

THE HONORS BEACON

Honors Program at Minnesota State University, Mankato



LEADERSHIP • RESEARCH • GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Issue XV, Spring 2019



From left to right: Alicia Utecht, Mackenzie Dockendorf, Lauren Hesser, Anjola Onadipe, Rachel Newinski

Turning Graduate School Into A Reality

By Emma Gale, '20 (Communication Sciences and Disorders; Rosemount, Minn.)

As undergraduate students, some of us may be considering furthering our education by going to graduate or medical school. In order to learn more about the application processes, I interviewed five honors students about their experiences with these applications and how the Honors Program helped them.

One of these students is Alicia Utecht. She will be continuing her education at Villanova University, where she is pursuing a Master's degree in Communication Studies. She is an aspiring Professor of Communication Studies where she can be a mentor to students while also conducting research. In order to get into most graduate school programs, you must take a general test, called the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE). Utecht advises those who are interested in graduate school to take the GRE with ample amount of time before their application deadlines, since during her application process her scores

were almost not in by the deadline. She expressed how helpful the Honors Program had been during her application process because she had "so many experiences through Honors that have shaped who I am as a student and as a person." One experience that stuck out to her was the push from the Honors Program to get involved in research. Utecht was able to present her research at the National Communication Association Conference, which solidified her decision to continue research in her educational and professional careers. She ends by advising those who are interested in similar aspirations to "Follow your passion and live with genuine kindness."

Mackenzie Dockendorf recently graduated from the Honors Program and will be attending Concordia University Saint Paul for her Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Her experience with applying to schools was quite different from Utecht's, because most physical therapy programs use a

generalized application system called PT-CAS, where she was able to send and submit all of her applications at one time. Once her applications were submitted, she had to wait to hear back from schools to know whether she would be invited for an interview. Dockendorf experienced a few different interview styles from the schools that called her back; one was an online automated interview and recording process, another interview was conducted face to face where she was given two of the questions prior to the interview, and she also had a personal, face-to-face interview as well. One way that she prepared for these interviews was by doing mock interviews through the Pre-Physical/Occupational Therapy Club. Dockendorf highlighted that joining the club was the "most important action" that she took in her undergraduate career because the meetings were "very informational about a variety of different

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The Honors Beacon newsletter was awarded 1st place in the student print category of the National Collegiate Honors Council's newsletter contest for the 2014-2015 academic year.



Director's Note

By Dr. Leah White, Interim Director of the Honors Program



As we celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Honors Program redesign, I am reminded that when I was a college student, a decade seemed like a very long time. Perhaps because a lot really does happen in the

first three decades of one's life. You go from a helpless infant, to a relatively independent adult, to an officially "launched" thirty year old. Now, as I turn fifty, I understand how quickly a decade can pass without noticing. Therefore, I am trying to take the opportunity to slow down, and look back into my past and see how much I have grown, yet simultaneously gaze forward and consider what is yet to come.

One of the many things I enjoy about working with the Honors Program is the way we

encourage each other to understand there is no end-point to personal growth. As much as many of us find comfort in checking off items on our "to-do" lists, time in Honors teaches us when it comes to our own development; the task will always remain open-ended. This semester I read Michelle Obama's memoir *Becoming*. The book beautifully guides the reader through the author's process of growth and personal development. She writes, "For me, becoming isn't about arriving somewhere or achieving a certain aim. I see it instead as forward motion, a means of evolving, and a way to reach continuously toward a better self. The journey doesn't end."

This edition of *The Beacon* provides us an opportunity to learn about how current and former Honors students are embracing the process of "becoming." Their stories reveal the value in the journey itself, rather than visualizing an end-point. This issue of the *Beacon* launches us into our next decade of program growth. 📖

Editor's Note

By Emily Schiltz '20 (*Exercise Science; Detroit Lakes, Minn.*)



Welcome to our fifteenth issue of the Honors Beacon. This year marks the ten year anniversary of the Honors Program redesign. To celebrate the changes and accomplishments

honors students have made since then, this edition of the *Beacon's* theme is "past, present, and future". Our hope is to showcase some of the accomplishments our Honors students have made in the past ten years, as well as what our Honors students will be accomplishing in the next ten years.

This edition of the *Beacon* is special to

me as it is my first edition as the Editor in Chief. However, it is also special to me because I feel personally connected to this edition's theme. As Honors students, we are asked to reflect on the experiences we have to show how we have grown as global citizens and leaders. Rarely are we asked to look forward and envision where we want to be in the future. I believe that this edition of the *Beacon* shares the success and growth of students who have looked forward and will continue to do so.

Thank you to all of the wonderful writers, Honors staff, and my co-Editor Josie Braaten for all of their dedication and hard work throughout this semester. Happy reading! 📖

The Spring 2019 Beacon Team

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Mentorship Through Scholarship

By Anjola Onadipe, '19 (Biomedical Sciences; Mankato, Minn.)



A privately-funded scholarship can be a source of inspiration, as it indicates that there are people willing to sacrifice their own resources to invest in one's future. For Anna Hagan (Psychology, '19) and Michaela Reidell (International Business and Human Resources, '21), receiving the Evelyn Tischer and James Tischer Honors Program Scholarship

has been life changing. The Tischer Scholarship is awarded to one Honors student each year who has just completed their first year at Minnesota State University Mankato. The criteria for the scholarship include: leadership traits and experiences, a drive to succeed, demonstrated ability to overcome adversity, and financial need. The scholarship provides funding for the student's sophomore, junior, and senior years.

Prior to receiving the Tischer Scholarship, Michaela's future in college was uncertain due to financial obstacles. Being awarded the scholarship provided her with the financial resources to continue at Minnesota State University Mankato. "Receiving any kind of scholarship if you don't have the financial means to be in college is very life changing," Michaela said as she reflected on the generosity of the Tischers. Similarly, Anna's aspirations to attend graduate school were almost sidelined due to the impending financial burden of graduate school, on top of undergraduate costs. Before being awarded the Tischer Scholarship, Anna had considered changing her major to pursue a career that would not require graduate school.

Along with their financial support, the Tischers are committed to developing relationships with the scholars and providing opportunities for personal and professional growth. The Tischers demonstrated this commitment by inviting Michaela and Anna to visit Chicago (the Tischer's home city) in September of 2018 in order to attend the Chicago Foundation for Women's Luncheon and Symposium (CFWLS). The trip also provided the opportunity for Anna and Michaela to spend time, and further connect, with the Tischer family.

The main goal of the CFWLS was to empower women and address issues that affect women such as gender inequality and sexual violence. The conference lasted for several hours and featured many speakers, including a Q&A session with Aly Raisman- a three time gold medal American gymnast. Raisman discussed her firsthand account of sexual harassment and assault while on the U.S. gymnastics team, along with what she has since done to instigate change. The main message that resonated with Anna from Raisman is to speak up and empower others, and also as Anna shares,

"Be judgement free when people do speak up, because there's a reason people aren't coming forward, and there's a reason they wait so long." Raisman also addressed victim-blaming and emphasized the importance of victims telling their stories when they are ready. Raisman's message also resonated with Michaela, especially in regard to how hard it can be to change circumstances within powerful organizations, such as an Olympic team.

Another major focus of the conference was addressing the necessity of making economic stability possible for females in the Chicago area. Women who had been in tough financial circumstances had the opportunity to tell their stories. One speaker shared that after she lost her job and was evicted from her home, The Chicago Foundation was able to help her get a job as a welder, consequently enabling her to provide for her family. Anna stated that the personal testimonies were "really powerful and eye opening, because I am privileged for sure, and it was a humbling experience to recognize privilege and recognize that although we have come so far, there's still a lot of progress to be made." Attending the conference has further inspired Anna to look for opportunities to empower women- an activism interest which was initially sparked through the Honors Program. "You get a great exposure to the world through the Honors Program...I was able to take a class for social change [Social Justice through Social Change] and we got involved in activism. I feel like the Honors Program really opened my eyes, coming from such a small town, because it required me to put myself out into these diverse classes. I think now that I have a much better idea of what the world actually is."

The conference was also a wonderful networking opportunity for Anna and Michaela. The Tischers arranged for them to meet with both family friends and coworkers who are involved with career fields related to the student's interests. Michaela met with representatives from an international law firm and was able to discuss employment law. Taking into consideration her majors, this experience will have a major positive impact on her future academic and career goals. Furthermore, the people that Michaela met empowered her to reflect on the kinds of careers that could be a good fit for her. Anna had the chance to connect with a social worker who presented a plethora of possible psychology career choices. This conversation brought Anna new insight which has steered her toward pursuing clinical psychology. Anna and Michaela were also introduced to a Human Resources professional from Chad Tischer's own company.

The trip gave Anna and Michaela the chance to develop a friendship as well as explore Chicago with the Tischers. They dined at a classic Chicago pizza restaurant, visited Millenium Park, went to gift shops, and explored Chicago architecture through a boat tour. Anna describes the Tischers as mentors, and Michaela states that their kindness has made her a more generous and appreciative person. Michaela's favorite part of the weekend was meeting a leader of the Midtown Educational Foundation: a non-profit which helps at-risk children prepare for high school and college. The foundation assists children with academics and provides opportunities to develop their personal values and character. For Anna, the networking opportunities had the biggest

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topics, including graduate school.” The best advice she can give to those interested in the career is to get as involved as early as possible! She noted that the Honors Program is a great way to get involved and build connections as well.

Lauren Hesser will be attending the Physician’s Assistant (PA) graduate program at the College of St. Scholastica. Her application process was similar to Utecht’s and Dockendorf’s process as it involved an initial application followed by an interview period. Hesser described the application process as quite “complex and took a lot of organization.” She also added that the deadlines for each school varied, so she created a large chart on her computer to keep herself organized and kept tabs on it periodically. For students interested in becoming a PA, she suggests finding a job or experience with direct patient care because most programs require many hours of direct patient care experience. Hesser also added that “Physician’s Assistant is a very popular field right now.” She wants students interested in this field to be prepared for the potential of disappointment because it is a competitive field and not every school will accept you. The Honors Program helped Hesser further discover her passion for helping others because it led her to talk to Ginny Walters about fellowship opportunities. She was accepted into a summer fellowship program at the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine in Pittsburg and was able to job shadow several different medical professionals. The fellowship program and job shadowing solidified her interests in direct patient care and research.

The last two students I interviewed talked about their experiences in applying to

medical school. The medical school application process has three main steps and is quite extensive, starting a full calendar year before you would attend. The first step is the primary application, which includes a personal statement, grades, MCAT score, descriptions of meaningful activities you’ve been involved with, letters of recommendation, and biographical information. After receiving the primary application, schools choose to send out secondary applications to students they feel are qualified that consists of school-specific essay questions. Based on these two applications, schools decide whether or not they want to bring a student in for an interview. If this happens, students have to travel to each school, as the interviews are always in person. Both students stressed the importance of applying to many schools because medical schools are very competitive and selective.

Anjola Onadipe is aspiring to become a medical doctor because he wants to help people “overcome obstacles in order to live their highest quality of life.” He has decided to attend the University of Michigan Medical School next fall. The University of Michigan has been one of his top choices since 2017, when he participated in a summer research program that was held there. When asked about the Honors Program and its influence on his academic career, Onadipe said, “It has been the most transformative aspect of my education at MNSU. The program has given me many opportunities to develop skills and have experiences that will shape the rest of my career.” Specifically, it was a large influence on his decision to pursue research in summer programs and on campus. Throughout the application process, the directors of the program were a huge help. Walters helped him develop a strong personal statement,

and he had a strong relationship with previous Honors Director, Dr. Dahlman, who was able to write letters of recommendations for him. His biggest advice to anyone interested in applying to medical school is to “reflect often as to why you are pursuing this career.”

Lastly, I spoke with Rachel Newinski. Newinski is waiting to hear back from schools and has not made a decision on where she will be studying in the fall, but she is excited to start her journey to become a physician. She has spent a lot of time working as a medical scribe in a local emergency room and has shadowed many physicians throughout her undergraduate career. These experiences have solidified her decision to pursue a career as a physician. Her involvement in the Honors Program led her to pursue undergraduate research, as well as unique experiences to grow as a leader and global citizen. Newinski spent her time at MNSU involved in many different clubs, volunteering and work. All of these experiences helped Newinski build the best possible application she could. When asked what the most challenging experience was during the application process, Newinski replied, “dealing with the waiting and uncertainty of it all.” Her advice to students with similar aspirations is to “get involved with at least one leadership role and one community service role early on in your college career and stick with it.” This way students can have meaningful experiences that lead them to be better-rounded. She also adds that while you are “not just a test score and a GPA,” it is important to work especially hard in your science classes because it is hard to recover from a low science GPA in the “eyes of admissions committees.”¹¹

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impact. Reflecting on everyone she was able to connect with, Anna stated “He [Chad Tischer] is such a networker for you, he wants you to get the most out of anything. The whole trip brought so much useful information in a small amount of time.”

Receiving the Tischer Scholarship was the catalyst of both Michaela and Anna’s relationships with the family, and the trip to

Chicago added another layer to their relationship. “Meeting them made it [receiving the scholarship] feel more personable, because usually you don’t get to actually meet the donors” Michaela said. Anna and Michaela hope to pass on the kindness they have received from the Tischers in their future personal and professional endeavors.

¹¹



Service and Smiles in the Snow

By Amber Chrischilles, '21 (Mass Media; Storm Lake, Iowa)



The Honors Program has had two very successful Learning Communities (LC) this year. Amily Smith is the Learning Community Coordinator (LCC) for the Emerging Leaders Honors LC, and I am the LCC for the Honors Launch LC. The Emerging Leaders Honors LC consists of sophomores and upper-class students, while the Honors Launch LC consists of first-year students. The Emerging Leaders LC focuses on expanding students' leadership and community involvement while the first-year LC focuses on building connections and learning about what it means to be a student in the Honors Program.


Every year, each LCC plans a Make-a-Difference (MAD) service project for the students to get involved in the community. Smith wanted her students to have a personal connection to their project, so she asked them for suggestions on what they wanted to do. With their approval, Smith planned for her LC to volunteer to set up the Kiwanis Holiday Lights in Sibley Park through Kiwanis International. The MAD service project that I planned to have my students partake in was Rake the Town through Vine of Mankato. I focused on finding a service project that would be best for first-years students as they began to feel more connected to the Mankato community.

The Emerging Leaders Honors LC spent a cold afternoon on Sun-

day, November 18th putting together light strands and hanging up lights around the park and in trees. Smith said that after they completed their event, it was very rewarding to see the finished project with the park all lit up. "It was a great way for us to get off campus and into a community tradition," stated Smith. Even through the cold, they were able to successfully complete their service project and give back to the community.

The Honors Launch LC also spent a cold and snowy morning raking leaves for multiple community members on Saturday, November 10th. Students felt like they were raking more snow than leaves! The LC was able to rake a total of three yards for community members, which was one more yard than they had originally planned on accomplishing that day. Throughout this service project, students were able to bond and work well together to accomplish a goal.

One of the wonderful impacts of the LC's MAD service projects is that students feel like they have made a positive impact on their community. "We wanted to do a project that is important to the Mankato community. We all know and love Kiwanis Holiday Lights, so it was the perfect opportunity to do something for the community," said Smith. The Honors Launch LC also felt connected to the community, especially when community members reached out to them to let them know how grateful they were for their hard work and willingness to volunteer.

Being able to experience working with a team and becoming connected to the community through service projects has been an essential part in developing the LC's leadership skills. My advice for students who want to organize and plan similar service projects is not to be afraid to reach out to community members for help. The Mankato community has a surplus of projects to participate in and narrowing it down to fit the interests of a large group can be challenging. The hard work of planning and completing service projects can be tiring, but it is always rewarding in the end, especially when you have a great group with whom to work! 

Honorable Mentions

The following students presented at the 2019 Undergraduate Research Symposium: Emma Gale, Olivia Thomas, Anjola Onadipe, Megan Serratore, Emily Schiltz, Bethany Haus, Hunter Herber, Nickolas Rockenback, Zoe Wright, Lillie McDermott, Sarah Wall, Avery Whooley, Anna Hagen, Brennah McCorkell, Ibelizet Dominguez, Maddison Hajek, Shamsudeen Adediji, Eryn Zuiker, Casey Schneider, Macenzie Hays, Rebecca Peterson, Sarah Hagar and Sarah Moenkedick.

The following students served as Community Advisors for the 2018-2019 Academic Year: Katie Liebel, Dylan Riess

Kassidy Tocco was awarded the College of Education Dean's Scholarship.

Anjola Onadipe was awarded a full tuition scholarship at the University of Michigan Medical School.

Alicia Utecht presented at the National Communication Association 104th Annual Conference and in June of 2019 will act as a panelist for the Sibling Panel at the 7th Annual National Sibling Leadership Network Conference in St. Paul Minnesota.

Ana Leyva won 2nd place at the Minnesota NATS singing competition for Upper College Musical Theatre Woman's Division, was one of the 10 students displayed at the CSU BEST Board, and was a part of the a capella group: Maverick Vocal Precision which won first place (both Judge's Choice & Audience's Favorite) at the Aca Idol competition at Sing Strong NY 2019 A Cappella Festival.

Kassidy Tocco qualified for the Interstate Oratory conference, the National Forensics Association National tournament, and the American Forensics Association national tournament.

Anjola Onadipe presented at the National Confer-

ence on Undergraduate Research.

Katie Liebel and Abigail Larson presented at the Pan-Lingua Conference.

Sarah Moenkedick and Emma Gale presented at the Minnesota Speech-Language and Hearing Association.

Olivia Thomas presented at both the Minnesota Conference of Undergraduate Scholarly and Creative Research and the World Congress of Undergraduate Research.

The following students served on the Executive Board of the Honors Student Body for the 2018-2019 academic year: Nwando Ikeogu, Emma Gale, Amber Chrischilles, Samantha King, Shayla Schumacher, Elizabeth Putnam, Samantha Kozelek.

Andrea Bogdan was awarded the Truman and Reta Wood Scholarship.

A Creative Exploration of Somali Culture

By Cassidy Tocco, '21 (Special Education; Marshall, Minn.)

This semester, I had the opportunity to take the Honors Seminar, 'Somali and Somali American Literature, Art and Music'. This class focuses exclusively on Somali literature by African writers who often are writing in diaspora, meaning authors are writing about a location from which they have fled or were forced to leave. In the western world of literature, there is unfortunately less attention on African literature, which makes this class particularly unique and interesting. As a second year special education major, this is my first literature class and so far I have been challenged in many new ways. This class is definitely out of my comfort zone. Thankfully, the professor, Dr.

Danielle Haque, recognized this and has focused her lectures on understanding the basics of interpreting and reading literature and poetry. Because of this, I find myself approaching the materials we read in different ways. For example, oral tradition runs deep in African and Somali culture and some of the literature we read reflects this tradition. The literature we have covered in class has been told in nonlinear patterns and by multiple speakers, which is vastly different from traditional western literature. This has driven me to stretch my imagination and think in abstract ways.

The literature we read not only pushes my

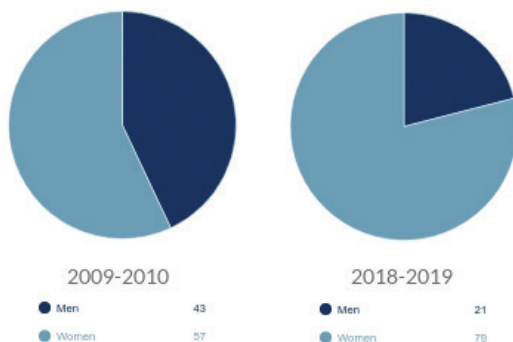
conceptual understandings, but it also has provided eye opening experiences to the plight of refugees and immigrants. We have discussed a variety of essays about the experiences of immigrants around the world, particularly in America. For example, if a refugee of color is able to successfully immigrate, they are forced to experience the culture of blackness in America in a way that is nonexistent in Africa. Suddenly, immigrants, who are already in a minority group, also must endure racial discrimination that is unfortunately prevalent in our

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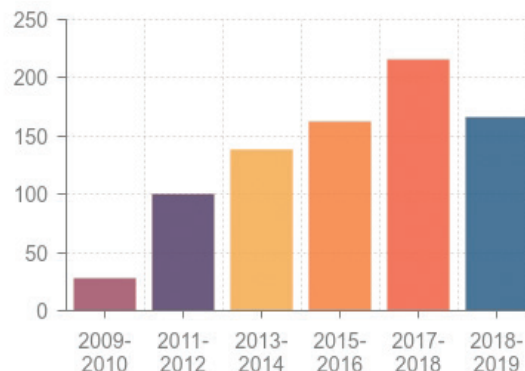
Then vs. Now

10 Years of Improvements in the Honors Program

GENDER TRENDS OVER THE YEARS



Student Enrollment Growth



In 2009-2010...

19
different majors
represented

All 6 colleges
represented
by students



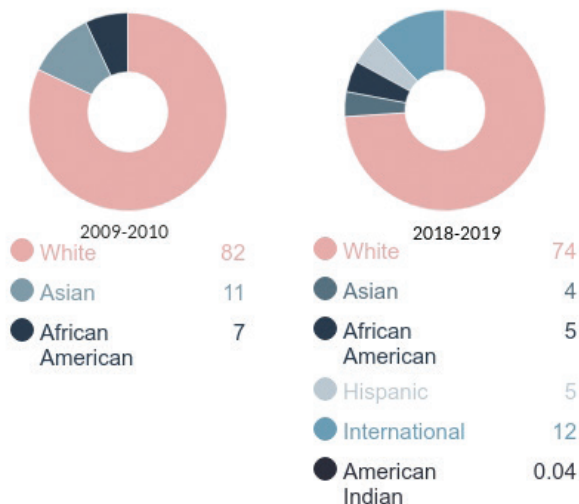
In 2018-2019...

All 6 colleges
represented by
students



52
different majors
represented

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culture.

This is one of the largest realizations I have had regarding the plight of refugees, in that their struggles do not end when they leave their country. In addition, the literature we discuss also depicts civil war, violence, and genocide, as well as what modern Africa looks like. This class has helped change my stereotypical western view of Africa into a more accurate perspective, including the reasons why a refugee would be forced to immigrate and the struggles they face during that process. I feel that in

today's society, this is an essential topic to learn about from those who have experienced it in order to continue to have an open and accurate discussion.

Growing my global citizenship competency is what I have enjoyed most about this course. I am really looking forward to a class trip to The Somali Museum of Minnesota and an authentic Somali restaurant in the Twin Cities. It is one thing to read and learn about a culture, but it is another to actually go into the world and see it. Through this literature class, I have had the opportunity to dive into a whole different culture that is so different from my own,

and doing so has been such an interesting and eye-opening experience. I have learned a lot about the Somali culture, traditions, and the Islamic faith. I have come to see that the people we read about are also, simply, people. Through their stories, I have begun to understand that refugees are people who have the same desires for safety, stability, family, love, and friendship as I do. Literature is a powerful tool that can impact the reader to view the world through a new perspective and also liberate the author by sharing their narratives.

■

Striving for the Goal, One Step at a Time

By Afnan Husain, '22 (Computer Information Technology; Lucknow, India)



Srajan Jain (MIS, '21) wants to be an entrepreneur. But it is not that easy, since to be an entrepreneur you need leadership skills and money to create a successful business. The Honors Program aids students in learning the leadership skills necessary for running a business and after passing by the Honors office many times, he decided to inquire about the program. Jain realized the program provides exactly what he needs to achieve his goal of becoming an entrepreneur, so he applied to the Honors Program and got accepted. Through the Honors Program, he feels he gets a chance to work on his leadership skills that he's developed in his Honors courses and other opportunities. He also has the chance to network and make connections, which will help him as he works to accomplish his lifelong dream of leaving a legacy behind him.

Jain was brought up in Jabalpur, India, where he attended boarding school. At boarding school, he got the taste of independent living as early as the 8th grade. As a child living away from his family, he was forced to grow up faster and thus at a young age was more responsible, mature, and disciplined than his peers. As he grew older, Jain participated in MUN (Model United Nations) where he had the opportunity to be an exchange student in Eu-

rope for two months and a delegate for India, among 12 other countries. This is when he realized that he wanted to go to school abroad for his undergraduate studies. The United States seemed like the best option for him and so he applied to seven universities here. Minnesota State University, Mankato was one of them and due to a scholarship, he was able to pursue his degree in Management Information Systems.

At Minnesota State University, Mankato, Jain has learned a lot of things that he would not have learned at boarding school. As an international student in the United States, he has realized the importance of cultural difference and how it affects each one of our perspectives. Understanding there may be differences in opinion is the first step to increasing our understanding of the world. Due to the cultural contribution hours required by Jain's scholarship, Jain also realized the importance of volunteering and how good being selfless feels. Through the Family Friendship Program, he found that one similarity between all families across the globe is how protective parents are over their kids.

Living in the States is not cheap, so Jain works while completing his degree, and simultaneously working and studying is easier said than done. After struggling for a while with the two, he found a balance and gained an understanding of how difficult it really is to earn money, which taught him to appreciate his parents for everything they have done for him. Jain's extroverted side has really helped him to engage with people here and he believes that being in the Honors Program and socializing with Honors students will teach him a lot of skills he has yet to learn. Furthermore, he believes that the faculty and professors associated with the Honors Program make excellent role models. He is gaining a lot of knowledge that can be applicable to his future profession. He hopes to apply this knowledge not only by becoming an entrepreneur, but by establishing a legacy that helps all the people it reaches. ■

Nellie Welsh: Golden Opportunities in Italy

By Samantha Kozelek, '22 (Communication Sciences and Disorders; Waukesha, Wisc.)



For many students, studying abroad is an opportunity they hope to be able to experience. For Nellie Welsh (Art History & Anthropology, '19'), she knew this was an experience she wanted to have. She had decided this before she arrived at college. Her mom encouraged her to take a journey somewhere abroad, and Italy was the place that just felt right for her. She felt a click and realized that was the place she wanted to go. She studied abroad in Florence, Italy during the spring semester of 2018.

Welsh wanted to continue her studies in a place that she felt had an immediate connection with the culture. Being an Art History and Anthropology major, along with a certification in museum studies, there is only so much in Minnesota that one can experience. She found that being in Florence gave her the chance to learn about the Renaissance in its original birthplace. She also had the opportunity to see historical monuments and excavation sites that were basically in her backyard. Welsh was able to immerse herself in the Italian cul-


ture and embrace it during her experience. During her time in Italy, Welsh was able to develop her global citizenship competency. Welsh placed herself into different cultures, stating, "I lived and breathed Italy for eight months, and when I was not there, I travelled." Welsh spent Christmas and New Years in England before she decided to see more of the region. She explored Europe on an 18-day trip that took her from Rome to London, as well as some Eastern-European countries, where she made friends from Australia and New Zealand. She met lots of new people from other countries and learned about their experiences.

In Italy, Welsh had the opportunity to have an internship with Palazzo Vecchio, a major museum in Florence. As an intern, she was able to give tours, help with children's programs and learn about the museum. Throughout her time at the museum, she worked with people who were supportive of her and very helpful. She was able to get any questions she had answered and had many people she could ask. She hopes that from this experience, the connection between her and the museum will remain and give her the opportunity to return someday and possibly work in Italy. For her future career, she wants to work in a museum, and this experience was a great way to prepare for this.

While being abroad in an unknown country, challenges and worries can develop. For Welsh, her biggest challenge was that she did not know any Italian before going abroad. She had experience in both Spanish and French and was able to understand some things, but she was still worried

about traveling to her new Italian home. Once she made it to her host family, she felt more comfortable. After attempting to speak Italian at some shops, she found that most shop workers in Florence speak English! Money was another worry that she experienced, but she was able to take out loans to cover the expenses, so that could be taken off her mind.

Being abroad also gave Welsh the opportunity to learn a lot about herself. One thing she learned was that while she is an independent person, she still needs her family. While in school, she lives four hours away from home. This led her to believe that she would be fine going to Italy and not being able to see her family often. She misjudged herself. For nine months, she was unable to see her brother, dad, grandparents, and any aunts, uncles, and cousins, and it was much harder than she imagined. Up until Welsh's experience studying abroad, she did not realize how family-oriented she is. Her family pushed her to go out and encouraged her to be herself, which is exactly what she did.

Studying abroad is not an easy thing to do. Welsh talked about some of the steps she had to take to get started, such as applying to a school, finding loans, and getting a visa. These things take a lot of paperwork to complete. Her advice to anyone wanting to study abroad is to ask as many questions as they can to the Study Abroad and Financial Aid offices. She encourages anyone who is thinking about studying abroad to take the chance. "Most importantly, the best experiences happen outside your comfort zone," Welsh says. 

Linh Hoang: An Epic English Adventure

By Josie Braaten, '19 (Creative Writing; Glasgow, Mont.)



Driven by a desire to develop a deeper understanding of unfamiliar cultures and challenge herself personally, Linh Hoang (Psychology '19) spent the fall semester of 2018 studying abroad in England. "I had no ties at all to the culture, so being in the UK would be a completely new experience. I also felt like I was growing too

comfortable and decided that studying abroad would be a great way to push myself," Hoang shared about her choice to study in England.

Navigating daily life in an unfamiliar country, along with taking specific sociology courses, helped Hoang to develop new cultural insight. Her classes introduced her to social

issues in the UK of which she was previously unaware, and living in England put Hoang in the position to be able to personally witness manifestations of these issues. On this experience, Hoang states, "I realized that oppression and systematic struggles are different for each country, even if we happened to share the same language."

(continued from previous page)


Because of these realizations and new experiential knowledge, Hoang knows that her experience in England has helped her to develop her global citizenship competency by making her a more aware and informed world citizen.

Hoang's time in England was also one of great personal growth. "There is this feeling that you are constantly the "outsider" and you must work and try to find ways in order to fit in," shares Hoang. Self-proclaimed as "shy," she had to step out of her comfort zone in order to maximize the positive aspects of her experience. This brought the additional challenge of striking a balance between challenging and taking care of oneself. In regards to finding this balance Hoang says, "I learned to realize

when I am taking the right steps for my own mental health, and when I am letting my shyness control my experiences." Hoang's time abroad also helped her to gain independence. "I was living on my own in a different country without my usual support systems, so I had to learn to adapt," she states. Successfully living, travelling, and studying alone in a foreign country has given Hoang a strong sense of accomplishment and confidence to pursue other trying, yet equally rewarding, experiences. Of this new awareness, Hoang states, "I am more capable than I think I am. I can do and experience a lot, I just need to put myself out there and seek them [new experiences] out."

Studying abroad will also have a positive impact on Hoang's future career. She was able to make strong academic and professional connections in Bristol that will help

her to achieve her career goals. In addition, immersing herself in a new culture has shown her the importance of accepting and understanding a diverse array of personal perspectives. "I would eventually like to go into counseling, and it is important to listen to people and not be ethnocentric when trying to help them. Everyone walks in with a different experience, and I need to be respectful of that," says Hoang of the newly acquired knowledge that she will take into her professional and personal future.

Studying abroad has proved to Hoang that taking risks yields great reward through the personal, academic, and future professional benefits it has brought her. As an ultimate take-away from her experience, Hoang shares, "There is a whole world out there, and it is important to be open and curious." 

Madison Hoffman: Connecting Across the Pond and Down Under

By Masaki Hara, '22 (Biology; Minami City, Japan)



Madison Hoffman is a senior studying Mass Media at Minnesota State University, Mankato. In the summer of 2018, she participated in a 10-day research program in England and then studied abroad at the University of South Australia in the fall of 2018.


While Hoffman was in England, she completed a research project about English dialogues. Many students who were ma-

joring in mass media were also a part of this project. It was a group research project, where she worked alongside other students from different universities. To learn about different dialogues, she interviewed different people who lived in England. In England, she spent time exploring the city, where she learned more about the culture, its history and its background.

When Hoffman was at the University of South Australia, she took mass media classes for five months as an exchange student. Her dream job is a journalist: a job where it is important to have an understanding of the cultures of different countries. Along with taking classes for her major, she took photography and film classes, which are also important for her future career. For journalists, it is important to explain events exactly as they happened, which means they may need to take pictures or videos. When her semester was over, she traveled around Australia where she was thrown into the Australian culture. This experience led her to develop an understanding of the Australian culture and its food and background, while also giving her the chance to compare it to her own culture here in the

United States.

Hoffman's experiences abroad helped her develop her global citizenship competency because she made relationships around the world and gained a greater cultural understanding of the world around her. While abroad, Hoffman interviewed people from England, Australia, Portugal, China, and Sweden to learn about their different cultural backgrounds and ways of life. She discovered the differences in each culture that make them unique but also the similarities between them as well.

Her travels exposed her to many people who have different backgrounds and opinions than her. Through these interactions, she learned to accept different cultures and respect others' opinions, although she may disagree with them. She also came to understand that there are different communication styles, such as talking face-to-face, interpreting body language, and the use of social media. Today, Hoffman is continuing her studies here at Minnesota State University, Mankato as well as continuing to learn about various cultures in order to fulfill her dream of becoming a journalist. 

Honors in Pictures



Students gathered for the food historian, Anny Gaul



One of our many students who presented their research at the URS here on campus!



Students made cheers and cards for the Girls on the Run 5K



The upper-class learning community working hard on their MAD project!



Some students in the first-year Learning Community went to Asian-American Night



Seven students attended the Upper Midwest Honors Conference in early April!



The Research Fair provided opportunities for students to connect with faculty



One of senior Alicia Utech's favorite memories of the program? Ice skating with her LC!



Both students and faculty had a blast at the Honors Student Body game night!

A Conversation with Dustin Sedars

By Jane Sakowicz, '22 (Biomedical Sciences; Wauconda, Illin.)



This interview features Mr. Dustin Sedars, the Director of Development for the College of Business, and his ties to Minnesota State University Mankato and the Honors Program. Mr. Sedars, originally from Clear Lake, Iowa, is a second-generation graduate of MNSU and is an alumnus of the Honors Program. With undergraduate degrees in Business Management and Mass-Communications, he connects with fellow alumni in order to start a conversation with them, and he invites these alumni to help make an impact in the community as well as in the university in a variety of different ways.

The interviewer in this piece, Jane Sakowicz, is a freshman Biomedical Sciences major who is originally from Wauconda, Illinois. She is involved with the RISEBio program, Honors Program, and the Women's Volleyball team at MNSU. She chose to write for the Honors Beacon in order to step out of her comfort zone and to focus on something other than school work and volleyball. She enjoyed getting the opportunity to interview Mr. Sedars, which helped her to explore different aspects of the writing process and to learn more about the university and its alumni foundation.

Jane Sakowicz: What does your job entail?

Dustin Sedars: As the Director of Development for the College of Business I work to engage alumni who graduated with an undergraduate degree from the College of Business. I reach out to these alumni and I talk them through the 9 ways that they can engage with the university: come speak for a day, mentor a student, mentor other alumni, receive help from career services, financially support a student, participate in life-long learning by coming back and taking more classes, serve on a board, create an internship, or hire a graduate. By sitting down and chatting with these alumni, I hope to build a strong connection with them and get a feel of how or if they would like to help give back to the university. I focus on gifts, fundraising for endowments, and scholarships. My job is to take these donations and services offered by the alumni and use them to help with the development of the business program and its students.

Sakowicz: What brought you back to MNSU?

Sedars: Being a second-generation graduate, I have big ties with the university and many fond memories. I have an affinity for MNSU and have always wanted to give back, but I never knew exactly how I would do it. It is great that I now get to help the university through reconnecting with the alumni.

Sakowicz: What were you involved with while attending MNSU?


Sedars: I was involved with many things here at MNSU. I wrote for The Reporter for the hockey team for two years and for The United States College Hockey Online for six years. I was also a graduate assistant in the athletic department for two years. I worked on many special projects, such as organizing a Women's Walk fundraiser for

women's athletics. I also managed the letter winner program for athletics.

Sakowicz: How did being involved with the Honors Program help you form connections to help you achieve your future academic and career goals?

Sedars: I joined the Honors Learning Community my freshman year to build connections with others who were just as school oriented as I was. The Honors Program found many ways for students to get involved and get experiential education through the Honors curriculum. These classes were outside the box and they provided a variety of material that made me a better-rounded student. The Honors courses were influential in my overall education.

Sakowicz: What advice do you have for current Honors students?

Sedars: I would say to take advantage of all the opportunities that are out there. Follow your passions. The Honors Program gives students access to some things that other students may not always have access to, so covet the opportunities that the Honors Program provides. I tell every student to follow their passions and to enjoy their time. Do not be in such a hurry to grow up, not meaning that you shouldn't be focused on your studies, but at the same time figure out what it is you want to do in your life. You are going to have the rest of your life to work. Students these days seem to be focused on the dollar amount or a certain title within their job, and if you chase those things you can quickly go down a career path that may not make you truly happy. Find what drives you and incorporate your passions into your plans for your future because down the road your passion will be what makes you more successful than others. 



Give Now

Make a difference in the lives of those preparing to make a difference.

Because they have the opportunity to push themselves to do more here at Minnesota State Mankato, students in the Honors Program will be ready to push for success in the real world as well.

Supporting the Honors Program has an impact on students who will become widely recognized, prominent, distinguished leaders, researchers and global citizens who are able to bring about change in the world, no matter what their chosen discipline may be.

Giving to the Honors Program is easy; simply visit mnsu.edu/giving and designate your gift to the Honors Program.

"Monsters Among Us" - Part Two

by Brian Swancutt, '21 (History; Rochester, Minn.)

This piece is a continuation of the creative piece from the fall semester. In the fall piece, Rowan and Nile had stolen a submarine from the U.S. Navy and were exploring the Marianas Trench. They had discovered that their rear admiral was deceased, and there was a creature down in the Trench with them. We hope you enjoy the ending to this piece written by one of our talented and creative honors students!

Damn.

Your head is pounding, and your throat hurts- probably from the somewhat profuse vomiting that happened a couple of hours before. Why did you vomit again?

"Oh, yeah," you say to yourself. "Kyle, your rear admiral, is dead, and is floating right in front of the submarine."

Wait! Kyle's dead!?! You let out a gasp, your eyes fly open, and you sit straight up, only to feel your forehead slam into Rowan's nose.

"Ouch!" he yells. "Damn Nile, I think you actually broke my nose this time!" as he clutches his face. You see that there's a goofy grin hidden under his hand; you didn't get him too bad, at least this time.

"I'm so sorry Rowan! I just... Wait, how did I even get into this bed? How long have I been out? Is Kyle really dead? How is he down here with us?"

"I'm a lot tougher than you think, sleepy-head. And slow down cowboy, one question at a time!" Rowan says with a chuckle. You haven't heard Rowan laugh in a long time. It sounds nice and it's just the distraction you need to calm you down. He puts a hand on your thigh and begins to answer your questions.

"First of all, I carried you to bed, you smarty pants. You've been out for a few hours, but I've been here with you the whole time." His tone then changes from silly to serious. "Kyle is dead though. I don't know what happened

to him, but he was beaten pretty bad. I think some fish got to him too. My best guess is that he was killed a couple of days before we set out and is attached to the submarine somehow."

You feel the blood drain from your face. You think you're about to pass out again. Rowan notices that too, and slowly lays you back down so you don't hurt yourself.

"Wait!" you say faintly, "That means that..."

"Yep," Rowan says. "Someone knew that we were going to do this, and they made an example out of Kyle. It's not fair, but it's what happened. We can either keep on going with our mission or we can turn back and try to hide as best as we can. It's up to you."

"Well, we've made it this far, haven't we? We might as well keep going. We honestly stand a good chance of dying no matter what we do. Might as well go down fighting, rather than turning ourselves in and being executed."

Into the Corral With Ferdinand



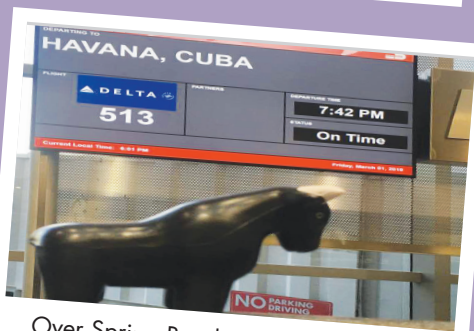
Ferdinand traveled to Hogwarts at Universal Studios!



While in Cuba, Ferdinand made friends with a Hummingbird.... or did he?



In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Ferdinand was ble to visit his statue!



Over Spring Break, Ferdinand went to Cuba on a class trip

This semester, Ferdinand has gone on a variety of adventures with students and faculty in the Honors Program!

Towards the beginning of the semester, Ferdinand joined the Honors Student Body for their game nights.

Ferdinand also visited Washington D.C. in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

For spring break, Ferdinand was able to spend time in four different time zones. He visited Las Vegas when a student took a trip home, St. Louis for alternative spring break, Cuba and Belize on class trips, and Florida to spend some time in the sun.

Lastly, Ferdinand had the opportunity to tag along with students as they traveled around the country to present their research projects. Students presented in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Georgia.

(continued from previous page)

"I agree," Rowan says. Are you going to be okay? Is there anything that I can get you?"

"I'll be okay. Could you stay with me for a bit? I feel like I haven't been talking to you lately, and I really have been missing you. Are you okay?"

"I've missed you too, Nile. We've both been busy, and it happens sometimes. I'm just glad that we're talking now. And honestly? No, I'm not okay. What they did to Kyle is extremely messed up. He deserved better than to die like that. He didn't even know what we were doing, and he gets punished? Whoever we're up against isn't messing around, Nile. What are we going to do?"

"I don't know, Rowan. We'll figure it out. How about you just lay down right here and sleep. After that we can decide what to do next, okay?"

Rowan gives you a bashful smile. "That sounds amazing honestly." You both lay down and he pulls you in tight. You're both safe, at least for now. And really, that's all that matters.

6 hours later...

You don't wake up until you hit the floor. The submarine is violently shaking and tilting and you don't know why. Rowan has already stood up and is trying to make his way to the control room, but he isn't making much progress.

"Rowan! Maybe if we crawl we'll have a better chance of making it to the control room!"

"Good idea! Thanks!"

You both start crawling towards the control room. You are making pretty good progress until the submarine turns upside down. Both you and Rowan plunge to the newly designated bottom of the submarine. You hit the ground hard, but you're okay. Rowan, on the other hand, doesn't fare so well—he's knocked unconscious. Making your way over to him, you grab him by his arms and drag him along with you—you wouldn't

want him to get hurt flopping around out here. Plus, he's pretty light, so it's not too big of an issue.

After about 15 minutes on the worst rollercoaster of your life, you make it to the cockpit of the submarine. You manage to get the door open easily, which is puzzling. Your puzzlement is quickly replaced by fear, seeing as the corpse of Rear Admiral Kyle Jenkins is the one in the pilot's seat.

You stop for a second, just staring. His skin is grey and flaky. His teeth and hair have fallen out, and he looks feral. He notices you. He quickly lunges towards you and you manage to grab your gun and fire a couple of shots off. Kyle suddenly stops in his tracks and drops to the ground. You move towards him cautiously, not sure if you've hit him.

As you approach him, you notice you did hit him; right through the stomach. The look in his eyes changes from feral to one of blankness. His mouth opens, and he turns his head to you. He then starts talking and with a soft, scratchy voice, says;

"You're the one responsible for my death and soon will be responsible for the deaths of yourself, your boyfriend Rowan, and millions of others. You will wake the sleeping beast that lurks beneath us. And when you do, all will perish."

There are two things creepy about this message. The first being the wording, but it's the second thing that you notice that sends a chill down your spine. The person speaking just now wasn't Kyle, but it was someone you know: Kyle's boss's boss, Admiral Sheldon Riley.

1.5 hours later

You stare out the cockpit window into the eyes of the Kraken. When you don't come out for a while, Rowan comes in and embraces you from behind. You were able to tell him about the message from Admiral Riley that was somehow transmitted through Kyle's dead body. You're not quite sure how it all happened, but it doesn't seem to matter that much anymore. You see the water churning as the Kraken opens its

mouth to swallow your submarine. You aren't sure how much time you've got left, but you turn around to Rowan to look into his eyes one last time.

"I'm sorry that I made you come along with me, Rowan. I didn't know it would end like this. I'm sorry that I've been acting like such a shit, and I wish I hadn't. I love you very much."

"Nile, I don't think I had much of a choice. I once told you I'd follow you anywhere, and I kept true to that promise. Plus, I'm pretty sure this was orchestrated to happen somehow. We asked too many questions and it got us here. I'm sorry that I've been so cold and distant, I wish I could change that now. I love you too."

Your heads both move forward and your lips embrace. At this very moment, you are sucked into the Kraken's mouth. You make your way down the Kraken's throat and into his stomach. Before you can get to the stomach, however, the cracked window that you noticed earlier shatters. You and Rowan manage to spit out "I love you" one last time before the pressure of the water and creature above you crushes you into nothingness.


You wake up in a somewhat cold and dark waiting room. Rowan is sitting next to you, looking just as confused as you are. A ghostly looking receptionist looks up at you with a slight scowl on her face.

"Mr. Reaper will be with you both momentarily."

"Mr. Reaper!?" you exclaim. Like, the Grim Reaper? Are we dead?

"Doesn't take a genius to figure that one out, does it?" she snaps back. You decide not to ask any more questions.

A few minutes later, you hear a phone ring. After a short conversation, you hear the receptionist call out. "Nile Ford and Rowan Sansberry? Mr. Reaper will see you now!"

You've been good in life, haven't you? Well, good enough. All you hope for is that wherever you end up, Rowan will be there with you. And in the end, that's exactly what happens. Who says there aren't any happily ever after's? 

My True Home Away From Home

By Alicia Utecht, '19 (Communication Studies and Creative Writing; Rogers, Minn.)



When I was trying to figure out what university I would attend for my undergraduate career, Minnesota State University, Mankato was my second-choice school. However, there were two things that sealed the deal for me in the end. One was the cost of attending Minnesota State University, Mankato. The other was the First-Year Honors Learning Community. I was thrilled at the prospect of living with like-minded students who would be dedicated to their academics while still enjoying their college experience. Before I even began my first year here, I knew that the Honors Program was going to be my true home away from home.

Throughout my time at Minnesota State Mankato, the Honors Program has shaped my life and helped me grow not only as a student, but also as a human being. For me, leadership and research were fairly easy to see in my day-to-day life, but global citizenship was a different story. Like many students, I assumed that global citizenship was only concerned with the cultures of other countries. Since I did not have time to spend a full semester or year studying abroad, which I viewed as the culmination of the competency, I felt like my growth as a global citizen would stagnate sooner or later. However, over the course of my time here, I have experienced an incredibly wide variety of cultures. The most impactful experiences that I've had have been the most natural: developing friendships with my classmates and learning about the various cultures to which they belong. From international students to students whose religious beliefs are different from my own, I have had so many intercultural experiences which have built my proficiency in global citizenship.

One of my favorite experiences I had that helped build my competencies was in No-

vember of 2017. I spearheaded a donation drive with the LGBT Center on campus for Avenues For Homeless Youth in Brooklyn Park, MN, a location which we chose because of their commitment to caring for LGBT youth in need. The LGBT population is one with which I did not have a lot of experience, and this experience did take me outside of my comfort zone. As a first-year student, the idea of a project like this being a global citizenship opportunity never occurred to me. By working with the LGBT Center on this project, though, I challenged myself to work with a community that was new to me, and in the end, we collected 108 clothing and hygiene items to donate to people in need. This was a global citizenship opportunity which I created without having to leave campus, showing me that you don't have to travel abroad to grow as a global citizen.

As corny as it sounds, I am going to carry the three competencies with me throughout my career and my life. After I earn my Master's degree from Villanova University in Philadelphia, PA, and my Ph.D. from wherever the wind takes me, I plan on becoming a professor of Communication Studies. Being in this role, I want to be a leader to my future students and a global citizen who makes the effort to connect with them wherever they are at, as well as conducting research for my own enjoyment and publication.

Along with building the competencies, the Honors Program has definitely aided me through my successful undergraduate career and into my successful future. Through Honors, I have developed a strong support system of like-minded peers, and that has been absolutely vital to my success. I also gained access to resources for experiences that I never would have participated in oth-

erwise, such as being a Learning Community Coordinator and traveling to Salt Lake City to present my research at a national conference.

If I was able to go back to the beginning of my MNSU career, I would tell my younger self to relax. Since I did PSEO in high school, I was a junior and a first-year simultaneously. I was so tense about this throughout that entire year. However, the situation was not as rough as I made it out to be. I was happy to be in classes that challenged me intellectually and that I enjoyed, and my peers were happy to become my friends regardless of age. They didn't even laugh at me for walking into my first class with the free Mankato lanyard around my neck! Although I was initially stressed about it, I've learned since then that no one is organized by age after high school—it doesn't happen in college, since so many people take time off from school or change their major. Everyone is moving at a different pace, but we are all still moving, and ultimately students connect to each other based on that.

My advice for current students as you continue your education is to be passionate about what you are doing. You are not going to be passionate about every single thing that you do, but if you are not passionate about it, then do not stay in it for a longer amount of time than is necessary. When you are pursuing your passions, you wouldn't believe the amount of energy that you end up finding. I also advise you to be kind. Genuine kindness is the one thing that everyone needs, and it is too rare in this world. As Honors students, we all want to dazzle the room, and I can honestly tell you that nothing is more impressive than a person who is genuinely passionate and kind.



Chasing Dreams Through Anarchy

By Meaghan Keohane, '22 (Biomedical Sciences; Rapid City, S. Dakota)



Brady Dahl (Creative Writing, '04), an alumnus of the Honors Program, has had a successful career since leaving Mankato. After graduating from Minnesota State University, Mankato in 2004, he hopped on a plane and moved to Los Angeles to start his writing career. When asked about what prompted him to move, he replied, "I knew if I wanted to get paid to write, I had to go to Hollywood."

After moving to Hollywood, Dahl spent a large amount of his time writing. At the time, Dahl's wife Char had worked as a babysitter for Katy Segal a few times. Soon after, Dahl was introduced to Segal's husband, Kurt Sutter. Sutter was immediately impressed with Dahl's writing. At the time, Sutter was working on a new show and he explained to Dahl that if it was picked up, he would hire him.

Two years later, in 2009, Dahl got a call from Sutter telling him the show they had discussed, *Sons of Anarchy*, had been picked up and he offered Dahl a writers-assistant job. Dahl accepted and started his career with *Sons of Anarchy*. By 2011, Dahl had worked his way up to becoming a full staff writer on the show. He ended his career with the show with credits on 40 episodes from season two to season four.


During his duration as a writer for *Sons of Anarchy*, he also took up day trading. Day trading is the process of buying and selling stocks in as little as a few minutes for the purpose of making a profit. With day trading, Dahl explained, "I have six or seven screens in front of me at one time in order to speed up the rate I can buy and sell stocks." Every

day, Dahl would wake up around 6:30 am and day trade until 10:30 am, when he would turn around and head to the set of *Sons of Anarchy* from 11:00 am until 6:00 pm. "I basically had two jobs," Dahl said.

When Dahl's wife Char wanted to move back to their hometown of Montevideo, Minnesota, Dahl decided to become a full-time day trader. As Dahl became more devoted to his day trading career, he was motivated to write a book to guide others. His book, *Momo Traders: Tips, Tricks, and Strategies from Ten Top Traders*, has sold around 5,000 copies with 30% of the proceeds being donated to the charity, Traders4ACause. This charity is a community of traders working towards the goal of raising money for the less fortunate through social events and organized donation.

Dahl still lives in Montevideo, Minnesota with his wife Char and their four children. When asked why he left the fast pace of Hollywood for small-town Minnesota, Dahl said, "I was very ambitious. As you get older and you have a family, materialistic things become less of a focus. Now, it is more about being happy than it is to conquer the world."

The Honors Program gave Dahl an avenue to develop his work ethic. When his work ethic partnered with his talent, he was able to stand out with his devotion to his career. Dahl developed many of these hardworking traits while being a student in the Honors Program at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Dahl explained that the Honors Program, "pushes you a little harder and teaches you that you have to work hard to get to where you want to be."

What made Dahl stand out in his writing was his drive to reach his ultimate goal of becoming a successful and inspirational writer. When asked to give advice for current honors students, Dahl advised students to, "Treat each class as a new opportunity because you never know when you're going to learn something important." 

Courses

Fall 2019

Human Relations in a Multicultural Society (KSP220W), Dr. Teresa Kruizenga

This course studies interpersonal skills, motivation, and group skills. It provides students with a chance to understand their place in the multicultural country that is the United States.

Preparing for Successful Undergraduate Research Activity (HONR401), Dr. Kuldeep Agarwal and Dr. Leah White

This course is designed for students who are in the process of exploring opportunities in engaging in research on campus. It will discuss what research looks like in different disciplines, how to find a mentor or team and how to plan for research activities in your college career.

Critical Thinking and Pseudoscience (HONR401), Dr. Emily Stark

This course uses critical thinking to examine pseudoscientific claims. Students will learn how our minds automatically tend towards belief and understand our biases. Throughout this course students will develop research literacy abilities and also complete a research project.

Developing Your Mentor Philosophy (HONR401), Tomide Olorunbobi

This course provides opportunities to dive into different leadership styles and methods, aiming to guide discovery and development of each student's personal mentor philosophy. Students will be expected to work together to help create mentoring opportunities as well as being mentors for other students in the Honors Program.

Full course descriptions can be found at: mnsu.edu/honors/currentstudents/courses14.html

Honors Fun Corner: Word Search

by Fname Lname, 'xx

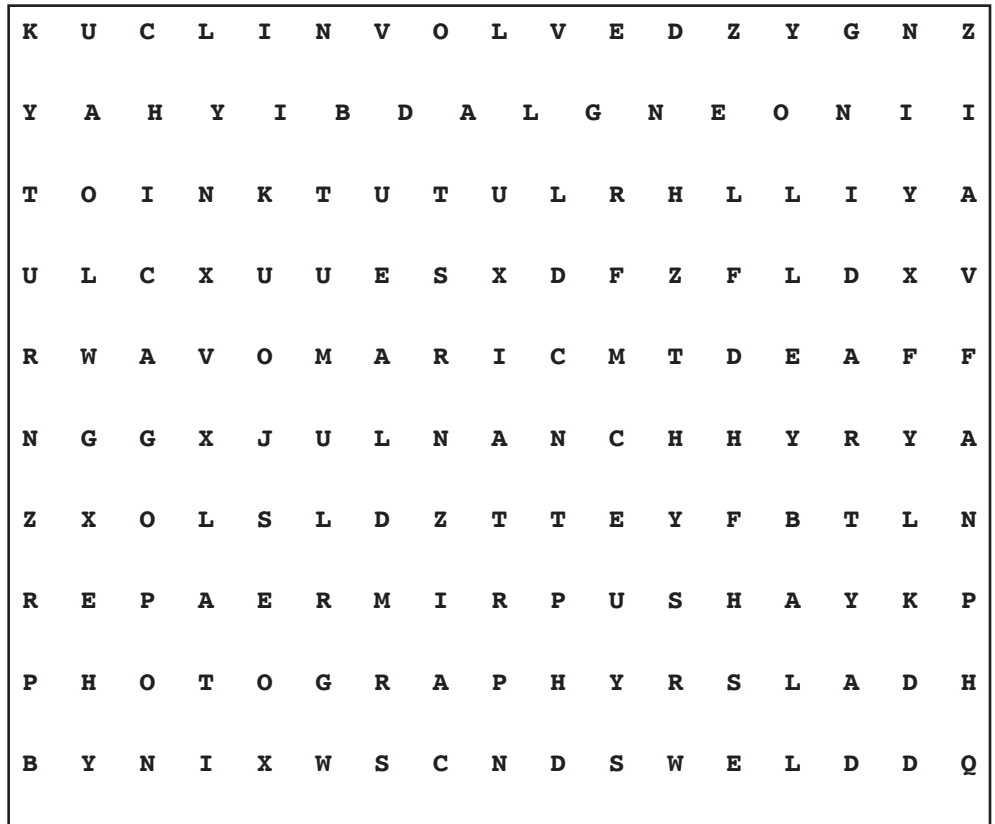
Clues:

- Where did Michaela and Anna travel in the fall with the Tischer's?
- In the piece "Honors Course Reflection", Dr. Danielle Haque focused her lectures on understanding the basics of interpreting and reading _____ and poetry.
- What organization was Srajan Jain involved in during high school that encouraged him to study abroad for college? Give the abbreviation.
- Where was Nellie Welsh during Christmas and New Years while she was studying abroad?
- What sport does Freshman Jane Sakowicz play here at Minnesota State University, Mankato?
- What character makes an unexpected appearance at the end of "Monsters Among Us, Part 2"?
- When asked what advice she has for current Honors students, Mackenzie Dockendorf said, "Get _____ as early as possible!"
- Besides writing for the Sons of Anarchy, what was Brady Dahl's other job?
- Which college at Minnesota State University, Mankato does Dustin Sedars work for?
- While in Australia, Madison Hoffman not only took classes for her major, but she took _____ and film classes as well.



MINNESOTA STATE

Minnesota State University, Mankato
A member of Minnesota State



Answers to last issue's puzzle:

- Gift, 2. Three, 3. Home, 4. Sleep, 5. Questions, 6. November, 7. Eight
- Roadmap, 9. Spain, 10. Marianas Trench

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

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