The Torch: Suffolk University College of Arts & Sciences Honors Program Newsletter, no. 9, Summer 2020

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CONSTRATNT INSPIRES CREATIVITY. As someone whose scholarly interests include renaissance sonnets, I first noted this motto of Twitter founder Jack Dorsey about five years ago. But I’ve never thought about it so much as I have this past semester. Our honors students, faculty, and administrators responded to the pandemic with entrepreneurial spirit, and I’m excited to share the stories of their resourcefulness with you in this newsletter.

A student who could not travel to a conference instead received a new opportunity to publish her work in a scholarly journal. Another received an internship with a local historical society to gather stories of the pandemic. Professor Jessica Mak’s honors service-learning course on Cancer Care could not continue with its original plan for a fundraiser but nonetheless brought in donations and provided relief to Christopher’s Haven.

Our honors team created an innovative format and specially designed visual template to celebrate our student research and creative projects at our first virtual Symposium. And our seniors still found ways to excel in completing their senior projects, "maybe even better than before," as explained by graduate Katie Hubbard – our first honors student to declare a CAS Self-Designed Major in Interdisciplinary Arts:

I planned on creating chapbooks for my senior honors project because it seemed like the perfect culmination, encapsulating all the disciplines I've been working with for so long: fine arts, creative writing, bookmaking, communications, printmaking, and to top it all of with a very theatre-inspired cherry with a public reading at the end of the semester. This was thwarted by the pandemic. Stop-motion came to me as a concept to visualize my poetry in a way that could be distributed totally virtually. I could still paint and print in my home, still had access to the applications I'd need, and wanted something that felt like it represented my work. The method I chose uses ink-blot style paintings, which have a wonderful therapeutic history of being up for interpretation, which are then manipulated using photo-editing, and then video-editing software to go along with my spoken word and truly paint the picture each time individually for each viewer. This new plan still encompassed the interrelated nature of my work, still showcases the disciplines in conjunction with one another, maybe even better than before.
It’s hard to think of spring news from before the pandemic struck, but in fact another piece of creativity inspired by constraint this year is the Honors Faculty Advisory Committee’s (HFAC’s) restructuring of our requirements for students to graduate as CAS Honors Scholars. Starting in Fall 2020, students entering the CAS Honors Program will no longer be required to complete a senior honors project (though they may still choose to earn honors credit by doing so). Instead, students will have the opportunity to take new one- and two-credit honors cohorted classes, and may take advantage of the benefit of counting these courses toward an 18th tuition-free credit.

I’ve had the pleasure of working with a small group of faculty from across the CAS in a Faculty and Professional Learning Community (FPLC) this year where we’ve studied best practices for such courses at other universities and surveyed Suffolk students and faculty about the kinds of honors learning experiences they are most excited about sharing with each other. I look forward to telling you more about these new CASH (CAS Honors) Courses as we begin to experiment with delivering an honors-level education in them next year.

Lisa Celovsky
Associate Dean, CAS
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**Contributing Editor**
Laura Crabbe

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Cover photo courtesy of Suffolk News. Honors graduate Aashi Sethi at a denim production center, the topic of her senior honors project.
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Laura Crabbe
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What Happened To Justice?
Justin Peavey’s Senior Honors Project and Capstone
thepriceofhonor.weebly.com

The criminal justice system has always had more leeway for privileged people. If you are of a higher standing (based on society’s standards), you are more likely to get away with a crime with minimal punishment.
Honors Symposium Spring 2020

When Suffolk transitioned to all online learning this spring, it looked like our bi-annual Symposium, which traditionally draws large crowds to Sargent Hall, might have to be canceled. Nonetheless, the honors program persisted and held the first ever virtual Honors Symposium on Instagram and the honors Blackboard site on April 28th. The Spring 2020 Honors Symposium may have looked a little different this time around, but in the end around 130 students still shared their successfully completed research and final projects with the Suffolk community.

Honors students and graduating seniors showed their resilience by taking on this completely new way of sharing their projects virtually in such a short amount of time. As soon as the instructions for this new format of the symposium were sent out by honors administration, students worked hard to make virtual posters and to post about their projects on the Blackboard discussion boards. Despite not being able to share their work as originally planned, honors students received great benefits from sharing their work on Blackboard and Instagram. Justin Peavey, Theatre ’20, commented “Thank you for creating this virtual outlet so I can share my project!” Caterina Diaz, Law Undergraduate, ’20, commented on how the hardships of COVID-19 actually helped strengthen her final project:

“It was difficult to get through and adjust to how the online symposium was going to work. COVID-19 imposed a lot of obstacles for me regarding travel, employment, and the overall transition. I used my extra time to read more about my topic and look at flaws in my author’s arguments instead of simply praising them. This lead me to a more opinionated and stronger conclusion.”

This spring, 92 senior students presented the
research that they have worked tirelessly to perfect. Scarlet Yeung, Public Relations major, explored the YouTube phenomenon of content creators eating food in front of the camera in her project titled, “Mukbang: Bringing People Together Through Collaborative Eating.” Biology major Ciline Uriza Da Silva presented her research on a genetic disorder in her project titled, “Raising Awareness: Wilson’s Disease.” For a full list of senior projects, go to page 31.

Faculty and staff from all over the University, including Julie Sandell, Provost; Ann Coyne, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students; Maria Toyoda, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Sebastian Royo, Vice President of International Affairs; and many more, joined in the celebration of student research by sending in congratulatory videos that were posted on the CAS Honors Instagram page. Staff from the Sawyer Library, Human Resources, and the Center for Community Engagement, also joined in the celebration of student work by sending in videos. Many honors faculty also participated.
by commenting on the students' virtual posters and engaging in the conversations on the Blackboard discussion boards and on Instagram. Fourteen faculty members, representing twelve departments across the College, wrote thoughtful messages to students. Sue Orsillo, Professor of Psychology, wrote on student Samantha Williams post regarding her project on overcoming fear in the workplace, “I love this topic. We really need to educate people about how they can use their emotions to more fully engage in their lives.” Kenneth Cosgrove, Professor of Government, commented on Alyssa DelVecchio’s Instagram post on research on the economics of the music industry, “This is excellent. Nice job of showing how bands made more money when physical media dominated, not streaming, and how there are a number of disincentives for independent labels and artists to thrive in the current environment.”

The virtual Honors Symposium also showcased work from honors courses. Professor Eric Dewar’s class BIO-H105 “Humans and the Evolutionary Perspective,” presented group...
projects in the form of Zoom podcasts. Professor Nicholas Frangipane’s class WRI-102 “First-Year Writing,” presented individual projects in topics of their choice, ranging from women’s health to the usefulness of video games. Professor Jessica Mak’s SCI-H109 class “Honors Intro to Community Cancer Care,” presented their semester-long project, which was a grant proposal for $500 that would go towards Christopher’s Haven, a nonprofit that provides housing to pediatric cancer patients and their families.

Thank you to all of the students for their impressive work, along with the faculty and staff who supported them. Special thank you to Laura Crabbe and Sara Miranda in the CAS Dean’s Office for organizing this new virtual event, as well as Professor Eric Dewar for his assistance with the virtual poster template and hosting the Poster Workshop on Zoom.

Virtual posters can still be viewed on the CAS Honors Instagram page (@cashonors) or by using the hashtag #SUHonorsSymposium on Instagram.

Dean Lisa Celovsky opens the symposium with a welcome message, followed by Provost Sandell, CAS Dean Maria Toyoda, and Dean of Students Ann Coyne.
LOL MY THESIS

On lolmythesis.com, graduate and undergraduate students from all over the world write comical one-sentence summaries of the projects that have consumed their lives before graduation. Below are some examples of the optional submissions our honors seniors contributed to lol my thesis.

Alexia Baugniet: “It’s A Beautiful Day to Save Lives - Derek Shepherd.” Oncology Management Administration

Ashley Pezzella: “Yes Ladies, they were wrong about this one too: Cry all you want to.” Philosophy

Gabriella Larson: “Solitary Confinement: How to Induce a Psychiatric Disorder 101” Psychology

Sabrina Rodriguez: “‘Look at that ad’s typographic treatment’ — said no one ever.” Advertising

Alyssa DelVecchio: “The only winners in the music industry are the corporations. What a shocker.” Politics, Philosophy, and Economics

Jon-Luc Jarboe: “Measuring ~400 trees and Watching Squirrels for 11 weeks.” Biology

Aashi Sethi’s lol my thesis title for her project on the environmental impacts of denim production.
THE CAS HONORS PROGRAM is proud to share Suffolk’s nominee for the National Collegiate Honors Council’s (NCHC’s) Portz Prize Competition and the results of this year’s awards for the Excellence in Honors prizes for outstanding senior honors work.

Suffolk’s Nominee for the 2020 NCHC Portz Prize Competition

STEM | Nicholas McCurtin “Electrophysiological Characterization of a Novel Small Molecule Reveals Activity in ΔF508-CFTR Homozygotes” | Project Supervisor: Professor Lauren Nolfo-Clements

Winners, Divisional Prize

Humanities | Rachel Stroia “I Am the Sole Author’: Challenging the Dictionary of the Social Self in Zadie Smith’s NW” | Project Supervisor: Professor Peter Jeffreys

Social Science | Molly Powers “Environmental Communication Dominated by Corporate Giants” | Project Supervisor: Professor Kevin Carragee

STEM | Nicholas McCurtin “Electrophysiological Characterization of a Novel Small Molecule Reveals Activity in ΔF508-CFTR Homozygotes” | Project Supervisor: Professor Lauren Nolfo-Clements
Excellence in Honors Awards

Winners, Honors in the Major

Biology | Nicholas McCurtin “Electrophysiological Characterization of a Novel Small Molecule Reveals Activity in ΔF508-CFTR Homozygotes” | Project Supervisor: Professor Lauren Nolfo-Clements

Biochemistry | Adelyn Ragucci “Analysis of Oligomerization and Protein-Protein Interactions within the Conjugation Machinery of Bacillus subtilis” | Project Supervisor: Professor Melanie Berkmen

Broadcast Journalism | Amy Koczera “Social Media and Female Adolescents” | Project Supervisor: Professor Kevin Carragee

Economics | Benjamin Boyajian “Time Horizons, Perceptions, and the Equity Premium Puzzle” | Project Supervisor: Professor Jonathan Haughton

English | Rachel Stroia “Am the Sole Author: Challenging the Dictionary of the Social Self in Zadie Smith’s NW” | Project Supervisor: Professor Peter Jeffreys

Global and Cultural Communication | Molly Powers “Environmental Communication Dominated by Corporate Giants” | Project Supervisor: Professor Kevin Carragee

History | Brianna Bryson “The Unexplored History of Brockton, Massachusetts’ Residential Racial Inequity” | Project Supervisor: Professor Robert Hannigan

Law Undergraduate | Jordan Sharpe “Making Freedom Free: A Call for Bail Reform in America’s Broken Criminal Justice System” | Project Supervisor: Professor Sheila Scheuerman

Philosophy | Gina Maffei “A Comparison of Existential Responsibility in Sartrean Existentialism and Zen Buddhism” | Project Supervisor: Professor Rachel McKinney

Politics, Philosophy, and Economics | Anna Meomutli “Economics of Immigration to the US: Immigrant Wages, and Is It Worth It?” | Project Supervisor: Professor Rachel McKinney
WHILE THE spring semester was cut short, the Honors Council was still able to provide both social and professional development events for the honors community. The Council began the semester with their monthly Honors Hour event where students congregated in the Honors Room meet their peers and grab a coffee before class. Students had the opportunity to talk with the members of the Honors Council and ask any questions about the program. These type of events help foster community among the honors population and provide valuable feedback for the Council and program. During one Honors Hour, the Council organized a letter writing drive for Cradles to Crayons’ Well Wish Note Project. The students wrote messages of encouragement to be sent to kids all over the Greater Boston area.

In mid-February, the Council hosted a career panel and networking event where current students met alumni of the CAS Honors Program to learn about different careers and post-graduate life. The alumni in attendance came from a variety of career fields from museum program coordination to education. As always, they provided invaluable advice for the students. Thank you to the following alumni for their support: Maria Baldarelli (International Relations, ’09), Katia Christakis (Fine Arts, ’12), Meaghan Fallano (Chemistry, ’12), Mikayla Medeiros (Psychology, Sociology, ’15), Mitch Manning (English, ’09), William Norton (Government, ’10), Caitlin Shalvey (International Relations, ’14), and Alaina Spaziani (Public Relations, ’11).

After the University switched to online instruction, the Honors Council transitioned the in-person open forum to a virtual event. Council President Brooke Bonar (Chemistry, ’21) and Secretary Bailey Herrera (Undergraduate Law, ’21) hosted a live stream on Instagram for the honors community to send in questions or comments as they would during the usual open forum.
Throughout the rest of the semester, Council members did "day in the life" Instagram takeovers where they showed how they were adapting to online instruction and provided study tips for the community. First-Year Representative Katie Winans took us along as she went to virtual class, walked her dog, and delivered dinner to a quarantined coworker!

All students needed some time to unwind by the end of the semester! For their relaxation event, the Honors Council organized a virtual yoga class over Zoom and led by Professor Barbara Abrams (World Languages & Cultural Studies). Students were able to follow along at home and take an hour to do some much-needed relaxation.

Thank you to the Honors Council for their flexibility and hard work over the semester! ■

MEET THE HONORS COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE BOARD 2020- 2021

Bailey Herrera
Law
President

Meagan Dyer
Government
Vice President

Wyatt Dunn
Economics
Secretary
The honors program is excited to announce that the following students will serve as Honors Ambassadors for the 2020 – 2021 academic year. Honors Ambassadors promote honors community and communicate the value and opportunities offered by the honors experience at Suffolk. Additionally, they do outreach to new and prospective students and provide service and support for recruiting fairs, honors events and programs, and honors classes. This year’s ambassadors are:

- Adriana Cano, Psychology
- Samantha Chase, English & History
- Abby Cluff, Sociology
- Elisabeth Goemaere, Interior Design
- Nina Lamarre, Government & International Relations
- Jordan Mills, Biology
- Zoe Phillips, English

The program looks forward to working with each and every one of you this year! ■

Honors Ambassadors at the Spring 2020 Suffolk Showcase.
SINCE THE onset of COVID-19, isolation has loomed heavily for us all. The decision to shut down the university resulted in a loss of our community, one that fostered comfort and support for Suffolk students. Faculty and students alike grieved as we were unexpectedly deprived of the presence of our friends, the intimate experience of learning within a classroom, and the city that we all call home. Forced into quarantine, the extremity of mandatory aloneness left us all unsettled and despondent. The isolation of quarantine forced us to wonder how a sense of community would endure in the absence of our physical presence.

This pandemic has been a test to human fortitude, and the Suffolk community showed resilience in the face of this unprecedented challenge. A sense of community and ability to connect did not cease to exist, but drastically changed and evolved. For students and faculty, the adjustment from physical to online teaching was uncharted. Professors incited hope through Zoom meetings and video lectures, using humor to keep our new classrooms light and comforting. Online learning was essential not only for continuing class material, but also for keeping us connected through sharing stories. The threat of isolation, although present, was mitigated through the strangeness of hearing how others have been impacted during this crisis. It was through the sharing of stories that we were able to find connection and commonalities through the unexpected changes of this time.

It is evident now that life will never be the same after this pandemic, but we have learned many things through this time of isolation, hardship, and challenge. Upon the return to Suffolk, there is hope for a renewed sense of community that values togetherness. It is in the absence of physical spaces and presence that we gain a deeper appreciation and gratitude for them. This pandemic has tested our strength, and we have proven that we can overcome it together. Right now, we are facing civil unrest and the ubiquity of injustice in our country. Again, we find ourselves coming together as a community to fight racism and brutality. Regardless of the challenges we face, our ability to find connection has proven to be unwavering. Despite the fear of the unknown and uncertainty, this semester will always be remembered. Together, we move forward as a stronger community, connected through our resiliency.
Honors Students in the News

Suffolk in the City Student Reporters Sign Off

Three seniors from Suffolk University reflect on their last semester as reporters for Suffolk in the City, amid the coronavirus pandemic. Honors students Amy Koczera (Journalism, '20), and Hayley Clegg (Journalism '20), both comment on how even though the pandemic ended their time on the Suffolk campus sooner than they thought, they will never forget the faculty and staff who mentored and helped them along the way.

To see the video, go to:


Zuna Ramos Chosen as Correspondent for Nationwide Digital Literacy Project

Honors student Zuna Ramos Maza (Political Science, '23), has been chosen as one of 11 college correspondents chosen for the Poynter Institute Media Wise Voter Project. In her role, she will help peers separate facts from fiction on popular media platforms such as Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, and YouTube. With correspondents like Zuna, the Poynter Institute hopes to reach over 2 million first-time voters in time for the 2020 election. Zuna also recently gave a virtual presentation to the Communication, Journalism, & Media class, where she helped students learn how to distinguish facts from fiction, as well as the importance of voting.

To read more about Zuna’s new role, go to:

https://www.suffolk.edu/news-features/news/2020/05/06/15/07/political-science-student-chosen-for-nationwide-digital-literacy-project

Honors Students Reflect on Distance Learning

Jocelyn De Paz (Biology, '22), and Molly
McDonough (Physics, ’21), comment on what distance learning has been like for them since the pandemic began. Jocelyn De Paz comments on how supportive her professors have been during this time, stating “One of my professors took the first few minutes of the first Zoom meetings to speak to everyone and make sure we could express our feelings about the situation and let us each explain with the class our coping mechanisms that have helped.” Molly McDonough gives fellow students advice on how to cope with this new way of learning: “My number one piece of advice is to make a daily schedule that includes relaxing time and time to exercise. Something that has helped me clear my head a lot is doing yoga through online classes or running outdoors. It keeps me healthy and also allows me to get some fresh air.”

https://www.suffolk.edu/launch-point-boston/class-participation/virtual-learning-pt1
Aashi Sethi Researches the Environmental Impact of Denim

Honors student Aashi Sethi (Environmental Science, ’20), wrote her senior honors project on how denim production can lead to pollution of the earth. Sethi grew up in Nepal, where her family runs a clothing-manufacturing plant, which led her to her interest in researching the effects of making denim on the environment. Her research, which consisted of reviewing literature, experimenting, and learning about the denim production process, led her to conclude that most steps in the production process have a negative impact on the environment or human health.

To read more about Aashi research, go to:

Honors Student Gets Opportunity to Record History

When her original internship was canceled due to COVID-19 Lucy Pollock (History, ’21), called the society’s administrator, Amy Heller, and was given the opportunity to intern at the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth. Lucy is now working on a project where she will conduct several interviews of the society’s trustees by phone on the effects of the pandemic on their lives. Lucy will then transcribe the phone conversations so that the interview can be housed in the society’s archives.

For more on Lucy’s project, go to:

Tutoring Students Create Care Packages for Their Students

Several Suffolk students, including honors students Kendall Reiter (Sociology, ’21), had to stop tutoring their students due to COVID-19. These students then decided to
do whatever they could to help their students remotely, creating care packages that were filled with books, food, and mental health information. These care packages were distributed to over 200 families in need in the Boston area. Students in Professor Carmen Veloria’s Introduction to Teaching class and Professor Debra Harkins’ Community Psychology course teamed up to make the care packages for young students. Kendall shared some of her favorite family dishes, which are a part of a recipe Book that was written and designed by Suffolk students.

To read more on this story, go to:


Honors Course Works with Christopher’s Haven

Professor Jessica Mak’s (Biology) honors course Introduction to Cancer Care worked with a community partner Christopher’s Haven. The nonprofit provides housing for pediatric cancer patients and their families who are receiving treatment in Boston hospitals. When the pandemic took over, the honors students had to take a new approach to their service with Christopher’s Haven by providing groceries and supplies to the families that couldn’t risk going outside.

To read more about the course, go to:


Isabel Greenstein (Sociology, ’22) bringing groceries to Christopher’s Haven families. Photo credit: Suffolk News.
Travel and Research Fellowships — Spring 2020

THE HONORS program entered its second year of offering the Travel & Research Fellowship (TRF) award. TRFs provide funding for students to attend conferences or workshops, to pursue research or creative endeavors, or to engage in other scholarly pursuits.

This spring, three students applied and were funded to pursue academic and professional experiences at conferences around the country.

Alexandra MacFarland (Environmental Science, '20) presented her research “Season and tidal pH variations in a New England salt marsh: climate change implications for marsh functionality” at the Ocean Sciences Meeting in San Diego, California.

Alexandra on her conference experience:

“Everyday I went to various scientists’ talks. I chose sessions that related to previous work I have conducted, work my senior capstone revolved around, or future work I knew would be involved in my graduate school studies. Sessions such as these allowed me to make broader connections to the world I live in.”

Brianna Bryson (History, Philosophy, '20) was accepted to the Richard Macksey National Undergraduate Humanities Research Symposium at Johns Hopkins University. This conference was originally scheduled for the beginning of April, but was transitioned into a virtual conference after the closing of many university campuses. Nonetheless, Brianna was able to submit her research to be published in the Macksey Journal, a journal of research from the digital conference. Her work titled “The Unexplored History of Brockton, Massachusetts’ Residential Racial Inequity” was accepted and will be published in fall 2020.

Rachel Stroia (English, ’20) was also accepted...
to the Richard Macksey National Undergraduate Humanities Research Symposium. Rachel adapted her research titled “I Am the Sole Author: Challenging the Dictionary of the Social Self in Zadie Smith’s NW,” to be delivered asynchronously to the conference attendees.

Rachel on what she learned from this different conference experience:

“Through this process, I learned to be more adaptable, to communicate with others when I have concerns, and to think about my project in different ways given the many different formats that I have had to present it in.”

The priority deadlines for the Travel & Research Fellowship award are October 1, 2020 for fall and February 1, 2021 for spring. Contact the honors program for more information.
Throughout the fall and spring semester, honors program director Lisa Celovsky co-facilitated a Faculty & Professional Learning Community (FPLC) sponsored by Suffolk University’s Center for Teaching and Scholarly Excellence. The group included Suzanne John (co-facilitator), Director for Creative Collaborations & Partnerships; Barbara Abrams, World Languages & Cultural Studies; Leslie Eckel, English; Sara Tang, Economics; and Eric Dewar, Biology. Together they researched different models of delivering honors education outside of general education and major courses, specifically the implementation of one- or two-credit courses. Some of the FPLC’s findings are summarized below, and the full video of their report can be viewed here.

We asked what the most desirable experiences or skill sets are to learn?

**Student preferences**
1. Life skills
2. Professional development
3. Timely topics
4. Critical thinking skills

**Faculty preferences**
1. Professional development
2. Timely topics
3. Critical thinking skills
4. Research skills/experience

What are the most desirable formats or approaches?

**Student preferences**
1. Studio/workshop class
2. Field Trips
3. Seminar / discussion
4. Connect with real-life practitioners
5. Involvement in a real-life research project

**Faculty preferences**
1. Seminar / discussion
2. Team-based projects
3. Peer-to-peer learning
4. Involvement in a real-life research project
5. Field Trips
Faculty Honor Roll

The Honors Program thanks the following faculty members who mentored students to fulfill an honors contract in their course during the Spring 2020 semester!

Amy Agigian, Sociology
Elif Armbruster, English
Inmee Baek, Economics
Eric Bellone, Political Science & Legal Studies
Melanie Berkmen, Chemistry & Biochemistry
Peter Bianco, Art & Design
Alicia Blaisdell-Bannon, Advertising, Public Relations, & Social Media
Wyatt Bonikowski, English
David Carlon, Sawyer Business School Undergraduate Programs
Charles Chieppo, Political Science & Legal Studies
Darlene Chisholm, Economics
Oktay Demir, Physics
Roberto Dominguez, Political Science & Legal Studies
Barry Fitzgerald, Political Science & Legal Studies
Mary Flaherty, Political Science & Legal Studies
Nicholas Frangipane, English
Jennifer Fuchel, Art & Design
David Gansler, Psychology
Deborah Geisler, Communication, Journalism, & Media
Eugenia Gold, Biology
Lauren Grenier, Psychology
Linda Holcombe, Political Science & Legal Studies
John Holley, Sociology
Hannah Hudson, English
Cynthia Irizarry, Advertising, Public Relations, & Social Media
Keri Iyall Smith, Sociology
Jongbyung Jun, Economics
Mehrdad Khaledi, Math and Computer Science
Brian Kiniry, Philosophy
Katy Lasdow, History
Yan Lin, Chemistry & Biochemistry
Montgomery Link, Philosophy
Kenneth Martin, Communication, Journalism, & Media
Lydia Martin, Art & Design
Thomas McGrath, World Languages & Cultural Studies
Rachel McKinney, Politics, Philosophy, and Economics
Linda Melconian, Business Law
Doreen Metzner, Communication, Journalism, & Media, SU Madrid
Quentin Miller, English
Carlos Monteiro, Sociology
Jodi Nevola, Advertising, Public Relations, & Social Media
Maghnus O’Searghdha, Biology
Lawrence Overlan, Political Science & Legal Studies
Faculty Honor Roll

McKenna Parnes, Psychology
Polievkt Perov, Physics
Michèle Plott, History
James Ptacek, Sociology
Nicolle Renick, Advertising, Public Relations, & Social Media
Sheila Scheuerman, Political Science & Legal Studies
Hayley Schiebel, Center for Urban Ecology & Sustainability
Jane Secci, Advertising, Public Relations, & Social Media
Susan Sered, Sociology

Maria Serraino, Advertising, Public Relations, & Social Media
Ana Soage, Political Science & Legal Studies, SU Madrid
Gregory Sonek, Center for Urban Ecology & Sustainability
Elizabeth Stillman, Suffolk Law School
Ronald Suleski, History
Jason Tucker, English
Nicole Vatcher, Sawyer Business School Undergraduate Programs
Tan Vovan, Math & Computer Science

Yvonne Wells, Psychology
Tracy Wood, English, SU Madrid
Felicia Wiltz, Sociology
Jason Xidias, Political Science & Legal Studies, SU Madrid
Yong Xue, History
Xiaqing Xu, Chemistry
Da Zheng, English
Dmitry Zinoviev, Math & Computer Science

Provost Sandell talking with student presenters at the fall Honors Symposium.
FALL 2020 HONORS COURSES

Biology

BIO-H107: The Curiosity of Cats, The Devotion of Dogs
Professor Nolfo-Clements
The course will focus on comparing and contrasting the biology of cats and dogs and how biological differences have led to the way they are perceived as companion animals.

BIO-HL111-A: Introduction to the Cell Lab
Professor De Waal
Sessions are designed to familiarize the student with biological molecules, and the techniques used in their study. The techniques covered include basic solution preparation, separation and quantification of molecules, enzyme catalysis, and cell isolation.

BIO-HL114-A: Organismal Biology Lab
Professor Ahmadi
A series of laboratory experiences in evolution, diversity, anatomy and physiology.

Chemistry

CHEM-H411-A: Physical Chemistry I
Professor Stocker
Explores quantum chemistry through simple model systems such as particle in a box, harmonic oscillator, rigid rotor, and hydrogen atom. Applications to electronic, vibrational, and rotational spectroscopy and elements of atomic and molecular structure.

CHEM-H428-A: Honors Research and Seminar I
Professor Kipp
First of a senior level, two-semester sequence of independent study under the supervision of faculty. Students desiring departmental honors must conduct authentic research; consult with the course instructor. Development of a research report and poster presentation to the department are required elements.

Creativity & Innovation

CI-H112-A: Honors Solutions for Sustainability
Professor Lopez
Presented with case studies of urban efforts to gain a sustainability foothold, students will utilize ideation, critical thinking, and strategic decision making to both identify root problems and to present solutions

CI-H165-A: Chemistry is Everywhere
Professor Enyedy
Students will use scientific inquiry to explore topics in chemistry that they find interesting. Each team of 3-4 students will choose a project and develop it during the semester with the goal of raising awareness about chemistry or designing innovative and engaging ways of teaching chemistry.

CI-H175-A: Creating Social Change
Professor Salvi
Social change happens because engaged citizens find creative and innovative ways to frame social conversations and push on the levers of power. In this course students will examine some of the foundational figures and texts called on by those hoping to enact social change.

Communication, Journalism, & Media

CJN-H152-A: Visual Aesthetics
Professor Carragee
The course helps students develop visual literacies, enriching their understanding of multiple forms of media. The class also explores how media texts are constructed for specific cultural, entertainment, informative and propaganda purposes.

Economics

EC-H101-A: Applied Microeconomics
Professor Jun
This course introduces students to foundational principles of microeconomic theory, with an emphasis on applications of concepts to management decision-
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making in specific industry and market settings.

**EC-H450-A: Applied Econometrics**
Professor Hawke
This course begins with a brief review of statistical methods, including probability theory, estimation, and hypothesis testing. This background is used in the construction, estimation, and testing of econometric models.

**EC-H490-A: Honors Senior Seminar in Economics**
Professor Haughton
This is a required course for all students wishing to graduate with honors in economics, to be taken in the spring semester of their senior year. Students are required to develop an economic thesis project in consultation with the professor for the course and to present it to the class.

**English**

**ENG-H135-C: World Literature in English**
Professor Jeffreys
A study of literature written in English from cultures around the world, with emphasis on major modern and contemporary writers from countries such as Australia, Canada, India, Ireland, Nigeria, South Africa and the Caribbean.

**ENG-H154-A: Bob Dylan and the Beat Generation**
Professor Miller
A study of literary works by the so-called “Beat Generation,” the American literary underworld of the late 1950s and 1960s, including major works by the three central figures (Ginsburg, Kerouac, Burroughs) and less central figures (Corso, Snyder, DiPrima, Jones/Baraka) as well as the influence of the Beats on the work of Bob Dylan, the only musician to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

**ENG-H158-A: Nasty and Unruly Voices in American Literature**
Professor Armbruster
This course takes students on a tour of witches, “nasty women,” and other “unruly tongues” or “bitter spirits” throughout American literary history. Regularly assigned essays on the reading provide the basis for individualized instruction in clear, correct, and persuasive writing.

**History**

**HST-H200-A: Gateway to the Past**
Professor Reeve
Students learn historical thinking and research skills that enable them to frame a research question, identify and retrieve required sources, and make an argument about the ideas and actions of past peoples and societies.

**HST-H465-A: Monumental Women**
Professor Lasdow
We will explore the contradictions between women’s empowerment and historical exploitation, expressed in things like pussy hats and other feminist gear, in artistic representations of the female form, in exploration of cultural difference, and in grass-roots and official forms of activism.

**Undergraduate Law**

**LAWU-H201-A: Introduction to Law**
Professor Flaherty
Students will read primary legal materials such as judicial opinions and statutes and will complete assignments that provide opportunities to engage in legal reasoning, analysis, argument, and research.

**LAWU-H211-A: Litigation**
Professor Scheuerman
This course will acquaint students with rules and the practical requirements of the rules, from filing a complaint to clarifying a judgment and to the duties of paralegals in a litigation office.

**Philosophy**

**PHIL-H120-A: Honors Ethics and Civic Life**
Professor Melenovsky
In this class you will be introduced to the perspectives and methods of politics, philosophy, and economics and see how these three disciplines present distinct but interconnected dimensions of current social and political issues.

**PHIL-H123-C: Social Ethics: The Good Life**
Professor McKinney
An examination of contemporary Western society, particularly in the United States, in relation to philosophical attempts to define the “good life.”
PHIL-H250-AE: Social and Political Philosophy
Professor Eisikovits
An examination of persistent debates in political and social philosophy. Topics covered can include the meaning of property and welfare, the tensions between liberty and equality, censorship and freedom of expression, and more.

PHIL-H314-A: 20th Century Philosophy
Professor McKinney
Examines one or more of the following major philosophical movements of the 20th century: Pragmatism, Phenomenology, Existentialism, Logical Positivism, Analytic (Linguistic) Philosophy, Postmodernism and Critical Theory (Post-Analytic Philosophy).

PHIL-H414-A: Capitalism, Equality, & Justice
Professor Melenovsky
A detailed exposition and evaluation of a specific topic or of the views of one major philosophical thinker or group of thinkers.

Political Science

POLS-H110-A: Intro to American Politics
Professor Conley
An introduction to the American political system and constitutional framework. Focus will be on the interplay of various institutions (the Presidency, Congress and the Judiciary) in creating public policies.

POLS-H225-A: U.S. Con Law & Civil Liberties
Professor Bellone

This course examines a range of contemporary issues introducing students to the U.S. Constitution and the fundamental concepts of constitutional law.

POLS-H245-A: Courts, Public Policy, and Legal Research
Professor Bellone
This honors course examines the public policy-making role of the court system and examines questions such as whether and how courts can spur political and social reform.

POLS-H361-A: Voting Rights and Election Law
Professor Cobb
Students will gain hands-on experience in actual research design, election administration, and non-partisan get-out-the-vote activities.

POLS-H523-A: Washington Internship
Professor Kulich-Vamvakas
A full-time, one-semester internship in Washington, D.C. Consult the Department office for more details.

Psychology

PSYCH-H114-A: General Psychology
Professor Swenson
Surveys core theoretical concepts and contemporary empirical research from the major sub-fields of psychology: physiology; perception; cognition; learning; emotion; motivation; development; personality, and more.

PSYCH-H222-AE: Human Sexuality
Professor Arbeit
Examines the field of human sexuality across the life span. Topics include: sexual anatomy and physiology, sexual development, typical and atypical sexual behavior, sexual dysfunctions, and more.

PSYCH-H311-A: Social Neuroscience
Professor Jerram
Examines theory and research of the neurological processes associated with social behavior, particularly among humans.

PSYCH-H321-A: Introduction to Counseling Skills
Professor Schwartz
Explores and examines basic models of helping and provides supervised practice of helping skills. Format includes lecture, discussion, role play, and video feedback.

Science

SCI-H106-A: Biotechnology and its Applications in Medicine, Agriculture, and Law
Professor Berkmen
Hands-on laboratory experiments such as purify your own DNA and isolate the bacteria from yogurt. We will go more in depth into really cool complex subjects like stem cell technology, gene editing, and personalized medicine.

SCI-H108-HYB1: Introduction to Cancer Care
Professor Mak
Topics to be covered include cancer
causes, detection, and prevention. Psycho-social aspects of being diagnosed with cancer and the role nutrition plays for cancer patients will be integrated.

**First-Year Seminar**

**SF-H116-A: Enlightened Insanity**  
Professor Abrams  
This course strives to understand, define, observe, and analyze the key ideas and concepts of great thinkers, such as Rousseau, Diderot, and Voltaire. Students will read key works of these creative thinkers and philosophers and enhance their understanding through the use of film, theatre performances, museum visits, as well as the occasional cafe debate.

**SF-H182-A: Heroes, Antiheroes, and Outsiders**  
Professor Bonikowski  
This seminar will examine a range of graphic novels, from those that celebrate their origins in superhero comics, such as Alan Moore’s Watchmen, to those that treat subjects not usually considered proper to the comics genre, such as Art Spiegelman’s Maus, about the Holocaust, and Alison Bechdel’s Fun Home, about the complexities of sexual identity. Students will create a collaborative group graphic novel step-by-step over the course of the semester (all abilities welcome).

**SF-H1176-A: What is a Fact?**  
Professor Frangipane  
In this class, students will examine works of literature, art, science, and history that interrogate how facts are created and how we determine their truth value. The class will visit the WBUR NPR newsroom, a local museum, and learn about the legal definition of “truth” from a representative of the law school.

**SF-H1178: Jazz to Jay-Z: Black Music and Literature**  
Professor Miller  
In this class, students will explore the history and form of black music and black literature from the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s through contemporary rap. Students will study work that spans a hundred years of African American cultural production, analyzing trends and developments through a careful interpretation of musical and literary texts and their adjuncts (such as music video and film).

Professor Armbruster  
This course examines how American women writers were literary activists; that is, they used their short stories, novels, poems, essays, and conversion narratives to support and fight for women’s suffrage and engage questions of justice and human rights.

**SF-H1188-A: Attention in the Age of Distraction**  
Professor Votel  
This course endeavors to explore this fight for your attention. We will seek to better understand the psychological, philosophical, political, and cultural value of attention. In exploring the topic of attention, we will also ask about the role and function of distraction and boredom.

**Sociology**

**SOC-H113-A: Introduction to Sociology**  
Professor Agigian  
An introduction to the sociological understanding of human interaction, group process and social structures. Students are introduced to basic concepts, theories and methods of sociological investigation.

**Statistics**

**STATS-H250-AE: Applied Statistics**  
Professor Hawke  
Application of statistical analysis to real-world business and economic problems. Topics include data presentation, descriptive statistics including measures of location and dispersion, introduction to probability, discrete and continuous random variables, and more.

**Writing**

**WRI-H103: Advanced First Year Writing**  
Multiple professors  
This course is by invitation only and reserved for incoming Suffolk students with high admission scores. Advanced study and practice of writing process, revision, and research, based on close readings of a variety of texts.
**SENIOR HONORS PROJECTS**

Congratulations to the following graduating seniors who presented their honors capstone projects at the symposium!

**Phoebe Adams,** Journalism, “Examination of the Discourse Between Pro-choice and Anti-abortion Groups in the Roe v Wade Era,” Project Supervisor: Professor Kevin Carragee


**Hannah Arroyo,** Broadcast Journalism, “Why Chinese Students Struggle to Find Friends in American Universities,” Project Supervisor: Professor Kevin Carragee

**Anna Athanasopoulos,** Biology, “The potential Role of the Dense Core Vesicle Pathway on the DAF-7-Dependent Regulation of the AMPA-type gGutamate Receptor, GLR-1, in Caenorhabditis elegans,” Project Supervisor: Professor Annette McGehee

**Cristelle Badaoui,** Biology, “Investigation of the Protein-Protein Interactions within the Conjugation Machinery of Bacillus subtilis,” Project Supervisor: Professor Melanie Berkmen

**Tess Baucom,** English, “Defining Euripides’ Medea,” Project Supervisor: Professor Kaylin O’Dell

**Grace Boehler,** Law Undergraduate, “Impacts of Wrongful Convictions,” Project Supervisor: Professor Kevin Carragee

**Alexia Baugniet,** Oncology Management Administration (CAS Self-Designed Major), “How Nonprofit Healthcare Organizations Differ and Compare based on Healthcare Professional Responses,” Project Supervisors: Professor Brendan Burke and Professor Lauren Nolfo-Clements

**Sara Bistany,** Environmental Science, “Drones vs. Transects: Analysis of Species Zonation in the Plum Island (MA) Salt Marsh,” Project Supervisor: Professor Peter Burn

**Sofia Bortone,** Journalism, “The Growth of Interpersonal Relationship Initiation due to Online Dating,” Project Supervisor: Professor Kevin Carragee

**Benjamin Boyajian,** Economics, “Time Horizon Confidence and the Equity Premium Puzzle,” Project Supervisor: Professor Jonathan Haughton

**April Bruno,** Biology, “Host Factors that Influence and are Affected by the Egress of Intracellular Streptococcus Pyogenes,” Project Supervisor: Professor Maghnus O’Seaghdha

**Brianna Bryson,** History, “The Unexplored History of Brockton, Massachusetts’ Residential Racial Inequity,” Project Supervisor: Professor Robert Hannigan

**Mitchell Busserie,** Psychology and English, “Senior Capstone Portfolio Presentation,” Project Supervisor: Professor Lance Swenson

**Sabrina Carter,** History and Law Undergraduate “History of Divorce in America: As Seen Through Case Law,” Project Supervisor: Professor Mary Flaherty


**Hannah Cunningham,** Psychology, “Perceived Harms and Benefits of Substances in the United States,” Project Supervisor: Professor Michael Šuvak

**Ciline Uriza Da Silva,** Biology, “Raising Awareness: Wilson’s Disease,” Project Supervisor: Professor Melanie Berkmen
Senior Honors Projects


**Alyvia DeAcetis,** English, “Sylvia Plath and the Concept of Mortality,” Project Supervisor: Professor Wyatt Bonikowski

**Paul DeAngelis,** Government, “Sports and Hockey as a Globalized Business,” Project Supervisor: Professor Kenneth Cosgrove

**Emma Delaney,** Psychology and Sociology, “Honors Portfolio,” Project Supervisor: Professor Lance Swenson

**Allyssa Delvecchio,** Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, “Economics of the Music Industry,” Project Supervisor: Professor Rachel McKinney

**Gaeyelle Desimeau,** Law Undergraduate, “German Contracts,” Project Supervisor: Professor Sheila Scheuerman

**Abigya Devkota,** Computer Science, “Interpreter for ChoiceScript,” Project Supervisor: Professor Dmitry Zinoviev

**Caterina Diaz,** Law Undergraduate, “German vs. American Contract Law,” Project Supervisor: Professor Mary Flaherty

**Emily Dichele,** Government, “Fixing America’s Teacher Shortage: Increasing Teacher Education Enrollment and Decreasing Teacher Turnover,” Project Supervisor: Professor Rachael Cobb


**Julia Durbeck,** Biology, “A behavioral survey of dmd-10 mutants to test nervous system function in Caenorhabditis elegans,” Project Supervisor: Professor Annette McGehee

**Safia Elyounssi,** Psychology, “Intellectual and Developmental Functioning in Young Children Treated with Proton Radiation Therapy,” Project Supervisor: Professor Matthew Jerram

**Paige Fraiser,** Psychology, “Senior Capstone,” Project Supervisor: Professor Lance Swenson

**Edaise Germany,** Law Undergraduate, “A Comparison of Free Legal Research Databases,” Project Supervisor: Professor Sheila Scheuerman


**Karen Hildebrand,** Psychology, “Honors Senior Capstone Portfolio,” Project Supervisor: Professor Lance Swenson


**Benedict Holden,** Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, “Modern Monetary Theory: Normative Implications for Fiscal & Public Policy,” Project Supervisor: Professor Rachel McKinney

**Katie Hubbard,** Interdisciplinary Arts (CAS Self-Designed Major), “Interdisciplinary Arts -- Fostering Harmony Between All Forms of Creativity: ‘For Nothing, and No One, Not Even Myself,’” Project Supervisor: Professor Amy Monticello

**Jacqueline Janusis,** English, “Elizabeth Bishop’s Lyric Voice Crafted from Privacy and Pain,” Project Supervisor: Professor George Kaloginis

**Jon-Luc Jarboe,** Biology, “Determining Habitat Suitability for the Eastern Grey Squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis) of the Boston Public Garden,” Project Supervisor: Professor Lauren Nolfo-Clements

**Jessica Keegan,** Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, “The

Amy Koczera, Broadcast Journalism, “Social Media & Adolescent Females: Influence of the Thin Ideal on Eating Disorder Development,” Project Supervisor: Professor Kevin Carragee

Brynn Kooyenga, Law Undergraduate, “The Laws of Driving Under the Influence in the State of Massachusetts,” Project Supervisor: Professor Mary Flaherty

Gabriella Larson, Psychology, “Solitary Confinement: How to Induce a Psychiatric Disorder 10,” Project Supervisor: Professor Carlos Monteiro

Madison Laudermilk, Graphic Design, “Bogside Acres and Benson’s Pond Branding,” Project Supervisor: Professor Keith Kitz

Annika Luk, Graphic Design, “Rat Stew,” Project Supervisor: Professor Keith Kitz

Alexandra MacFarland, Environmental Science, “Characterizing Heavy Metal Concentrations in New England Salt Marshes by Seasonality Trends and Proximity to Anthropogenic Pollution and Invasive Vegetation,” Project Supervisor: Professor Hayley Schiebel

Rachel Madow, Applied Mathematics and Economics, “Applications of Linear Programming,” Project Supervisor: Professor Pradeep Shukla

Gina Maffei, Philosophy, “Modes of Being an Existential Responsibility In Existentialism and Buddhism,” Project Supervisor: Professor Rachel McKinney

Emily Manfra, Biology, “Phenotypic Lasticity of the Mammalian Limb Skeleton Using Habitat-Specific Escape Behaviors,” Project Supervisor: Professor Eric Dewar

E. Liam Martin, Government, “Evolving Strategies in Countering Drug Cartels in Mexico: Lessons Learned from Italy and Colombia,” Project Supervisor: N/A

Nicholas McCurtin, Biology, “A Novel Small Molecule Modulates CFTR in Homozygous ΔF508 Human Bronchial Epithelial Cells,” Project Supervisor: Professor Lauren Nolfo-Clements


Anna Meomutli, Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, “Economic Implications of Immigration to the US: Immigrant Wages, and Is Immigration Worth It?,” Project Supervisors: Professor Rachel McKinney and Professor Lawrence De Geest


Isabel Morales, Psychology, “Psychology Senior Capstone,” Project Supervisor: Professor Lance Swenson

Christian Morris, Environmental Studies, “Perceptions of New England Wetland Ecosystem Services among American University Students,” Project Supervisor: Professor Hayley Schiebel

Tara Murphy, Media and Film, “Intellectual Disabilities in Contemporary American Film,” Project Supervisor: Professor Kevin Carragee

Emily Nayyer, Psychology, “Honors Capstone Portfolio,” Project Supervisor: Professor Lance Swenson


Victoria Oliveria, Sociology, “An Analysis of Women’s Self-Defense Programs from a Feminist Perspective,” Project Supervisor: Professor James Ptaceck

Natasha Pawa, Psychology, “Honors Capstone Portfolio,” Project Supervisor: Professor Lance Swenson

Justin Peavey, Theatre, “What Happened to Justice?” Project Supervisor: Professor Wesley Savick
Senior Honors Projects

**Ashley Pezzella**, Philosophy, “Feminist Critique on Emotion in Comparison to Knowledge and Reason,” Project Supervisor: Professor Rachel McKinney


**Adelyn Ragucci**, Biochemistry, “Analysis of Oligomerization and Protein-Protein Interactions within the Conjugation Machinery of Bacillus subtilis,” Project Supervisor: Professor Melanie Berkmen

**Patrick Riordan**, Philosophy, “Applying the KK Principle to Aristotle’s Notions of Infinity,” Project Supervisor: Professor Rachel McKinney

**Alexandria Rivard**, Psychology, “Honors Capstone Portfolio,” Project Supervisor: Professor Susan Orsillo

**Diane Robinson**, Media and Film, “Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1956) & American Anxieties During the Cold War: A Reflectionist View of the Alien Invasion Subgenre,” Project Supervisor: Professor Sandro Carella

**Sabrina Rodriguez**, Advertising, “A Content Analysis of Typography in Billboards in the City of Boston,” Project Supervisor: Professor Susan Alessandri

**Sthepany Sabillon**, Law Undergraduate, “Why Do People Migrate,” Project Supervisor: Professor Flaherty


**Aashi Sethi**, Environmental Science, “Assessing the Environmental Impacts of Denim Production,” Project Supervisor: Professor Pat Hogan


**Melissa Tupkusic**, Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, “The Repercussions of Framing the Bosnian Genocide of 1992-1995 as a Civil War: How Did This Lead to the Lack of Action from Western Powers?,” Project Supervisor: Professor Rachel McKinney

**Sara Zoghi Tavana**, Biology, “The Relationship between SLO, NADase and Intracellular Survival in Clinical Isolates of Group A Streptococcus (GAS),” Project Supervisor: Professor Maghnus O’Seaghdha
Senior Honors Projects

Melanthi Vasiliadis, International Relations and English Literature, “A Double Obscurity”: A Platonic Reading of The Handmaid’s Tale,” Project Supervisor: Professor Elif Armbruster

Sai Akshaya Vivekanandan, Psychology, “Psychology Honors Capstone,” Project Supervisor: Professor Lance Swenson

Grace Voll, Public Relations, “Nike’s Dream Crazy Campaign: #DreamCrazy and #BoycottNike,” Project Supervisor: Professor Susan Alessandri


Samantha Williams, Government, “Overcoming Fear in the Workplace,” Project Supervisor: Professor David Carlon


Honors advising has its perks! Students found the honors hand sanitizers given out during advising period especially useful this year.