SALISBURY UNIVERSITY CLARKE HONORS COLLEGE FALL 2021

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Saunterer



- **1** From One Honors Student to Another
- 2 Thank You Ms. Joan!
- 3 Honors In Person
- **4** Alumni Spotlight: Life After Honors
- 5 Clarke Honors College Celebrates Mental Health
- 6 Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Ross Leasure
- 7 Honors and SU Culture
- 8 Andrea Pitzer: Icebound
- 9 Gallery
- **11** Honors Student Nurses and the COVID-19 Pandemic
- **12** Honors Student Association's Friday Nights
- 14 Honors Student Ambassadors
- 16 Creative Works

Cover photo: Honors LLC trip to Washington, DC by Saunterer Editor-in-Chief Olivia Ballmann



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Stay up to date with the Clarke Honors College!

Check out our Facebook page at: facebook.com/HonorsCollegeSU

and our Instagram: @suhonorscollege

> Like Thoreau in *Walden,* we will our sauntering

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."

From One Honors Student to Another

Dear Incoming Clarke Honors College Students,

Welcome to the Clarke Honors College family! Your hard work has not gone unnoticed. I know first-hand how much of an accomplishment it is to be admitted into the CHC program, so congratulations!

I'm sure you're all feeling excited, hopeful and even a little bit nervous ... I was nervous about how I was going to perform in my classes, how I was going to pick a career and how I was going to make friends. I'm sure some of you share the same fears, and I'm here to tell you being a part of the CHC will truly help answer all these questions. You will meet amazing professors, mentors and fellow students who will make your transition to SU immensely easier.

I wish I had received this advice when I was an incoming student: Step out of your comfort zone. Say yes to things you wouldn't have before; you never know what opportunities will present themselves.

One of my first honors assignments was to interview a faculty member and ask about their research. I was so nervous about this. I felt like I barely knew anything and wasn't important enough to talk to faculty members. I couldn't have been more wrong. The faculty member I interviewed offered me a spot in his research lab because he "has always had great experiences with honors students." I changed my major to exercise science, and I just returned from this year's Regional ACSM conference where I presented the research I began three and a half years ago. I never would have had that opportunity if not for the Clarke Honors College.

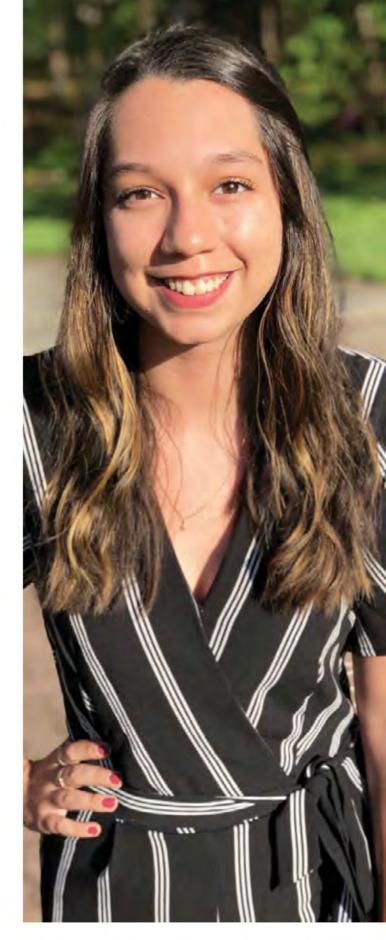
I also joined multiple clubs and organizations my freshman year. I now work for the Orientation Program, I'm chief of staff for SU's Student Government Association, and I'm the president of Exercise Science Club. I've acquired these leadership positions thanks to the skills and work ethic instilled in me by my honors professors. Every honors class you take has real-world take-aways, so pay attention. You never know what you might use later.

Finally, your fellow honors students truly know what you're experiencing, and they will become your family. I still talk to the friends I made freshman year living in Manokin, and it's always brought me a sense of comfort. I met my best friends during my freshman year of honors, and we're still best friends to this day.

I hope my advice was helpful, and I speak for all of the senior CHC members when I say we're a resource. Don't hesitate to reach out to us. I am so excited to see all the amazing things you will accomplish during your time here at SU. I wish you all the best of luck!

Sincerely,

Diane Kalita CHC Class of 2022





When stepping through the Honors House door, one person is always sitting ready, behind their desk, waiting with a smile and a kind word to all who enter the Honors House. This lovely individual is Joan Kjeldsen, known affectionately by students and faculty as "Ms. Joan."

Ms. Joan does so much for CHC students, including course enrollment, event scheduling and managing the chaos that is the honors calendar. This past spring, Ms. Joan's dedication earned her the prestigious 2021 National Collegiate Honors Council Award for Administrative Excellence. Nominated by a group of her colleagues, Ms. Joan's work ethic and kind presence made her stand out from the crowd of qualified honors administrators across the country.

Dr. Andrew Martino, dean of the Clarke Honors College, said: "The National Collegiate Honors Council Award for Administrative Excellence is an award that recognizes the indispensable work our administrative staff does day in and day out. Ms. Joan's contribution to the Clarke Honors College, and the NCHC's decision to present her with this award this year, is more than validation of her work; the award is national recognition that she is part of our honors family, an essential part that keeps us running and successful." For those of us fortunate enough to directly work with Ms. Joan, we know that "Administrative Excellence" is a vast understatement, especially to honors student workers.

"I love working with Ms. Joan! She is so caring and understanding to everyone who walks through the doors of the Honors House," CHC student worker Abigail Slovick said. "She never fails to make me laugh at work! She received an award for 'Administrative Excellence' and it is 100% deserved for not only her work in the Honors College, but her kindhearted personality deserves it as well."

Beyond her Clarke Honors College responsibilities, Ms. Joan is also a faculty member at the Communication Department, and her communicative abilities shine through in her timely email exchanges and genuine conversations. On a day-to-day basis, Ms. Joan goes beyond the line of duty, giving support and helpful advice to honors students. The CHC would truly not be the same without her.

Though we could go on about how much we appreciate her, we believe Prof. Lauren Hill said it best: "To say Ms. Joan is the 'heart-and-soul' of the Glenda Chatham and Robert G. Clarke Honors College isn't enough. She is the *'home'* of our little world."

Thank You Ms. Joan!

Honors In Person

By Julianna Morano

My freshman year of college wasn't what I expected, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In fall 2020, most classes were held virtually and social gatherings were limited in an attempt to keep everyone safe. We kept to ourselves often to limit exposure and reduce the spread of the virus.

One of the few times we could socialize and meet others was during online and hybrid classes. The Clarke Honors College held COVID-friendly events, such as the pumpkin painting in October, but even then, making connections was still difficult.

Fall 2021, however, has been completely different, but in the best ways, especially with being involved with the Clarke Honors College.

We saw some breaks during spring 2021 when there were more in-person classes and fewer restrictions. Social interaction improved, and Clarke Honors College in-person events allowed us to meet people, make connections and bond over the past year's crazy experiences.

As a sophomore, fall 2021 has been even more liberating. There are so many more opportunities to meet other students. We're now truly experiencing college, getting involved in clubs, organizations and in-person honors events.

I've made so many friends during activities like Sophomore Bingo and the Honors College Annual Halloween Party. Our class bond is even stronger because our college experience is so unique.

The Class of 2024 was thrown into a completely unpredictable college experience at the beginning of the pandemic, and now, we're getting that "normal" college experience back.

Julianna Morano and friends.

Honors Alumni Spotlight: Life After

By Allison Dincau



SU Clarke Honors College students have passion and drive for education – something students carry long after graduation. Salisbury University alumnus Nate Sansom is one of those passionate students.

Sansom graduated from Salisbury University in May 2021 with a dual degree in political science and conflict analysis and dispute resolution. The recent graduate has already started on what will no doubt be a successful career.

Sansom received multiple job offers upon graduation, including an offer in Washington, DC. However, Sansom chose to stay in Salisbury and is now Salisbury Mayor Jake Day's special assistant. He does this job while preparing for and applying to law school.

According to Sansom, his job in the Mayor's Office revolves around policy and "anything [the mayor] dreams of that's a legislative initiative. [Sansom ends] up doing a lot of the background work regarding ... formulating that policy."

For example, the Here Is Home legislative initiative recently was passed by the Salisbury City Council. This legislation focused on ending housing shortages around Salisbury. Sansom worked with the mayor on this initiative to help "operationalize it into a policy and a process."

Many SU faculty members influenced Sansom's academic career; among them is Dr. Andrew Martino, dean of Clarke Honors College.

Sansom interned abroad for UNESCO in Paris, while also taking a Parisian literature class provided by SU. Dr. Martino designed the class specifically for Sansom during his time abroad. Experiences like this allowed Sansom to utilize his talents and degrees just months after graduating.

Sansom experiences the world around him, setting himself up for the best future possible. Sansom reminds current CHC students the importance of "trying your best, staying true to who you are, and following your dreams."

NATE SANSOM

Clarke Honors College Celebrates Mental Health

By Logan Krebs

The Clarke Honors College Mental Health Committee is officially a year old! The CHC Mental Health Committee was established during the fall 2020 semester to "improve and destigmatize" mental health within the honors college, according to junior Ian Leverage.

Leverage developed the Instagram page for the committee, which posts encouraging messages, mental health tips and professional resources on Salisbury University's campus. The CHC Mental Health Committee plans events and outreach initiatives throughout the year, such as note projects, yoga sessions and sound healing events.

The Mental Health Committee also currently runs an on-going program called Honoring You. Program members write uplifting notes to students, staff and faculty who are recommended by members of the Salisbury University community.

This semester's de-stressing hour of yoga was led by Eva Whipple on October 28 and was open to all CHC students. The yoga consisted of simple movements, conveying the importance of inner peace.

This semester's sound healing event included a relaxing hour of meditation with singing bowls. The bowls produced soothing sounds allowing minds to block out the stress of final exams.

Leverage said the Mental Health Committee was excited the campus was in-person for the fall 2021 semester, regarding the pandemic as one of the hardest challenges for students to overcome.

The biggest reward the committee has experienced has been knowing they are making a difference in the Salisbury University community, and they intend to keep doing so.

The CHC Mental Health Committee can be found @chcmentalhealth on Instagram, and they are always looking for more students to join them in their mission.

CHC students join yoga session.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Ross Leasure

By Eli Rush





Dropping into one of Dr. T. Ross Leasure's classes is a jarring experience. One section might be on the classic literary works of John Milton, another on analyzing artificial intelligence in science fiction, or another involves a discussion of the queer literature movement in Europe. With such a broad catalog of courses, how can one teacher keep up with it all?

Dr. Leasure is a professor with a Ph.D. in English from Cornell University. While his specialty is medieval literature, Dr. Leasure enjoys teaching a variety of subjects.

"I bore easily; if I find myself teaching the same material over and over again, I get antsy. Having a wide variety of subjects not only helps me but also helps the students examine the world around them," Leasure said.

While Leasure offers a variety of courses at Salisbury University, one course stands out above the rest: Literature of the Queer.

When Dr. Leasure first signed on as an SU faculty member, he was given the framework for a course centered around gay and lesbian literary studies. Leasure expanded those guidelines to create the modern course Literature of the Queer. When asked why he teaches this course, he said: "This is a voice of a community that has been ignored, silenced and denigrated throughout history. People need to realize that there are significant works crafted by those individuals who are a part of the LGBTQ+ community."

Dr. Leasure said the course attracts students who were part of those communities as well as other members of the SU community.

"While the students who identify with those groups are important in my course, it is also valuable to have students outside of the community so that they can value those same people."

Marissa Mandulak, a Clarke Honors College senior majoring in art – new media track, discussed her experience in the honors Queer Literature course: "The course excited me because I wasn't just examining classic works as you might find in traditional English classes. I was able to explore literature that is mostly banned in schools and libraries."

Mandulak wanted to branch out and read different perspectives from different authors. "Not only can you learn from these perspectives, but it's also important to step into another person's shoes," Mandulak said.

Leasure shared that there is one central idea is at the core of every one of his courses: "The point of each course is to show people what it's like to be someone else. When you can do that, you teach students what it means to be more

human. In doing that, you grow, allowing a way to improve yourself."

Education is centered around self-improvement. While humanitarian literature may be unpopular, there is always something to learn. It's through these lessons that Dr. Leasure helps students become better people than they were yesterday.



Honors and SU Culture

By Brian Dill

Most individuals on campus have heard of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion Office (ODI), yet few know about its cultural footprint on the Salisbury community. When interviewing Eli Modlin, SU's Chief of Staff who oversees the ODI, he hinted at future programs to expect at Salisbury University.

"There is a sense of more programming and physical space for our students of color, and luckily, COVID-19 restrictions have been getting better. Many people see themselves in the images displayed at the Center for Equity, Justice and Inclusion (CEJI) [a center organized through the ODI] in Blackwell Hall, which is amazing," shared Modlin, and "while there is still work to be done, there is an improved feeling of inclusivity."

With COVID restrictions slowly lifting, there are numerous opportunities for students to get involved. Recently, the CEJI hosted a successful October culture fest and an open house during Salisbury's Alumni Homecoming and Family Weekend. In the future, the ODI is doing work to promote Native American Heritage Month as well as hosting its second Anti-Racism Summit in the spring.

Dr. Stacia Kock, honors professor, recently attended the National Society for Minorities in Honors Seminar at Ball State University. At the summit, attendees learned how classes at other universities were team-taught, with the intention of encouraging diversity in the classroom atmosphere. This implementation of diversity could be the driving force for future success at SU.

Dr. Kock's best takeaway from this summit was the necessity of student input: "Students have input we need to incorporate. We need to ask students to drive this change because they see the gaps and problems in those issues."

Modlin encourages those with ideas to email the ODI at ODI@salisbury.edu to further spread social justice.

"This area [CEJI] is entirely new. This space [CEJI] was entirely renovated and innovated during the pandemic. Blackwell Hall did not look like this two years ago," Modlin said.

With a newly renovated space to spread social awareness, Modlin and the CEJI are in the process of creating a new sign for Blackwell Hall, as well as a walkway of flags that represent the diverse community at SU.

Modlin is encouraging people, like passionate members of the Clarke Honors College, to check out the new area in Blackwell Hall and share what students want to see in the future: "I hope to see members of the CHC use Blackwell Hall as a unique crossinstitutional place. We want to work together in this time of social change."

Given societal changes, it is important to become better allies by both speaking and acting upon forms of discrimination in the community. With the renovations of the CEJI and work orchestrated by the ODI, we can further promote social change in the community of Salisbury for the greater good.

It is our responsibility to educate and speak out against social injustices and against racism of any kind.



Hove to write. Hove to be buried [in my work]. Hove to have an insight. If I can take an insight that somebody gets and they do something new with it, that's really exciting. Andrea Pitzer

Andrea Pitzer: ICEBOUND

By Olivia Ballmann

On November 4, the Clarke Honors College had the pleasure of hosting author and journalist Andrea Pitzer to discuss her most recent book, Icebound: *Shipwrecked at the Edge of the World*.

Pitzer spent years developing the research for this book, which encompasses William Barent's Arctic voyage and exploration. Pitzer's research was vital as much of the topic was not known, and she spent many hours in archives to find research that *did* exist. Pitzer even took multiple trips to the Arctic to understand what Barent felt and experienced.

"I love to write. I love to be buried [in my work]. I love to have an insight. If I can take an insight that somebody gets and they do something new with it, that's really exciting."

While Pitzer loves to delve into her work, one of her favorite projects of completing her research is inspiring others and making a difference.

Prior to publishing *Icebound*, Pitzer had written *One Long Night:* A *Global History of Concentration Camps*. She traveled and completed extensive research for that book as well, and Pitzer has noticed more research on the topic since its publication.

"I love that I can spur and idea ... and they'll [other researchers] do something huge and better. If I could do that over and over, that would be as rewarding as the writing itself. But, there's also a real joy when somebody connects with an image, a moment, or a structure."

> RECKED AT THE OF THE WORLD REA PITZER TAR PA

Honors Gallery • .





































Honors alumna and nurse Claire Owen.

Honors Student Nurses and the COVID-19 Pandemic

By Sophia Smith

Throughout the pandemic, we've seen stories and news articles about what doctors and nurses have endured this past year and a half. COVID-19 has impacted us all, but how has it affected our nursing students?

Claire Owen, an Honors College alumna in the second degree nursing program, knew she wanted to go into nursing her junior year as COVID-19 began to ramp up.

"I saw the passion and the drive that they [nurses] had ... I felt like I had that same passion and drive, and burn-out is something that happens far more often because of the pandemic, with RNs, right now, especially. It's kind of like a challenge, I'm up for it, I want to make a difference and be there for people," Owen said.

University policy says student nurses are prohibited from caring for COVID-19 patients and are not allowed to be in rooms with contact precautions.

"There's a whole different unit in the hospital, so we don't even get COVID patients. Upon admission to the hospital, all the patients get a COVID test, we get screened every time we go in, so it's pretty safe for sure," Owen said.

Students are also required to wear N95 surgical masks and face shields to better protect themselves and their patients from COVID-19.

"I didn't realize how much masks, especially N95s, hurt your ears. It is painful.," Owen said. "And face shields are just annoying, it's hard to have that communication with patients, and seeing that COVID perspective as a nurse or student-nurse in the clinical environment, at first I was like, 'This is so annoying, I really don't know if I can do this,' but the more I work with my patients and talk to them, like I said, it kind of solidified [my decision to be a nurse]."

Now that SU's classes are back in person, the nursing program is moving full speed ahead.

"This semester is the first semester that everything's kind of back in full swing, and all of the nursing professors are really excited about it because it's the most normal it's been in two years," Owen explained.

Claire Cornell, a senior honors nursing student, described how her day-to-day responsibilities changed because of COVID-19. "We were still in the hospital, but hospitals ... have decreased numbers of students in the unit at each time, so that was changed," Cornell said. "Some of our simulations were online, over Zoom, rather than face to face. We still did a lot of hands-on Sim Center stuff. All of our assignments were online, but there was still an inperson component that came with it, then we had our online papers due after that."

With clinicals being online, some student nurses did not get much of an opportunity to work in a clinical setting. "I feel like some people feel as if they didn't get an appropriate amount of experience because we did have decreased patient interaction in the hospital. I personally don't feel that way because I work as a CNA outside of clinical, so I feel like I get plenty of experience that way, but I feel as if someone who didn't work outside of the program, they may have decreased experience in the hospital," Cornell explained. "But I feel like no nursing school or program can truly prepare you for clinical outside of the hospital anyway."

Cornell also worked in the COVID ICU during the peak of the pandemic on her own and experienced first-hand how it united nurses together.

"I think one thing that's really cool about nursing is the comradery between nurses, and how it's actually a team profession. You're never doing anything alone, and I think pandemic nursing on the ICU completely brought that out, to the point where we didn't really know what we were doing because it was all new practice."

The pandemic has emphasized the importance of doctors, nurses and health care workers, and SU applauds its students who want to join this field to help make a difference.

"Every time I pull up into the hospital, there's a big thing out front that says 'Healthcare heroes work here,' and I didn't realize what that meant before I started putting myself in the clinical setting," said Owen. "It was attractive to me at first and it was something I wanted to do, but actually being in that setting is very different because of all of the hoops you have to jump through ... You really have to put your profession first and your wants last."

The COVID-19 pandemic brought about many unprecedented challenges, but our student nurses have handled them gracefully and with resilience, and students and professors at the Clarke Honors College couldn't be prouder.

Honors Student Association's

By Abigail Slovick



When people think of Friday nights, most wouldn't expect Clarke Honors College students to be out volunteering and making the world a better place, but they do.

The Honors Student Association (HSA) participates in volunteer events each semester. This year, the HSA offered to help the City of Salisbury put on one of their largest community events: the Halloween-themed 3rd Friday.

The week leading up to the event was full of preparations. Craft supplies, parachutes and stress balls were gathered to host a booth of free games and crafts for kids.

With live music, children running down the street in superhero costumes and mini pumpkins, it is easy to see why HSA President Elliana "Elli" Larsen enjoys organizing volunteer events.

Larsen is an early childhood education and elementary

education double major who loves working with children and finds being HSA president incredibly rewarding.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to be president for this great organization," Larsen said, acknowledging the hard work the HSA executive board put in for this event.

"Such amazing people made this [3rd Friday], and every other volunteering event we do, happen."

The HSA is always looking for new ways to volunteer in the community and give back to the people who make Salisbury our home.

Madi Darrah, a junior in the Clarke Honors College, loves volunteering with the HSA because she likes being involved "in the greater Salisbury community, not just on campus."

Community service is certainly a defining value honors students strive to uphold both on and off campus.

Friday Nights

Such amazing people made this [3rd Friday], and every other volunteering event we do, happen.

Elliana "Elli" Larsen

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- 1 A group of students from the HSA pose at the end of the night together with honors professor Heather McCarty.
- 2 Clarke Honors College Junior Jada Jackson smiles while working at the prize table.
- 3 Clarke Honors College Sophomore Elliana "Elli" Larsen (left) and Junior Ann Thomas wait for children to arrive after setting up the tables.

Honors Student Ambassadors



Elizabeth A. Wash

- Major: Biology (Pre-Med Track)
- Minors: Chemistry and Deaf Studies
- Hometown: Waldorf, MD

Interests:

President Citizen Scholars, Honors Student Association, Delta Alpha Pi President, *The Saunterer* Editor, *Laridae* Science Editor, Medical Careers Society, American Sign Language Club, Peer Success Coach, Mental Health Committee, Student Affairs Board for Diversity and Inclusion Vice President

• Favorite part about being an honors student:

All of the amazing relationships I have made with the students and faculty and the numerous opportunities we receive to be a part of something larger than our campus community."



Megan Spicer

- Major: Chemistry
- Minor: Psychology
- Hometown: Hereford, MD
- Interests: Honors Student Association, Student Government Association's Sustainability Committee, Center for Student Achievement Chemistry Supplemental Instructor
 - Favorite part about being an honors student: : "My favorite part of being an honors student is the intimacy of relationships you can build with professors and fellow classmates who have the same values in education as you."



Ryan Devine

- Major: Psychology
- Minor: Social Justice
- Hometown: Cape May, NJ
- Interests:

Honors Ambassador, Chief Justice of the Student Government Association, PACE Presidential Citizen Scholar, Psychology Department Accelerating Mentoring Program Mentor

• Favorite part about being an honors student: :

"My favorite thing about being an honors student is the courses. Between the material going into further depth than the traditional courses and having access to some of the most accomplished professors on campus, I truly feel that I can reach my maximum potential as a student."

Honors Student Ambassadors are exemplary students in the Clarke Honors College who are available to answer questions that you may have about the College and their experience at Salisbury University. In addition to their wide-ranging majors, most ambassadors have additional areas of academic expertise and are involved in a variety of extracurricular activities. In each issue of The Saunterer, we introduce a few of our 31 ambassadors. To find out more, you can visit the Clarke Honors College website www. salisbury.edu/honors, which includes full profiles for each of the ambassadors.



Jada Jackson

- Major: Nursing
- Hometown: Laurel, MD
- Interests:
- Honors Student Association, CRU, (Student Nurses Association), The Saunterer, Phi Kappa Phi
- Favorite part about being an honors student: : "Being a part of such a great community, from the friendly students to caring honors faculty."



Kenna Krueger

- Major: Elementary Education
- Hometown: Poolesville, MD
- Interests:
- Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority, University Writing Center Consultant
- Favorite part about being an honors student: : "I love the connections with students and faculty that the Clarke Honors College has helped me make and the lifelong friends I've made as an Honors student."



Elli Larsen

- Major: Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education
- Minor: Psychology
- Hometown: Ocean View, DE
- Interests:
- Honors Student Association President, Center for Student Achievement Biology 101 Supplemental Instructor, *The Saunterer* Writer and Editor, *Laridae* Author
- Favorite part about being an honors student:

"My favorite part of being an honors student is the sense of community, the supportive professors, the wonderful friendships, the awesome events and the priority registration."



Kaylah Green

He thinks me ignorant. He has destroyed that which tethered my good spirits and hope to this world. I have no choice but to retaliate. I will strip from him everything he holds dear to this world.

I will be his only connection left. He will be tethered to my being alone. I will kill everyone in my path to this achievement. For when I am done he will have no choice. Parish and writhe in his misery, or follow me to the depths of the Earth as I command. My soul is filled with hate. I loathe my creator. I have no choice but to make him suffer as I do.

Humans will never understand my pain without me putting them through it. This is the only way. So be it. The last of my humanity is gone--if I ever was a harbor for it. I shall go away immediately and begin my reign of terror as I destroy everything I can. But most of all I shall crush his spirit as he has mine.

Resentfully.

CREATIVE WORKS by Hanars 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.



"Swallowtail" Olivia Ballmann





"Great Smoky" lan Leverage



"Let's Go for a Swim" Olivia Ballmann





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: salisburyu.networkforgood.com/causes/4727-the-honors-college

SU has a strong institutional commitment to diversity and nondiscrimination in all programs, events, and services. To that end, the University prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, marital status, pregnancy, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, genetiinformation, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status or other legally protected characteristics. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Office of Institutional Equity/Tritle IX Coordinator, Holloway Hall 100, 410-543-6426.



