

# Saunterer

CLARKE HONORS COLLEGE • FALL 2023



Salisbury  
UNIVERSITY

Make Tomorrow Yours

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### Check out our Facebook page at:

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Like Thoreau in *Walden*, we will record our sauntering here, remembering that "if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours."

Cover photo by Emily Ritzes

# Dear Future Students,

When considering Salisbury University, I was unaware of the Clarke Honors College. However, as soon as I heard the benefits of the honors college, I was immediately drawn in.

The Clarke Honors College has already given me an abundance of skills, and I am only in my first semester of my freshman year. Benefits include permission to come to the honors house from 7 a.m.-midnight to study or print assignments, priority enrollment, honors housing, understanding professors who only want the best for you and a community of fellow scholars who strive for greatness.

The honors college has been more welcoming than I could have ever asked for, especially during this time of transition. The overwhelming amount of support and guidance the honors college staff has given me has helped calm my nerves and made me feel less alone when coming to Salisbury University.

In high school, I struggled to find my own uniqueness within and outside of the building walls. Being a part of the Clarke Honors College has finally made me feel like my presence matters, because it does. The honors professors and Honors Ambassadors constantly encourage me, guide me on the best classes to take and believe in all their students with great pride.

If you are unsure of what college is best for you, I highly recommend considering committing to Salisbury University's Clarke Honors College and joining this amazing community. Take the leap of faith. You won't regret it.

See you on campus,

**Tessah Good '27**



# MEET THE NEW Editor-in-Chief

Hello everyone! My name is Mandy Sanidad (he/him), and I'm a marketing major and communication - multimedia journalism minor. I'm super excited to be here working on *The Saunterer*.

I'll be honest, when I was recommended to apply for the editor-in-chief position, I was skeptical. Getting into a leadership position so early on wasn't in my original deck of cards when I first came to Salisbury. I'd been interested in objective journalism ever since I was 11, so working in PR was a huge adjustment. But after a push from Professor Lauren Hill reminding me that I had the skills and experience to make something really, really cool,

I applied. When I was offered the job, I happily accepted. Who would I be to deny the opportunity?

Training to work as the editor-in-chief last semester lit a spark in me I hadn't felt in a very long time. I realized how wonderful it is to be able to meet, interview and write about all of the genuinely interesting people in the Clarke Honors College. I've always been more of a listener than a talker, and being able to listen to the absolutely amazing students and faculty here ignites a passion for learning and information that I can't just find anywhere else.

Journalism is important; I will never deny that. But, choosing to focus on the few good things in the world never hurts. Life is hard enough; why not stop and smell the roses?

I come from a very diverse area, and I am a very diverse person. As a gay, trans, Filipino man, my identities heavily influence who I am. I hope to convey this diversity in the magazines I'll be putting out during my time here. Where we come from may not always define who we are now, but it always influences our perspective. Paying homage to that is important; staying true to how we define ourselves is even more important.

There's a certain joy you can get by following that curiosity you have about the world, about the people in it. Follow that curiosity; it may lead you to where you belong.

For me, right here, right now, I belong here. Maybe you do too.



# Faculty Spotlight Devon Bristow



By Alwick Blouch

Devon Bristow (she/they) is one of the newest faculty members in the Clarke Honors College. They teach HONR 111 and ENGL 103, both research classes for freshmen, as an adjunct professor. They are excited to work with students and facilities alike in this new endeavor.

Bristow was originally an undergraduate student here at Salisbury University as an honors student. They lived in one of the Living Learning Communities with other honors students, which allowed them to build strong connections with other honors students.

“We all went through honors classes together and came out the other side of it together,” she said.

After earning a bachelor’s degree, they also received their master’s at Salisbury University. At the same time, they worked as a teaching assistant on campus. Being a teaching assistant helped to prepare them for their work as a professor.

Working as a professor has allowed them to watch as students connect to one another. In one instance when students were asked to say something nice about themselves in class the students decided to instead say something nice about the person next to them.

“The students are already forming that connection. Honors students are just good students,” she said.

Being a professor in the Clarke Honors College has meant Bristow even now is being pushed to do their very best. Other faculty have helped them build up their resume and experience so they can continue to grow professionally.

They know that the Clarke Honors College will allow them to explore different pathways of interest within the topics of the classes that they teach. But right now, they are happy where they are, teaching courses with research surrounding identity.

Now as a professor at Salisbury, Bristow gets to help students through the same experiences that they went through as a student. The Clarke Honors College helped them become the person they are today. They want to push their students to do their very best, just like their professors did with them.

# Faculty Spotlight Dr. Davis Carter



By Allison Dincau

This semester, the Clarke Honors College (CHC) has been lucky enough to welcome Dr. Davis Carter (he/him) as a member of the CHC community. Dr. Carter is working all over Salisbury University as a part of the CHC, the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity, and the Henson School's Biological Sciences Department.

No stranger to research, Dr. Carter studies how diseases spread through wildlife populations. After receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Dr. Carter plans to continue his research here at Salisbury University.

He has already begun working with a student on growth trials on Maryland fungicides, and he hopes to grow this research with more students in the future. Dr. Carter expressed the belief that research, no matter the field, is one of the best things an undergraduate student can do.

Dr. Carter has jumped straight into his involvement within the Clarke Honors College, teaching a freshman Honors 111 class where students come up with their own projects and work all semester to write a research paper.

One of his favorite parts of the class is the small size and the ability to work with the students as they get to work through their own thoughts and ideas. He describes the class as a 'create your own adventure book' and takes special note of the de-emphasis on memorization and the importance of critical thinking to the work, an ideal often lost in education standards today.

It is notable how much Dr. Carter values his students when he talks about the ways he gets to work with each of them and learns about their personalities, rather than just their work. Whether it be talking to students around campus or using humor to connect with them in class, Dr. Carter is already establishing himself as a vital part of the Clarke Honors College.

When asked what he hopes students take away from his class, Dr. Carter answered, "I hope they are all stronger writers and I hope that they have all begun to think about what it is to be a scholar and how now is the time to develop their ideas."

With a deep love of both research and his students, Dr. Carter is a fantastic addition to both the Clarke Honors College and Salisbury University as a whole.

# Clarke Honors College Student Represents the Flock

By Delaney Fairley

It is important that students of the Clarke Honors College do a phenomenal job representing Salisbury University and the honors program as a whole. Whether it's through excellent academic opportunities, such as internships, fellowships or through community service, students keep the honors college in high regard. Isabella Cabrera, a sophomore in marketing, is one of those students.

Cabrera is greatly involved in the community. She sings in Salisbury's *a capella* group Squawkapella, serves as the social media manager for the Conflict Analysis and Dispute Resolution Department, and conducts campus tours as a University Host. Clearly, Cabrera is a well-rounded student, which is a necessary quality to be an excellent Orientation Leader (OL) which she served as this past August.

Orientation Leaders are students extremely passionate about Salisbury University and want incoming students to understand the opportunities in front of them and have an amazing first week on campus. Orientation Leaders' responsibility is to welcome new students by teaching them valuable information and guiding them in memorable team-building activities.

"As Orientation Leaders, we help students find ways to get involved at SU as well as help them understand they have a plethora of resources to achieve academic success here at SU," Cabrera said. "In short, we help them understand what SU really is and prepare them to begin their time at SU."

Orientation Leaders truly make a difference in the first week at Salisbury for incoming students.

"I wanted to become an OL to help welcome incoming students to SU and help them feel a sense of belonging just like my OL had," Cabrera said.

There are many incredible parts of being an OL, but Cabrera's favorite was being able to "ease incoming students into their new environment and help them to make new friends."

Cabrera thanks the Clarke Honors College for allowing her to be more prepared for the job.

"The honors college helped me prepare to be an OL by teaching me valuable leadership skills as well as developing an ability to think of solutions in sudden situations," she said.

Salisbury University and the Clarke Honors College mold incredibly successful and passionate students. Cabrera has a bright future in marketing ahead of her and she plans to use her OL experience in her future career.

"It gave me the ability to handle high stress situations easily," she said. "Being an OL helped me come out of my shell a lot as I found myself getting better at socializing."

Cabrera recommends those interested to become an Orientation Leader. The program needs new OLs every year, and students passionate about Salisbury University are great candidates for the program.

Take it from Cabrera when she said, "they should absolutely give it a try, even if they've never worked a job like it before. It will help you grow leadership skills and build connections with others."

We can't wait to see what Cabrera's amazing future will look like as she navigates through the marketing scene.



# Kick Back and Relax with the Clarke Honors College's Freshman Relaxation Week

By Kaley Hardman and Claire Morin

With all the stress that college brings, sometimes all a student needs is to relax, kick their feet up and get their creative juices flowing. Mathijs Goyens-Harvey (he/him), a history major with a minor in French, and Zane Jacquot (he/him), an English - creative writing major, are both sophomores in the Clarke Honors College (CHC). Both wished that after a long semester of studying hard and writing long papers the honors college offered some creative and relaxing opportunities for them to let loose.

Goyens-Harvey said, "The honors college is very research-based, so we were thinking it would be a really cool idea if we incorporated some creative aspects."

The CHC has no shortage of creative students, but there were not many outlets for these students to express themselves. However, after honors professor Dr. Viktoria Basham reached out to Jacquot and Goyens-Harvey, they started drafting a plan to finish the spring 2023 semester with a splash of fun. Together with the help of their friends, they designed a week-long event involving student leaders who would be in charge of each session. Goyens-Harvey and Jacquot already knew who would be perfect for the job.

Jacquot explained, "For our first relaxation event, we had people in our head already. My friend Sophie Detorie is very artsy, so I asked her to lead a session on art and art therapy."

As students themselves, Goyens-Harvey and Jacquot understood the benefit of having student instructors teach each session. They knew there was a certain pressure to act professional during teacher-led activities that students may experience, and they didn't want that to weigh any students down.

"We wanted to highlight the relaxation part of the event," said Goyens-Harvey. Jacquot further pointed out, "It's kind of hard to connect with a teacher because they don't quite

understand what the student is going through. With other students, there's a mutual understanding."

Despite their confidence in their friends, both freshmen knew the road ahead was still rocky. They asked numerous people if they were willing to be involved, and multiple individuals had to rescind their involvement due to scheduling conflicts. However, Goyens-Harvey and Jacquot eventually saw the pieces finally fall into place.

"We held quick interviews to get everyone to tell us how they wanted to run their specific sessions. A lot of people seemed really excited to do their session," Goyens-Harvey recalled.

With the interviews conducted and the week planned, Goyens-Harvey and Jacquot could truly get excited for the event up ahead.

When the week finally came, it was clear to Goyens-Harvey and Jacquot that all of their efforts had paid off. Each session was full of honors students looking to loosen up after a tough semester, and the student leaders displayed masterful teaching skills, helping each student unlock their creative potential.

While the two felt relief that their project was able to come to fruition, they also felt pride, both in their friends

for their participation and how many people were able to benefit from the week of creative expression.

"This week was not only a distraction from school and the projects that come with that, it was constructive. Creative people got together, they learned something about each other, and they had fun too," said Jacquot.

With one relaxation week event under their belt, Goyens-Harvey and Jacquot continued to use their creativity and that of others to help fellow honors students destress. In fall 2023, the duo was able to reach out to more students to help lead the relaxation sessions. To make the week even more involved, there was an application process for freshmen and sophomores to volunteer their own ideas that they would lead for the new relaxation week. While future scheduling may become difficult, Goyens-Harvey and Jacquot both know how important creative expression is and are adamant that this program keeps going.

Jacquot concluded, "Even after we graduate, as long as the honors college has this program, they are bettering the honors community."





# Sugar, Spice and Everything Nice: Lead Honors Ambassador Megan Spicer

By Daniel McMillan

Megan Spicer (she/her), a senior majoring in chemistry, wears many “hats” around Salisbury University. Among her roles as Student Government Association (SGA) marketing director, chemistry tutor and orientation leader, one of her lesser-known roles is that of a lead Honors Ambassador.

The Clarke Honors College (CHC) Ambassadors are a dedicated team of upperclassmen who help incoming honors students adjust to the unique honors experience, not just academically but on all fronts. Each ambassador has a group of five to seven freshman mentees for whom they offer mentorship and valuable resources, and organize a variety of fun events in which they can participate.

In the spring semester of each year, the CHC Dean Andrew Martino sends out an email giving all upperclassmen in the honors college the opportunity to apply to become an ambassador. After they apply, they are interviewed by the dean and the lead Honors Ambassador, who, for the past few years, has been Spicer. Spicer’s recommendation for the position by the previous lead, Carly Nascimbeni, led to an interview with Martino, ultimately allowing her to be where she is now.

“I really like being involved,” Spicer said.

As part of her role as lead Honors Ambassador, Spicer meets with the dean and assistant dean of the honors college regularly to coordinate events with them to encourage enrollment. Some of these events include Scholars Day and open houses, where ambassadors promote the honors program and all of the opportunities associated with it.

Spicer and the other ambassadors have also collaborated with the honors faculty to plan a wide array of events for this semester, including bonding events between ambassadors and their mentees, information panels and, for the first time this year, Honors Ambassador study halls, where freshmen can come to get help with their HONR 111 projects.

“I think what makes us unique is our empathy,” Spicer said.

Next semester will be Spicers’ last at SU, and she has had an exciting run. In her SU career, she has experienced a trip to Sicily, a multi-year career in SGA and in November 2023, a chemistry research presentation before the National Collegiate Honors Council.

Like Spicer, the honors college and the ambassador program give students various opportunities for involvement on campus, allowing them to fully immerse themselves in the SU experience.



Honors Ambassadors and students at Honors Ambassador Pizza Party

# Lead Business Ambassador Isabella Casey

By Sammie Somers

The Clarke Honors College provides many forms of support to ensure student success at Salisbury University. One form is through Honors Student Ambassadors, who can provide advice and guidance to freshmen of the honors college. The lead ambassador for the Business Track in Honors is the incredible Isabella Casey (she/her).

Casey is a junior majoring in finance and minoring in information systems. She is pursuing this combination to “have extra credibility about programming and the use of Excel and the use of Microsoft.” As a result, she can help students in the business school with technical problems.

Casey joined the honors college her freshman year and became an ambassador in order to get involved in the honors community. At the start of her junior year, she became the lead ambassador for the Perdue Business track.

Ambassadors have five to seven honors students from their track who they mentor. They check in with their mentees frequently, either virtually through email or in person through events. One event that ambassadors host is a study hall.

“During study hall, any honors student can come to the honors house and ask whatever they want to, whether it’s about the Honors 111 paper, research, help or advice,” Casey explained. “Whatever it may be, that is the time for us to be there for them.”

Helping students is one of



Casey’s favorite things about being an ambassador. It allows her to form connections with the students, giving academic advice that can help them one day succeed. So many students Casey has worked with are now thriving.

“They’re doing great and so I’m so happy to see that,” she said.

The ability to mentor over students and watch them blossom has helped Casey grow as a person and expand her leadership capabilities. Working as an honors ambassador has been very meaningful to Casey. It has helped her build experience for her future, and Casey said, “I wouldn’t want to be a part of any other organization on campus.”

# Honors Student Association Social Media Coordinator and Honors Ambassador Claire Morin

By Sammie Somers

The Clarke Honors College has many exemplary individuals, and one of the most amazing is Claire Morin (she/her), who is both the social media coordinator for the Honors Student Association (HSA) and an Honors Ambassador who supports her fellow students.

Morin is a sophomore at Salisbury University and an education major with minors in math and deaf studies. She said that her goal is to one day be a teacher “because I really enjoy school itself and helping people in general.”

She chose math specifically as a minor because it was her favorite subject in high school. Upon arriving at Salisbury, she was very excited to learn that she could take American Sign Language to expand her knowledge and help more people in the future.

When looking for colleges, Morin chose SU because of the honors college and HSA.

“HSA also did volunteering, which I really enjoy doing. I’ve been doing it since eighth grade, and I really want to continue doing volunteer work,” she said. “Volunteering is a great way to get to know your community while helping people.”

Community service is one of the pillars of the honors college, and Morin has fully immersed herself in it.

To deepen her connection to the honors college community, Morin ran for the position of social media coordinator.

“I like to do art as a hobby in my spare time. A lot of flyers are made for the social media account designed to attract people to our events. I figured I can do that,” she said.

Such events allow her to meet all kinds of students and help them relax from classes.

In her sophomore year, Morin realized that she would likely drift further away from the honors college community as she shifted to focus on classes. To combat this, she became an ambassador for the Bellavance Honors Track of the honors college. So far, she has really enjoyed connecting with her mentees and finds delight in being “able to help them when they need me or just to be a listening ear.”

No matter the delight, there is a challenge in balancing all the roles that Morin does.

“It’s definitely worth it in the end,” she said. “I feel very passionate about being an Honors Ambassador and being in HSA, so I try to put my best effort into it.”

Morin added, “I feel like I’m learning how to be a role model as a future teacher. Being a role model is going to be especially important because I’m going to have students who look up to me. It’s kind of similar with the honors mentees right now and being their honors mentor.”

The experience has led Morin to hold the honors college close to her heart and promote the development of leadership in herself for her future. She encourages her fellow students to enjoy themselves.

“The honors college likes to provide many opportunities, and you should take advantage of them,” Morin said. “Whether it be something simple as a craft circle to something as complex as an honors study abroad, all of these experiences are going to help shape us into being the person who we want to be. It’s okay to go a little off track as we learn something from it.”





# Summer in Sicily

By Emily Ritzes

Be a traveler, not a tourist. These are the words I repeated in my head every day in preparation for the Clarke Honors College Global Seminar in Sicily this past summer. Before June 12, I had never been outside of the United States. With 11 other Clarke Honors College students and Dr. Andrew Martino, I left Dulles International Airport filled with excitement and nervousness. I had no clue what to expect or what I was really heading into, and that made me anxious. The other part of me was thrilled to finally be able to explore another country and learn about how people across the ocean live.

We were lucky enough to stay in Ortigia, Sicily, right off the corner of Syracuse. Ortigia is a small island neighborhood overflowing with art and history. From my hotel window, I had the most incredible view of the beautiful Ionian Sea. Our hotel was within walking distance of the school we were partnered with, Syracuse Academy. We were lucky enough to be joined on our trip by Stefano Parenti and Laura D'Aria. Both accompanied us to our welcome dinner, where we discussed the itinerary for the trip and what we were most looking forward to. We had our first taste of authentic Sicilian cuisine, which included shrimp and grilled tuna, and finished the night with cannolis.



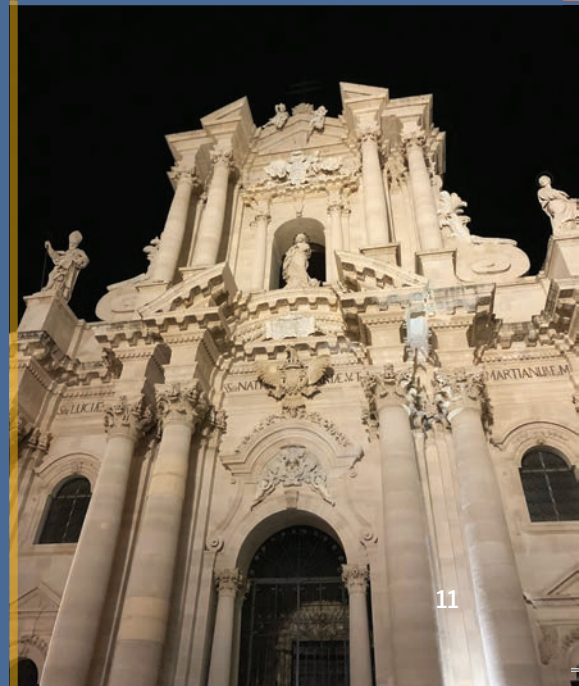
The first full day of our trip, we completed a walking tour of Ortigia with the most amazing guide, Carmen. Carmen took us around the island pointing out the historical buildings and mythology behind some of them. I was surprised to see so much history, art and architecture in such a short time all within a few steps of each other. One of the last stops on our tour was the Cattedrale di Siracusa, the beautiful, regal cathedral right across from the study center. It was amazing to see the remnants of a Greek temple built right into the walls of the mosque in an effort to preserve the beautiful columns. That night, we were able to take a cooking class in one of the local restaurants. Our instructor guided the whole group to make our own dinner, which included the tomato sauce we made from scratch.

The rest of the trip was filled with different excursions and lectures in which we learned about a variety of topics. Our days varied in length, and every day was completely unique. One day we hiked the Necropolis of Pantalica, and the next day we made chocolate that does not melt in Modica. We learned about Greek theatre and tragedy when touring the Neapolis Archaeological Park, which later in the trip was where we were able to see a performance of Medea completely in Italian. I am an avid lover of all things theatre, but the opportunity to see a Greek tragedy where millions of ancient people have been was one of the most amazing experiences that I will always talk about. It was so beautiful to be able to experience a show not understanding any of the words being said, but still walking away feeling connected to a work of art.

One of my favorite parts was a culture exchange with local students and other American students also studying abroad. All of us were nervous about not being able to speak Italian and were first very hesitant to speak. However, once we started talking, we did not want to stop. We swapped stories of home and what we had seen so far, and found we had a lot of common ground.

The last day was the excursion I was looking forward to the most: hiking up Mount Etna. Throughout our travels, we had been able to see Mount Etna in the distance. The drive up the summit was filled with twists and turns, and the land around us only seemed to expand. Standing at the top of the summit looking around at how much space made me feel so small in the grand scheme of things. But, one quote from earlier in the trip stuck out in my mind: "Molte piccole persone, in piccoli posti, facendo piccole cose, possono cambiare il mondo." The phrase by Eduardo Galeano means "Many little people, in little places, doing little things, they can change the world."

I may have only been in Sicily with a small group for two weeks, but the lessons we learned are things we will always carry with us. I will always take the chance to talk with those around me and learn their stories, and not be afraid to travel outside of my comfort zone. There is no greater way to learn about people than to immerse yourself fully into their culture. If presented with the opportunity – always be the traveler, not the tourist.



# Mental Health Advocation in a New Form

By Delaney Fairley



Photo by Samantha Tirelli

I am a sophomore of the Clarke Honors College, double majoring in psychology and theatre with a minor in sociology. This summer, I had the opportunity to participate in an internship with the Bridge Program in Bel Air, MD.

The Bridge Program is a Harford County government organization whose goal is to aid the youth with understanding mental health education and substance abuse recovery. The program offers many educational resources and programs that I got to assist with during my internship.

One of the programs that I assisted with is the CALM (Creating Awareness Living with Mindfulness) class, which educates youth about coping strategies and understanding their emotions. As my main project throughout the internship, I designed a CALM curriculum for elementary school students. My curriculum consisted of three, two-hour class sessions on emotional wellness and stress regulation, mental health awareness, and substance abuse education. After the curriculum gets finalized over winter break, my curriculum will be put in place for elementary school students across the county in the next school year.

Another program that I participated in was the Nature Worx. Nature Worx is a nature-based therapy program that teaches youth the ways that nature can improve their overall wellness. On my first day of the internship, I attended and led one of the organization's programs, a nature hike. Nature Worx hosts monthly nature walks at diverse locations throughout Harford County. The walk I attended took place at the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, a wooded area overlooking Otter Point Creek. The walk was an excellent experience and I gained valuable insights like the way nature can soothe stresses that can feel overwhelming elsewhere.

Another one of my responsibilities during this internship was to attend various community events. I worked the Bridge Program table at the Harford County Farm Fair and educated county residents about the dangers of multiple different drugs, from illegal to the misuse of prescriptions. I taught youth about the difference between safe and harmful drugs by having them spin the candy or medicine wheel. Throughout this process, I educated students about what to do if they are offered unlabeled medications and how to handle specific peer pressure situations such as friends offering them "medicine."

Another large part of my internship was aiding with youth case management for youth students between the ages of 8 and 17. I worked hands-on with multiple students enrolled in the Bridge Program and got to know them and their experiences very well. As the only young adult working in the office, I was able to connect with them in a way that other older adults may not necessarily have been able to. I found that youth are more likely to open and connect with younger people rather than adults around middle age, and I provided a peer role model for the students to turn to. It made

sense that the students connected better with me because older adults may not be able to relate to their circumstances. Since my future career goal is to be a therapist, this was an excellent opportunity for me to gain experience working one-on-one with students.

Participating in the Harford County Bridge Program internship was an incredible opportunity. The internship gave me valuable insight into the world of mental health and substance use awareness and prepared me for my future career as an aspiring therapist who specializes in adolescent and family care. I could not have had such an incredible internship experience if it were not for the Clarke Honors College. My experience as an honors student prepared me for this internship immensely, specifically courses such as Honors 111 that helped improve my writing and research skills which I used throughout the internship process when writing my curriculum. I am proud to be able to represent the Clarke Honors College through my successes as a Harford County Bridge Program intern and I look forward to using what I learn this year to better prepare myself to complete the internship again next summer.





## Working for the City of Salisbury

By Sophie Detorie

I am a junior English major with a minor in law, justice and advocacy, and over the summer I worked in the City of Salisbury Mayor's Office as their communications intern. I feel more connected to the Salisbury community than ever before because of all the amazing people I met and worked with.

Responsibilities of the communications intern included helping the head of communications with any project she needed to be completed or edited. For example, I created a few different social media campaigns that had been scheduled to be posted throughout the summer and fall. My favorite campaign was probably a series of social media posts encouraging residents to visit the city website to learn what districts they live in and to register to vote before November.

My main job, and the one I loved the most, was writing press releases for the city's website and social media. As an English major who had written and edited for *The Saunterer* for the past two semesters, I felt very comfortable writing informational and promotional material for the city.

I wrote, or at least edited and revised, several of the press releases on the city's website from June through the beginning of August. I really enjoyed this process, which included doing a lot of research into the event I was writing about so that I could fully explain it in my writing in an understandable way.

The Clarke Honors College was incredibly supportive of me throughout the entire process; our own Dr. Viktoria Basham even wrote the letter of recommendation I used to get the internship.

As I mentioned, I did a little research for writing press releases, which I felt confident doing after my experience in Honors 111: Research and Writing. In this class, I learned how to sift through sources for the most important information, which is a skill I put to use many, many times over the summer.

Going into the internship I didn't know exactly what type of work I would be doing, so I felt grateful that I had the writing experience from my honors classes to prepare me for anything. I even managed to get a job as a volunteer coordinator for this year's Maryland Folk Festival because of people I met through the Mayor's Office.

Local government is so vital to a thriving community, so I really am grateful for the chance to see inside our local government and understand how it operates. I can't wait to use everything I learned there during my next internship.

# Mary Hsia: Marketing T-Shirt Design Winner

By Ellen Tarjan

If you were to ask Mary Hsia to pick one word to describe herself, the word “artist” would not come to mind. While she enjoys mindlessly sketching from time to time, that’s about all the art that she does in her free time.

As a freshman accounting major, she received an email advertising the Marketing Department’s T-Shirt Design Competition. While it piqued her interest, she decided to set it aside since she had a lot of schoolwork she had to accomplish first.

After a busy work week, she decided to enter the competition. After sketching her ideas on paper, she was able to bring it to life on a beginner friendly graphic design program called Canva. Two hours later, she submitted her design. With plenty of entries for the competition, she made certain to not get her hopes up and have low expectations.

However, a few weeks later she received an email that she had won the competition. She won a \$150 cash prize and had her design printed on t-shirts for the entire Marketing Department and students to wear.

“I was pleasantly surprised that this quick late-night project turned into me winning,” Hsia said.

Although she was thrilled to win, she claimed that this experience was more about trying something new and stepping out of her comfort zone. It was an opportunity to clear her mind and take a break from her busy schedule. Hsia’s design is worn proudly on campus by the staff and students of the Marketing Department and is a symbol of her new-found interest for design.



## Training Dogs and Taking Tests

By Alwick Blouch

When Syd isn’t busy studying for tests, she can be found teaching her dog for agility training. Syd Shannon (she/her) is a junior at Salisbury University and a Clarke Honors College student.

When she was just 12 years old, she began babysitting dogs as a volunteer at Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club in their Junior Program. Through volunteering there, she has learned how to train dogs in agility in addition to show dogs in agility events.

Shannon uses operant conditioning to train dogs for agility courses, which involves rewarding the dog for good behavior such as a treat when the trainer wants to reinforce a behavior. As a psychology major, Shannon has gained a better understanding of behavior and how dog training works. Now, Shannon even teaches classes to show others how to train their dogs while she trains her own dog.

Shannon only works at the Salisbury Kennel Club part time in order to focus on college classes, but she loves working with her own dog, which has helped her grow as a trainer as well.

“I love watching him cognitively develop and get better,” she said. “He’s a border collie, he’s so sensitive, there is no room for mistakes.”

The Salisbury Kennel Club allowed Shannon to have many new experiences and helped her develop her confidence when teaching classes or doing agility courses with dogs. As one of the youngest people working at the Kennel Club, she gained much of her knowledge about dogs from them. But, they also helped her learn valuable life lessons.

“From a young age they taught me it’s okay to mess up,” she explained. “They taught me patience.”

Now as a student, the Clarke Honors College helps Shannon focus on her major in psychology, and she intends to continue training dogs after college for fun.







because it centered around the things that sparked his interest in J&J in the first place. Miksa worked closely with a clinical development team to increase collaboration between different job sites through the use of an online SharePoint site. His main project was to improve communications between different departments, which he accomplished by conducting both cross-regional and international interviews with people from all over in order to get an accurate representation of the voice of the customer. While these interviews were taxing due to him having to account for various time zones, they hammered home the customer-centered policies J&J had disclosed in their credo, the very reason Miksa decided to apply.

Miksa says J&J is a very intern-friendly company, with a super understanding staff willing to help and great mentors taking care of interns, often organizing additional learning experiences for them to broaden their horizons.

Miksa made sure to take advantage of everything the internship had to offer, expressing that “I’m here to learn. I’ll take any opportunity. Anything I can get, any opportunity for learning.”

While there, Miksa got to take part in a variety of experiences outside his job scope, delve deeper into an intriguing variety of topics and the inner workings of the company and set up personal times to chat with other employees to ask questions about the field.

The skills Miksa learned from this experience are ones he plans to take with him moving forward, throughout not only his undergraduate degree and experience as a Clarke Honors College student, but into his doctoral degree and future career. This impactful learning experience validated his choice of career and led him toward a greater passion for both the field and the company.

After getting a chance to intern there, Miksa says, “If I could work at J&J, that would be the dream.”

## Competition Outside of the Pool

By Logan Lankford

Gabe Miksa (he/him) has a talent for the impossible. He is a sophomore chemistry major on an accelerated pharmacy track, a member of the varsity swim team and the ethics club as well as a Clarke Honors College student ambassador. This past summer, Miksa added yet another incredible title to his repertoire by securing an internship with Johnson & Johnson (J&J).

Johnson & Johnson offers a variety of prestigious internships to undergraduate students, each requiring their own intensive application and interview process. The majority of such internships were geared toward chemistry majors with a preference

for candidates minoring in information technology. While Miksa didn’t exactly fit the profile, he was determined to work for J&J, whose patient-focused credo aligned perfectly with his own personal values.

Through the sheer grit he demonstrated and the impressive interview skills he acquired over the process of applying to various positions not once, not twice, but *eleven* times, Miksa earned every bit of the spot he secured as an intern at J&J, commenting very confidently that “they weren’t going to stop me.”

While it wasn’t his initial application, the internship position Miksa secured ended up working out very well for him

# Q&A

*Aurora Edenhart-Pepe (she/her) recently became the new Vice President of Administration and Finance at Salisbury University.*



## **Meet Salisbury University's Vice President of Administration and Finance Edenhart-Pepe**

By Maggie Patterson

**Q:** Briefly explain your role as vice president of administration and finance and how your position affects the daily lives of students at SU?

I view finance and administration as the operational unit of an institution. The vice president of finance and administration pulls together the numbers and the data behind what's happening and the things that are used to operationalize the business side of the institution. I have services and groups or departments that span across the institution: IT, the Police Department, finance, human resources, capital management and facilities. The groups that I have are meant to affect the daily lives of students, faculty and staff. Everything we do, from the systems we work on to the space we sit in to work on those things, as well as the job that you get within a department/office and how you are employed here, run through my area. How's it meant to affect the lives of students? Positively. The things that I'm doing on a daily basis are assessing how those operational units are running, whether they're effective, whether or not we're communicating well, if people have the things that they need and if we're caught up to 2023.

**Q:** What career accomplishment are you the proudest of and how does this accomplishment affect your career goals at SU?

I'm not sure that I have one specific event that I'm the proudest of. I think the longer that I've worked, the more I've honed in on a certain set of skills that essentially translates into being good at actualizing ideas. I'm best known for taking an idea and putting a plan to it that works and can be logistically accomplished. So, before I'm making a decision to move us forward, I am organizing the pieces and figuring out a plan to move us forward in a way that works for a lot of different groups involved. That takes a lot of listening, a lot of communication and a lot of data. I think that my value in actualizing ideas means that we get to a place as an institution where we are able to adapt. In 2023, the winner of this game is the organization that understands



*“I’m best known for taking an idea and putting a plan to it that works and can be logistically accomplished.”*

their processes, understands their organization best, and is able to adapt and move with the times. You have to be nimble and flexible. I think the best way to do that is if you understand your organization, are very organized and take that type of approach.

**Q:** What role do you think an honors college can play in the overall university’s plans and goals?

I need to understand what the overall university’s plans and goals are to be able to understand where the intersection of the honors college would be. However, I have had significant experience working with honors colleges in the past, and they’re taking on some of the most significant issues and innovations at the school. Most of the time that work is spanning across the nation and is nationally recognized. So, I can imagine that role would continue for the Clarke Honors College, and I

would be looking for new and exciting programming you guys are already doing. I think it’s something that our students want and something that our future students are looking for. I definitely see that as a major contribution to this institution and something that will continue.

**Q:** What is one additional thing you want SU students to know about you beyond your role as vice president of administration and finance?

Fun fact: I was given two opportunities to play professional soccer overseas, which I turned down to start my career in HR at Duke. I don’t regret that, despite my husband’s amazement that I would want to start working instead of playing professional soccer. I still play, and I fully intend on starting a staff pickup league. That’s what I want everybody to know.

# The Honors College Gets Their Feet Wet: The Field Trip to Assateague

By Kaley Hardman

This semester, select Clarke Honors College students had the opportunity to take their learning out of the classroom headed to the sunny beaches of Assateague Island. Dr. Brent Zaprowski (Dr. Z) and his honors Introduction Oceans and Coasts class packed their bags on a windy Saturday morning along with two other geology classes to learn hands-on about how the oceans shape Maryland's coastlines.

Dr. Z knew the importance of firsthand experience, and at Salisbury University, the coast is right at our fingertips. With 10 years of this trip under his belt, Dr. Z has seen the benefits over and over again.

"We are so close to the coast, and I feel it's important that in an oceanography class we should go to the beach and see things firsthand," Dr. Z said.

The group first headed to Assateague's marshlands, watching geography teacher, Dr. Thomas Cawthern, get his hands dirty as he

demonstrated how biologists collect soil samples. There's nothing like a live demonstration to get students invested.

"My favorite part was seeing the samples of the dirt cut open. The layers of the sand and dirt stacked upon each other, representing decades of sediment build up, was very cool to see," said honors student Sammie Sommers.

Next, the class trekked eastward to the sandy beaches where Professor Sarah Jones taught them how to measure coastlines. They allow them to assume the role of biologists, and for Henson School of Science and Technology majors, like honors student Allie Rudasill, it can show a glimpse into the future.

"We used the tools and methods that biologists doing field work use. As an environmental science major, it was really nice to get a taste of what field work will be like," she said.

Finally, the honors students reunited with Dr. Z to learn more about how tides and waves shaped the beach around them. While the students had learned about Assateague Island's



coasts through their lectures, watching the phenomena occur all around them transformed terms like "rip current" and "plunging wave" from words on flashcards to actual functions of an environment.

"It's different when you're there," said honors student Alwick Blouch. "You can really see how each part of the ecosystem works together."

The honors college pushes students to take advantage of these opportunities. That's why the Clarke Honors College has numerous classes for every subject that allows students to experience their learning first hand. Although the Assateague trip was brief, the experiences students had there will last a lifetime.



# Oktoberfest Potluck: Bringing the Honors Community Together

By Claire Morin

With the fall season coming into full swing, the Honors Student Association (HSA) and the Honors Ambassadors hosted the Oktoberfest Potluck. The students of the Clarke Honors College (CHC) were given a chance to relax, eat some food, hang out with their friends and meet new peers. Through the combined efforts of the HSA and the Honors Ambassadors, there was a variety of food and drinks offered.

During the event, many students interacted with each other and petted special guest Mecho, a beautiful black lab owned by the HSA's staff proctor, Dr. Vicktoria Basham. The potluck was great for allowing students to take a break from their academic work and spend some time with those around them.

When asked what her favorite part of the potluck was, Amber Whittaker, the president of HSA, said, "Probably catching up with people who I don't see too often anymore."

Whittaker was not the only one who shared this sentiment; Honors Ambassadors were conversing among themselves as well as connecting with the new honors students at the event. The potluck was also a great opportunity for these new honors students to engage with and meet more members of the community they are becoming a part of.

Liliana Tooman, a freshman, said, "My favorite part is getting to connect with the other honors students."

Her friends, Olivia Norris, Lily Rothering and Julia Correll, all agreed with the statement and enjoyed having the chance to get to know other honors students. Events like the Oktoberfest Potluck are important to the CHC because they bring the honors community together outside of academics.

"I feel like it is really important for us to keep doing these types of events because it is giving students an outlet. It's giving them a safe place to destress and hang out and be with friends," Dr. Basham said. "It also gives students a good chance to meet new people and make new friends, which is all what CHC is about: building community and making students feel safe and like they have friends they can talk to about all kinds of stuff."





## Me and the NRHC: Logan Lankford

By Allison Dincau

The Northeast Regional Honors Conference (NRHC) is a great opportunity for students to be able to present their research to their peers. For many in the Clarke Honors College (CHC), it is an opportunity to get a head start on research and presentations without even having finished their freshman year of college.

One such student is Logan Lankford (she/her), a sophomore health sciences major with a minor in disability studies. Lankford ended up in an Honors 111 class based on pandemics, something she was not entirely happy with until she discovered how much control she had over her own research choices.

She decided to focus on the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the social-emotional learning setbacks found in Pre-K students. The project came directly from her own experience, as working at an elementary school over the summer allowed her to witness the behaviors of affected populations firsthand.

Her research focused specifically on how creative arts therapies can aid in the development of social-emotional learning. Lankford managed to connect her passion for the arts and her work into a research project.

Her introduction to the NRHC came in the form of an email after CHC professor Dr. Viktoria Basham reached out to Lankford to apply for the conference. After writing a research proposal and being accepted, she made her way to the conference in Pittsburgh.

One of the interesting points Lankford noted is the difference between many of the upperclassmen attending versus her impressive feat of presenting research to a conference as a freshman. Lankford got up on stage, pushing through nerves to present a research presentation for the first time in a room surrounded by peers and professors cheering her on.

She was so successful that someone asked for a copy of the presentation to use for an argument for art therapies in front of a school board.

When asked her biggest takeaway from the conference Lankford responded simply, "when someone offers you an opportunity you should do it, even if it terrifies you."

Lankford, her research and her work are certainly going places. Students such as Lankford are the very soul of the honors college experience and the reason programs like ours thrive.



## Lucky Number 13

By Ellen Tarjan

What does it feel like to be a national champion? Clarke Honors College (CHC) students Charlie White (he/him) and Kyen Argentinis (he/him) can tell us! This past season, White and Argentinis helped the Salisbury men's lacrosse team to yet another national championship, and yes you guessed it, championship win number 13.

White, a junior midfielder and exercise science major with a minor in sports medicine, knew that by playing for Salisbury lacrosse, he would have the opportunity to compete for a national title every year. Over the past three years, that came into fruition with the team finishing national runner-ups in 2021, making it to the national quarterfinals in 2022 and winning it all the 2023 season. While this was a momentous and celebrated occasion, White nonchalantly recalled the win by emphasizing the tradition and expectation of excellence, stating that making it to the national championship is "the goal every year."

He is most proud of the hard work his team has put into reaching this point, saying that their success on the field is only a small sample of the "competitiveness, support and 100% effort that they all display every day." He knew that this year was special and attributed this win to the "team

chemistry being unmatched" and "holding each other accountable every single day."

For White, many of the standards on the field also hold true in the classroom. He stated that he pursued the CHC so that he would always "have the opportunity to grow intellectually and challenge himself on a daily basis," feeling that the CHC offers an additional "network of support that he can always rely on."

Now a senior, White and his teammates are back to work preparing for the 2024 season. Their integrity, accountability and drive will propel them into this next year with the same goal of heading back to and hopefully winning another national championship. While he humbly described win 13, White did acknowledge this was a dream come true for his fourth-grade self, and he is thankful to be a part of a program that pushes him to be his best on and off the field every single day.

Argentinis, a freshman accounting major and long-stick midfielder, knew he wanted to pursue excellence both on the field and in the classroom. An ambition turned to reality, Salisbury lacrosse has allowed him to compete on a national stage and pursue rigorous courses in the classroom. Being in the spotlight, Argentinis had to

adapt quickly to both the demands of collegiate lacrosse and academics, yet that never deterred him. He said that it was "amazing to come into such a talented team" and appreciated the hard work that was going on around him daily.

When it came time for the national championship, he credits the upperclassmen for leading all the younger players with poise and confidence in a time of nervousness and excitement.

Like White, Argentinis didn't emphasize the win like most would. Instead, he commented humbly on how the championship was an awesome opportunity but made it clear that this is what he and the team are looking to do every year.

With the next season already quickly approaching, Argentinis said that "instead of looking backward and defending what is in the past, they are looking toward the future and winning another."

Argentinis, now a sophomore, is very hopeful for this next year with the team, as for him it was "awesome to see all our hard work pay off." He acknowledges that his team will continue to work to return to the national championship and is thrilled to see what the future holds.

# UN-locking Potential: The SU Honors College Fellowship Experience

By Mary Hsia

In a world full of disagreements and conflict, the United Nations (UN) offers a beacon of hope for those willing to take a step in changing the globe. The United Nations Fellowship, partnered with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, provides a one-of-a-kind opportunity for students to unlock their passion through research in a range of studies focused on diplomacy, humanitarianism, and sustainable development.

From the UN headquarters to the corners of the world, Salisbury University honors students are working to shape the future. Dr. Britney Foutz, the director of the UN Fellowships at Salisbury University, works closely with students who apply.

“We teach people conflict prevention and creative problem solving,” Dr. Foutz stated. “When you’re confronted with a problem, you’re coming up with something unique and sustainable.”

In addition to offering students life-long skills in their careers, it also aids students in their research projects.

Dominick Lepke, a senior accounting major in the honors business program stated, “When I first applied to the fellowship, I was able to branch out my research regarding my HONR 312 project. I brought in my research from the fellowship to encompass my topic surrounding money laundering with cryptocurrency to propose legislation to the U.S. General Assembly.”

Students who receive the opportunity to participate in the UN fellowship also reap great awards. Olivia Davis, the recipient of the UN Millennium fellowship is currently researching providing education for senior citizens on the dangers of fraud in the digital age.

“I started with this fellowship that had nothing to do with my accounting major and turned it into something that I want to do with my life.” Davis expressed. “I like how I get to research something I care so much about and that means so much to me.”

In all, UN fellows from SU are a collection of humanity’s aspirations for peace and justice, building a brighter future for generations to come.





# The Story of an Honors Athlete: Caroline Daly

By Tessah Good



Honors Ambassador Caroline Daly (she/her) is a dedicated lacrosse player and honors student. As a marketing major with a minor in professional sales, the decision to come to Salisbury University was an easy one to make for Daly. After being recruited and committing to the SU lacrosse team, she was welcomed with open arms. Daly's decision to join the Clarke Honors College (CHC) was also, without a doubt, another yes for her.

"I wanted to push myself," Daly said, effectively deciding to simply write the essay to apply. "There are so many benefits and opportunities."

During her freshman year, she was elated as she was adjusting to the feel of Salisbury.

"It was the best year of my life," Daly stated. She since has been able to take interesting classes outside of her major, receive priority enrollment and have a lot of fun. In fact, she has had such a great experience within the CHC that she has chosen to be an honors ambassador.

However, Daly's experience at Salisbury has come with many challenges, as she has suffered multiple sport injuries. She got injured at the end of her freshman year, causing her to enter her sophomore year still impacted. She explains how "being injured just throws you into a mental loop and spiral."

Her injury caused her to have to sit out of Fall Ball, and in May of her sophomore year, she experienced yet another injury. Daly found herself in a stressful position, especially with lacrosse no longer being an option as an outlet. It caused her to question why this was all happening to her, while still trying to find a way to overcome this hardship she was facing.

Instead of giving up, Daly chose to surround herself with people who have her best interests at heart and love her for herself, not just the talent she has. Because of her lacrosse injuries, she also explored new passions, such as swimming, writing and even the Student-Athlete Advising Committee.

Her honors family also helped her tremendously while managing school and an injury. "The CHC is welcoming, comforting and beneficial," Daly described. "It is so motivating and inspiring to see those also in honors."

While Daly has experienced multiple challenges while being an athlete, she has chosen to embrace them and utilize the opportunities that the CHC gives to continue to grow.

# CREATIVE WORKS

## *By Honors Students*

Honors students are known for their ability to think outside the box. They excel in a variety of fields, and often, their thinking results in the unexpected. This semester, the Clarke Honors College, put out a call to all of its students for creative pieces. In response, we received the following works.

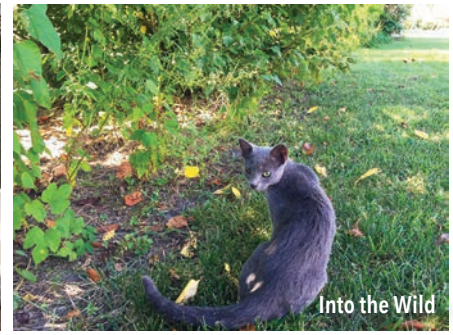
**Crochet by Allie Rudasill**



Photo by Claire Morin



A sticker sheet featuring their interpretation of Dracula characters: (from top) Quincey P. Morris, Lord Arthur Holmwood, Dr. John "Jack" Seward and Professor Abraham van Helsing.



Photos by Mary Hsia



# Drowning

By Kaley Hardman

*You won't notice the water that pours at their feet.  
 It soaks their shoes and socks but from where you stand they look oh so dry  
 You won't notice when it reaches their knees.  
 they never let it touch you when you lay on their shoulder to cry  
 You won't notice when it pools at their hips  
 It ripples with veiled sorrow  
 But their face is all smiles and laugh lines and bubbles  
 And pain that shall wait til tomorrow  
 The water creeps up their neck now, yet they hold their head up high  
 You might notice here, the water at their feet, but you expect the tide roll by  
 They're mouth is gone now, and their nose sinks down with each drop  
 And though they can't breathe they still scream the words as bubbles that float to the top  
 They've sunken now, from the weight that has pulled them below  
 Yet they still hold out their hand, and in pruned fingers stands  
 A flower that so their pain you'll never know*



The Clarke Honors College offers an enriched educational experience for students from all majors at SU. The College fosters collaboration between students and faculty to support undergraduate research, promotes interdisciplinary work and encourages innovation on the SU campus. Honors courses and extracurricular activities are intended to deepen a student's educational experience and develop the next generation of leaders, scientists, educators and more.

### HOW CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

We need your help to aid highly motivated students in attending professional conferences, purchase supplies to support undergraduate research (computers, lab equipment, etc.), fund experiential learning activities and more. Your gift will go toward enhancing the educational experience for some of SU's most motivated students.

Give today at:  
[giving.salisbury.edu/campaigns/clarke-honors-college-1#](https://giving.salisbury.edu/campaigns/clarke-honors-college-1#)



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