

HONORS EVENTS



See some pictures from all the fun we've had this semester!

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HONORS STUDENT INTERVIEWS



This year's freshmen and sophomore students' views on the Honors College and advice for first year students.

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SPECIAL INTERVIEW



A graduate student's thoughts on the Honors College.

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AWARDS AND FALL GRADUATES



2021 award recipients and 2021 Honors College graduates.

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SANDRA & JACK PINE HONORS COLLEGE



TALKING HONORS...

We've always known that learning happens through conversation, and these strange days have taught us its value anew. We have managed to work through distance learning, but apart from a few weeks in 2020, our learning at EIU's Pine Honors College has largely continued in classrooms, by talking. As John Henry Newman notes in his famous *Idea of a University*, some might be surprised to find so much depending on "speaking good sense in English" but it is an essential part of what goes on here. Professors can certainly talk and deliver knowledge, but in order to really learn it, students must respond. As Newman put it, knowledge must be "actively entered into, embraced, mastered. The mind must go half-way to meet what comes to it from without."

This is why, among the profiles of current freshmen and sophomores, as well as alumni, you will read here of connections in and out of the classroom. The weekly events Honors hosts for its students help them to get to know each other and to practice the ancient, and sometimes endangered, art of conversation. The community we foster supports student learning, mental health, and enjoyment. I get to spread the gospel of tea-quaffing, and share games and laughter. Dr. Polydore has done an excellent job at organizing some exceptional events, a few

of which are featured in the photo galleries that follow. We have also enjoyed working with Housing's Rebeccah Maley, our new Living Learning Community coordinator, who has thrown open the door of Thomas Hall (home of our Honors student housing) to many of our events.

To all who have supported Honors through thick and thin – thank you! Here are a few examples of the amazing students striving and achieving in an exceptional time. From discussions that flourish in small seminars and around cozy tea tables, let us learn or find hope.

— Dean Richard England



HONORS FUN!!!!



COSMIC BOWLING





FIELD DAY FUN!



NOVEMBER TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT





ROCKS AND RESUMES



FOCUS ON SOPHOMORES

Jasmine Yusef

Jasmine Yusef is from Wheeling, Illinois. She is a second year student double majoring in English and Philosophy.



What made you choose EIU?

I applied to a lot of universities and EIU was the most economically feasible and I really liked the idea of the small class sizes and the fact that we have an Honors College.

What advice would you give to first year students?

I would have to say a piece of advice that I would give to students is to get organized from the start and to not be afraid to ask for help.

What has been your favorite Honors class and why?

Thus far, my favorite Honors class has been the "Attention" Honors seminar with Dr. Charlotte England. In Honors seminars, students have to talk to each other and share ideas, whereas other Honors classes are based on the material that you're learning and less focused on the conversation.

“I really like that the Honors College brings students together with fun activities and programs.”

What do you like about this year compared to last year?

Being in person! This year, being able to see people's faces makes it feel like I'm actually in school.

FOCUS ON SOPHOMORES

John Wills

John Wills is from Coal City, Illinois. He is a second year student majoring in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in Political Science.



What made you choose EIU?

I got the Pemberton Presidential Scholarship, which was very nice because I would not have been able to go to college if I didn't have financial assistance. I also liked the small class sizes because I can actually talk with my professors.

What advice would you give to first year students?

It's not like high school. Email your professors, ask for help, see if they'll give you any kind of assistance that you need. You need to take advantage of the resources that are given to you and use them to your advantage. That's how you succeed.

What do you like about this year compared to last year?

There's more stuff happening! As a Journalism major, there's more things to talk about. I also get to go to more events this year, like sports games and the Honors Tea with the Dean events.

“There was something interesting and new every day.”

What has been your favorite Honors class and why?

Definitely the First Year Seminar, which was a class with all the Presidential Scholars taught by Dean England. The class bonded together because it was very discussion based.

FOCUS ON SOPHOMORES

Jarius Ransom

Jarius Ransom is from Bolingbrook, Illinois. He is a second year student majoring in Computer Science.



What made you choose EIU?

When I first visited EIU, I felt like everyone around here is very supportive and it was a community where anyone or any student would be able to flourish and develop themselves.

What advice would you give to first year students?

Enjoy the whole process. When you're in college, as you go through the semesters, there will definitely be times where it's stressful and it feels like the work is just piling on. So you should make sure that you enjoy the experience because that will help you push through all the tough times.

What do you like about this year compared to last year?

Everything is opened up and everyone is so friendly, so it seems more like a college environment. The overall atmosphere is a lot lighter.

“ EIU is a place where anyone can flourish. ”

What has been your favorite Honors class and why?

My favorite class would either be Dr. England's Music and Neuroscience Seminar or the Intro to Theatre class I'm currently taking. They are both very engaging classes. Since I am a computer science major, music and theatre are very different from what I am used to, and I enjoy learning new things.

SPOTLIGHT ON FRESHMEN

Ella Knutson

Ella Knutson is from Minnesota, near Minneapolis. She is a first year student at EIU majoring in Secondary Education.

What made you choose EIU?

I chose EIU because of their education program and their athletics program. It was the perfect distance from home and everyone here was so unbelievably nice, especially on the swim team. It's definitely home away from home.

What has been your favorite Honors class and why?

My favorite Honors class so far has to be Education in a Multicultural Society. It is really giving me the foundation for becoming a teacher in the future.



What do you like the most about being an Honors student?

My favorite thing about being an Honors student is the endless opportunities. There is always something going on and I feel more driven as an Honors student. It gives me more incentive to do well and succeed.

SPOTLIGHT ON FRESHMEN

Azaria Bell

Azaria Bell is from the south suburbs of Chicago. She is a first year student at EIU majoring in Communication Disorders and Sciences.



What made you choose EIU?

I chose to attend Eastern Illinois University because of how the university treats their students like family. Upon my final decision, I chose EIU because I could see myself being completely comfortable on campus. Now EIU is like my second home!

What has been your favorite Honors class and why?

My favorite Honors class has been Honors 1290 Honors Seminar: Attention. That class has really made me see the world in a different perspective that has only enhanced my experience here at EIU. My instructor does a great job of making my classmates and I think beyond our initial everyday notions.

What do you like the most about being an Honors student?

I really enjoy being an Honors student because I get to explore my mind in ways I did not know were possible. In addition to this, I have the opportunity to meet and connect with a plethora of students from all over the world who share my views and even different ones! I am so grateful to be a part of such a powerful, diverse organization and I am excited for what is to come!

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

Erin Zurek: Herbert Lasky Outstanding Honors Graduate Senior Award Recipient

Erin Zurek is an EIU graduate from Lisle, Illinois. She graduated Spring 2021 with a BS in Communication Disorders and Sciences (CDS) and a BA in Spanish.



What made you choose EIU?

Eastern had both a wonderful Honors program and a wonderful Communication Disorders and Sciences program. When I first visited EIU, I just had a good feeling about the place and the people. After interviewing for the Presidential Scholarship, I visualized myself in the classroom, visualized myself learning and having a positive experience at Eastern.

How did you manage to be in the University Honors program while also having two majors?

Coming in from high school, I had AP credits that covered some of my Gen Eds, but I still had some general education requirements left. I was able to fill those with Honors courses. Usually I had 18 to 21 credit hours, but I think that it was sustainable for me to do because I enjoyed the process of learning.

Why do you enjoy Honors classes?

Each class was unique, and I was able to gain something from that. Even though some classes were very far removed from CDS and Speech Pathology, like Introduction to Theatre, I enjoyed them and learned a lot. Also, Honors classes give you the tools to look at something deeper than face value – which made me see the world and analyze things with a critical mind. That is a skill that I can apply not only to theater, but also to articles that I may be reading for Speech Pathology. I think just taking the information that you're learning and applying it in a new way that might pertain more to what it is you are studying is a good way to make General Education classes and classes you are required to take more meaningful.

What did you get out of your Departmental Honors experience?

For the CDS department we got to develop a research project and build a hypothesis. What's great about that is before we even build the project, we start with a research-based course where we're introduced to the different methods of research as it pertains to CDS. We had guest lecturers from all of our faculty who are experts in different areas of Communication Disorders. I feel like the misconception about Speech Pathology is that all we do is fix "R"s or articulation-based therapy, but there's so much more to that with language processing and swallowing and as it pertains to post-stroke victims and patients with head and neck cancer. It's a very diverse field, and the research class gives us exposure to the kinds of research we could do on our own. I decided to do research on bilingual language assessments with Dr. Angela Anthony. Even though the research was just for CDS, I was able to tie in Spanish and complete a survey based on research from a study on Illinois Speech Language Pathologists and their perception of how well-prepared they feel to assess bilingual students on their caseload. The research was very complicated, but I really enjoyed it and learned a lot.

Do you think the Honors Program has helped in Graduate school?

For sure. Studying skills and discussion-based skills that I learned from my Honors classes were very useful in my grad program. Also, I am more critical of the review and understanding of the information that I receive which I learned about in a lot of Honors classes.

What piece of advice would you give freshmen about Honors?

Have an understanding that we are lifelong learners -- this isn't a means to an end. You should understand that while you're here, there is so much that you can learn and so many experiences that you can have that will shape not only you as a person, but also the way that you perceive the world around you. Understand that whatever class you're in, whatever meeting you go to, there is something there that you can take in that will help you grow and be a more well-rounded individual.

2021 AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Herbert Lasky Outstanding Honors
Graduating Senior Award**

Erin Zurek

First Neighbor Bank Scholarship

Abigail Bonnstetter

Dorothy Davis Bunge Scholarship

Christine Eldrenkamp

Megan Jobe

Shane Smith

Rachael Richardson Scholarship

Meagan Miller

Sophia Chavis

Sandra and Jack Pine Scholarship

Elizabeth Serna-Sanchez

Distinguished Honors Faculty Award

Bonnie Laughlin-Schultz



2021 GRADUATES

SPRING 2021

Xhyla Abazi (D)	Faith D. Morris (U)
Kofi M. Bazzell-Smith (G)	Mariah N. Mosberger (G)
Emily M. Becker (G)	Shaelyn R. Page (U&D)
Jaida S. Brockman (U)	Hannah J. Rotramel (G)
Dylan T. Cole (U)	Abigail E. Smith (U&D)
Benjamin E. Esgar (D)	Julia S. Spencer (U)
Sarah L. Fors (G)	Hannah N. Spillane (U)
Anders E. Frank (G)	Holly M. Swisher (U)
Shelby A. Freeman (D)	Katrina N. Thompson (U)
Katherine N. Gallaher (U)	Valerie J. Thompson (U&D)
Avani M. Flanagan (G)	Alyssa M. Tripod (U&D)
Ian R. Hannah (G)	Ellie N. Tutewiler (D)
Madeline A. Havens (U)	Abigail R. Wallace (D)
Jason S. House (U)	Lindsey A. Wood (G&D)
Alyssa N. Jacobucci (U&D)	Seth W. Yeakel (U)
Noor Ul Haash Khamisani (D)	Davalyn D. York (G&D)
Alison M. Kirk (U)	Cheyenne M. Zimmerman (D)
Sarah A. Lohman (G)	Erin E. Zurek (U&D)
Shelby G. Martell (U)	

SUMMER 2021

Paul J. Abraham (D)
 Emily A. Bernard (D)
 Karina D. Davis (D)
 Morgan A. LaMore (D)
 Monique S. Mays (D)
 Sarah N. Mummel (D)
 Joseph D. Reiter (U)
 Ambrosia E. Roberts (U)
 Abigail R. Wallace (D)

FALL 2021

Taylor J. Comer (G)
 Addison R. Gladu (U)
 Louis A. Karimu (G)
 Eric A. LaBrasca (G)
 Mitzi S. Morales (G)
 Miranda S. Morrow (U)
 Madeline A. Plesnicar (U)
 Karena M. Renfro (G)
 Miranda P. Smith (U&D)
 Meredith G. Vandeventer (U&D)
 Shawn A. Walker (U)
 Noah W. Wright (D)

SPRING 2022 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES (URSCA) GRANT RECIPIENTS

Maria G Angel, Spanish and Hispanic Studies

Project Title: The Knowledge, Attitudes, Beliefs and Behaviors of English as a Second Language Middle and High School Students Regarding Noise Exposure.

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Heidi Ramrattan, Communication Disorder Sciences

Makenna E Boyd, Language Arts Teacher Education

Project Title: Diversity in Marvel Fanfiction

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Marjorie Worthington, English

Courtney M Castilla, Psychology

Project Title: Influence of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Regular Physical Activity on Symptoms of Depression

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jeff Stowell, Psychology

Luke H Flaig, Biochemistry

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Beck, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Keagan J Fox, Biological Sciences

Project Title: Exploring Uncharacterized Proteins from *Trametes Versicolor*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Thomas Canam, Biological Sciences

Elizabeth C Hicks, English

Project Title: Poetry Chapbook

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Colleen Abel, English

Mason D Jones, Philosophy

Project Title: Machine Learning in Textual Criticism

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Abidalrahman Moh'd, Mathematics and Computer Science

Carolyn J Karns, Biological Sciences

Project Title: Chemical Tools to Study Carboxylesterase 2 (CES2) in Live Cells

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Beck, Chemistry and Biochemistry

So Jeong Kim, Biochemistry

Project Title: Purification and Activity Determination of Human Drug Metabolism Enzyme Carboxylesterase 2 (CES2)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Beck, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Anthony W Lacy, Health Administration

Project Title: Factors Affecting College Students' Utilization of Health Services

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lauri DeRuiter-Willems, Public Health

SPRING 2022 URSCA GRANT RECIPIENTS CONT'D

Sarah F Lemar, History

Project Title: The Work the Women Did: Americans in the League's Campaign Against the Traffic in Women and Children-1921-1939

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sace Elder, History

Aries R Martinez, Electrical Engineering

Project Title: Exploring the Effects of Metallic Nanostructures in Solar Cells

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dongheon Ha, Physics

Madison M Monan, Neuroscience

Project Title: Direct PCR in the Identification of Mosquito Species in Coles County, Illinois

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Anthony Oluoch, Biological Sciences

Esperanza Murillo, Health Administration

Project Title: Gender Bias in Healthcare

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Julie Dietz, Public Health

Noah T Oakley, Biological Sciences

Project Title: Can MS-222, a Commonly Used Fish Analgesic, Negatively Impact the Bioenergetic Machinery of Bluegill Sunfish?

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Eloy Martinez, Biological Sciences

Joan M Philip, Neuroscience

Project Title: Effect of Apolipoprotein E (APOE) Allele on Memory functions in Healthy, Young Adults

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jerry Zhu, Psychology

Gabrielle K Riggs, HPR: Emergency Management/Disaster Prep

Project Title: Mental Health Help-Seeking and Coping with Trauma Among EMS Providers/First Responders

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nikki Hillier, Public Health

Kinsey L Romack, HPR: Community Health

Project Title: Sexual Health Communication

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Emma Noble, Health Services

Jasmine M Sandora, Psychology

Project Title: Sleep, Exercise, and Mental Health in Firefighters

Cross trained as Paramedics

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jeff Stowell, Psychology

Jekeel C Suber, Psychology

Project Title: Influences of Social Network Use on EIU students' Loneliness and Social Adjustment

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jeff Stowell, Psychology

Ashtyn B Wilhelm, Communication Disorders Sciences

Project Title: Patterns of Social Competencies in Children with ADHD

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nichole Mulvey, Communication Disorders Sciences

Sandra and Jack Pine
Honors College



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DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb. 11 - Study Abroad scholarships for spring due

Feb. 18 - URSCA proposal deadline for summer awards

Feb. 25 - Nominations: Honors Distinguished Faculty Award & Deadline for SRCA Conference submissions

Mar. 15 - Scholarship deadline for Study Abroad for fall, Continuing Student, Bunge, Lasky, Messer, Pine, Richardson, Whisnand, and Schmidt Scholarships

Mar. 21 - Priority Registration for fall begins

Apr. 1 - Student Research & Creative Activity Conference

Apr. 8 - URSCA proposal deadline for fall awards