor in the Learning Zone. My favorite Etown tradition is the Thanksgiving dinner, and my favorite thing about the Honors Program (and Etown in general) so far is how helpful and kind everyone is. I always feel supported, yet I also feel challenged. I think the close-knit community we have here at Etown and within the Honors Program is unlike most schools! Stop by the Honors Center on Monday and Wednesday mornings to say hi to me!

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Hello! My name is **Jordan Lilly '23**, and I am a sophomore Biology major and Anthropology minor. I enjoy baking and my favorite TV show is Criminal Minds. Another fun fact is that I have had 6 jobs. My fondest memory of Elizabethtown College is my FYS learning Karate from our professor (We looked a little ridiculous!). I am involved with the on-campus Girl Scout troops, and I also work in the High Library behind the circulation desk. If you see me around, feel free to say hello or ask me questions!

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Coffee with Council

Take a break from homework and come relax with Honors Council **every other Sunday, starting Sunday, March 14**! Coffee with Council is a great way to kick back, relax, and meet some new people. 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!
"My name is Crystal Uminski ’16 and I graduated from the Honors Program with a degree in Biology Secondary Education. As a student at Etown, I was a research assistant at the Young Center, served as Copy Chief at the Etownian student newspaper, and was an active member in Tri Beta Biology Honor Society, Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society, and the Education Organization (Ed Org). After graduating from Elizabethtown, I taught biology, environmental science, and Earth science classes at a large regional high school in New Jersey. I later worked as an Assessment Specialist at the Educational Testing Service, where I developed science assessments for the College Board.

I am currently pursuing a Ph.D. in biology at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. I am a discipline-based education researcher, and my work focuses on assessment in undergraduate biology courses. My research article "GenBio-MAPS as a case study to understand and address the effects of test-taking motivation in low-stakes program assessments" will be published in the forthcoming issue of the academic journal CBE – Life Sciences Education. My graduate research is supported by the prestigious Graduate Research Fellowship award from the National Science Foundation.

I deeply appreciate the opportunities that I had during my liberal arts education at Elizabethtown. Being involved with courses and extracurriculars that extended beyond my major taught me cross-disciplinary critical thinking, provided me with a unique perspective to approach multifaceted problems, and allowed me to develop a broad set of skills that were useful at all the different stages of my career. While attending Elizabethtown, I could not have predicted that I'd end up in a doctoral program in Lincoln, Nebraska, but my education at Etown has prepared me well for this path!"

"Hello, I'm Lauren (DeMezza) Soss ’11, and I graduated from the Honors Program with a degree in Business Administration. I went on to obtain my MBA from Rutgers University, and I began a career in property management in 2013. This industry combined my love of real estate, people, and marketing. While at Etown, I worked in the Admissions Office as a tour guide and transitioned some of the same skills to lead tours through luxury apartment communities. Using what I learned from management courses at Etown (shout out to Dr. Ciocirlan!), I advanced to Assistant Manager, Property Manager, and now am working as a Regional Property Manager for the largest real estate company in the world, Greystar. An international company with a presence in over a dozen countries, Greystar manages high-end apartments across hundreds of markets. I oversee a portfolio of 2,000 apartment units across six Class A apartment buildings in Philadelphia, King of Prussia, and West Chester. My main responsibilities include coaching and developing my teams, preparing annual budgets, and strategizing ways to increase the value of the properties. I credit much of my success to the basic principles taught at Etown (such as the 4 Ps – product, price, place, promotion) and the extra attention given to all students due to the smaller class sizes.

Personally, I live with my husband, John, in my hometown of Cinnaminson, NJ, and we currently have one rental property of our own. Our goal is to build a portfolio of rentals over the next ten years. If you are interested in exploring employment options at Greystar, feel free to reach out to me on LinkedIn or check out Greystar’s careers site at https://www.greystar.com/careers/united-states-careers."
"Hello, I'm Jeremy Ebersole '05. When I entered Etown College and the Honors Program in 2001 from my home in Ohio, I never imagined I'd be running a nonprofit in Wisconsin 20 years later, much less having checked 49 states (still missing Alaska!) and six countries off my bucket list. After graduating in 2005 with a Communications major and Peace & Conflict Studies minor, I did two internships – at Disney's Animal Kingdom in Florida as a “safari guide” and the Mojave National Preserve in California as a park ranger – before returning to Etown as an Admissions Counselor for three wonderful years.

Wanting to devote part of my life to full-time volunteer service and see the world, I spent 2009-2011 on a self-designed round-the-world adventure. This life-changing time saw me building a labyrinth in Germany (through the fantastic organization Volunteers for Peace); working with wildlife in Guatemala, sloths in Costa Rica, and website design in the Galapagos Islands; doing an archaeological dig in Israel; and taking a working holiday in New Zealand, living in hostels and finding odd jobs at hostels, hotels, bookstores, and restaurants. There is no wrong time for a gap year (or many), and there are few better ways you could spend your time than purposely stepping outside your comfort zone, serving others, and experiencing different cultures.

I then returned to Lancaster and worked in restaurants, cinemas (my favorite job ever), libraries, and with adults with developmental disabilities for a few years before starting down the track of heritage conservation. This led to an internship through the Student Conservation Association (an incredible organization for anyone interested in natural resources conservation or parks) with the National Heritage Areas program of the National Park Service in Philadelphia and later to a communications position with the Essex National Heritage Area in Salem, Massachusetts.

I met my wife in New England and followed her to Vermont, where I worked at the front desk at a resort for three years before returning to graduate school in 2018 (it's never too late!). I completed my Master's in Historic Preservation from the University of Oregon – Portland in 2020 (my thesis was on neon signs!). I recently began my current position as Executive Director of the Milwaukee Preservation Alliance, a nonprofit advocacy organization focused on architectural and cultural heritage preservation.

I'm also privileged to serve on the board of the Society for Commercial Archeology, a national roadside architecture preservation nonprofit, and the Etown College Peace Fellowship. Through all my iterations, Etown remains a very special place and I credit my time there with encouraging me out of my high school shell and giving me the confidence to be myself and follow my passion wherever it leads.

There is no such thing as the “right” path to follow in your career. YOU make that path, no matter how winding or focused it may be. If you are doing something you love that is making the world a better place, you are in the right place😊."
Honors Program Annual Co-Curricular Requirements

Honors students already uphold the College’s motto -- Educate for Service -- and the Honors Program’s motto -- Learn, Serve, and Lead -- throughout their college experience. Many of our Honors Program students regularly and actively engage in volunteer service, community engagement, and leadership experiences each year. A new co-curricular requirement in the Honors Program will allow students to record and share those experiences. This initiative will help us recognize the meaningful contributions our Honors students already make to their communities, locally, nationally, and internationally.

Beginning in Fall 2021, Honors students are required to record their 15 hours of volunteer service, community engagement, and leadership each year throughout their undergraduate education. Starting in Fall 2022, all Honors students will submit a diary of those activities as well as a reflection paper on a yearly basis.

What are benefits for students?
- Recognizes and celebrates the significant and impactful service conducted by students annually
- Helps develop inter-group friendships on deeper levels and enhance our students’ identities as engaged citizens
- Provides students a way to purposefully organize and demonstrate their community engagement, volunteer service, and leadership activities, which in turn will help in preparing applications for graduate schools, prestigious scholarships and fellowships, and other career opportunities

What is required for students?
- Log of 15 hours/year of community engagement, personal volunteer or community service, leadership and/or experiential learning and engagement activities (starting Fall 2021)
- 3-5 page, double-spaced yearly reflection paper submitted to Honors@etown.edu by the end of the Drop Period each Fall Semester (starting Fall 2022)

What counts towards these annual hours?
- Community-based Learning (CBL) courses, such as HON 201
- Opportunities through the Center for Community and Civic Engagement at Etown
- Attending all US Foreign Policymaking Leadership Sessions with Ambassador John Craig (moderated by Dr. Ozkanca) throughout the academic year
- And many more volunteering and/or community engagement and/or leadership opportunities (to be pre-approved by the Director of the Honors Program)

For more information, watch Dr. Ozkanca’s Co-curricular Requirement Information Session (from March 10, 2021) here: https://use.vg/1TgN1q
Honors Phone-a-thon a Success

From February 22 to March 5, Dr. Ozkanca and volunteers from the Honors Council made outreach phone calls to many prospective Etown Honors Program students. They connected with prospective students considering Etown to talk about the College and the Honors Program, as well as answer any questions.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to our Honors Council volunteers Natalie Blanton, Alex Lynch, Darci Ott, and Meghan Williams for making these calls. Thank you, too, to Honors Program student assistants, Gillian Conner and Jordan Lilly, for helping to manage space reservations to ensure phones were ready for our callers. And thank you to the Kinesis team for their flexibility in sharing spaces throughout the phone-a-thon.

Congratulations to Meghan Williams, who won a $50 Bookstore gift card in the random drawing for the phone-a-thon volunteers!

THANK YOU

Upcoming Honors Events

March 18-19, 2021 Two Student/Alumni Sessions with the Honors Program External Reviewers
All Honors Program students and Alumni are welcome to join the two virtual sessions with our External Reviewers. Please email honors@etown.edu to receive the link for the meetings.

March 20, 2021 at 3:00pm, Murder Mystery
Join us for a virtual night of mystery as you and your team of detectives solve the cereal killing of Lucky the Leprechaun in our installment of Cereal Killer: When Luck Runs Out. On Saturday, March 20th at 3:00 you and your group of 3-6 people can meet the other cereal characters who will give you clues to help you solve the murder. One sign-up needed per group: https://forms.gle/26XANCecerdgAbd27. Space is limited. Direct any questions to ottd@etown.edu.

March 23, 2021 at 4:00pm, Honors Program Advising Session with Dr. Ozkanca
Dr. Ozkanca will hold an advising session for all Honors Program students ahead of the registration period. Zoom connection: https://etown.zoom.us/j/91479098201

March 24, 2021 at 7:30pm, US Foreign Policymaking Leadership Session with Ambassador Craig
Zoom connection: https://etown.zoom.us/j/92925902800

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

Mark your calendar:

March 23, 2021
Show your love for the Honors Program at Etown

Power of One Day