The Torch: College of Arts & Sciences Program Newsletter, no. 13, Winter 2023

College of Arts & Sciences Honors Program

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Cover photo courtesy of Kirbie O’Brien
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Honors Ambassadors promote honors community and communicate the value and opportunities offered by the honors experience at Suffolk. Ambassadors do outreach to new and prospective students, and they provide service and support for admissions events, honors events and programs, and honors classes.
THANK YOU TO OUR 2022-2023 HONORS COUNCIL

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President  
Political Science

Lexi Cortes  
Vice President  
Political Science & English

Alicia Isham  
Secretary  
Criminal Justice

Katie Winans  
Senior Representative  
Political Science

Molly Sakowicz  
Senior Representative  
Political Science

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Junior Representative  
Psychology

Kayla Arreaga  
Sophomore Representative  
Political Science

Barbara Consales  
Publicity & Promotions Chair  
Advertising

Abi Verfuerth  
Off-Campus Representative  
Political Science

Sophia Yeganeh  
On-Campus Representative  
Undeclared

The Honors Council is made up of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Class Representatives, On-Campus and Off-Campus Representatives, and the Publicity & Promotions Chair. The Council plans professional and social events for the honors community and acts as a liaison between students and the administration.
The Honors Council had a wonderful fall semester. We started off in September with a Welcome Back event where returning honors students could reconnect with friends and make new connections. This was also a wonderful opportunity for new students to learn more about how they can be involved in the honors program. Students made vision boards to document their goals for the semester and enjoyed some honors swag.

In October, the Council hosted an alumni panel with honors alumni from various different careers and backgrounds. Our alumni talked to current students about their academic and career experiences before and after graduation. This was a great chance for students in the honors program to ask any questions about the transition after college. We are most appreciative of our alumni panelists, Meaghan Fallano (BS 2007), Maggie Randall (MA 2019, BS 2018), Hunter Toyoda (BS 2022), Jocelyn De Paz (BS 2022), and Alexia Baugniet (MHA 2022, BS 2020).
In November, the Council worked with the Center for Community Engagement to organize a service project for the honors community. We partnered with Love Your Block and did a neighborhood clean-up service project around Beacon Hill. Love Your Block offers mini-grants and neighborhood clean-ups for beautification projects. We were and still are very grateful to them for partnering with us. Also in November, we held our annual Friendsgiving before the break. In addition to a shared meal, students made a gratitude chain while connecting with each other.

In December, we hosted a relaxation event. Students decorated cookies and were able to make relaxation bags. This was a great way for students to take a break from studying for finals and relax before winter break.

Overall, the Council had a successful semester and we look forward to the upcoming semester with the honors community.
NEW HONORS STUDENTS ON AND AROUND CAMPUS

Fall Welcome

Every fall semester, the honors program hosts events to welcome the new class of honors scholars to the program and the University. Throughout September and October, new honors students had the opportunity to get to know their new city and classmates during events and outings on and off campus. This year, students enjoyed a coffee cart full of hand-crafted coffee from Espresso Dave’s, took a sunset cruise in the Boston Harbor, immersed themselves in Hairspray the Musical, and visited Salem during the spookiest month of the year.

Honors First-Year Seminar

Professor Bonikowski taught an honors first-year-seminar course this semester, Heroes and Antiheroes, which examined a range of graphic novels and looked at how the combination of words and still images makes the graphic novel a unique storytelling form. Karl Stevens visited the class to talk to students about his experience as a comics artist and his insights into the comics form. Stevens is the author of six graphic novels, his comic strips and cartoons have been published in The New Yorker, The Village Voice, and The Boston Phoenix, and he has had exhibitions of his oil paintings and watercolors at Carroll and Sons and Howard Yezerski galleries in Boston.

Professor Ben-Josef Hirsch taught another honors first-year seminar course, Human Rights in the 21st Century. She took her class to a variety of locations during the
semester. First, her students went to the New England Holocaust Memorial as part of their discussion about the foundational role of the Holocaust in shaping human rights. Later, her students went to the Armenian Genocide Museum in Watertown MA. Museum guide, Mr. Berj Chekijian walked the students through the museum galleries telling the history of the Armenian nation before, during, and after the Genocide (1915-1917). The museum staff, including Executive Director Jason Sohigian, welcomed the students with Armenian sweet bread (Choreg) and cheese (Chechil). Each student also received a booklet about the legacy of the Genocide (supported by the Cummings Foundation).
During the fall semester, I had the amazing opportunity to spend the first half of my senior year in Madrid. Studying abroad was not something that I thought I would get the chance to do so I spent the whole semester feeling incredibly grateful to all of the people who helped make this become a reality.

I started off the semester with a welcome trip to León for a weekend. I spent the time exploring and connecting with students that would later become some of my greatest friends.
I also had the chance to travel solo, which is something that I had never done before. I also went to Germany and ate some of the most incredible food, went to the Christmas market, and visited some amazing castles. Traveling solo was one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever had.

My favorite part of living in Madrid was my wonderful host family. From the second I met them, I knew that it would be the perfect fit. I never thought that I could say I have a Spanish family, but now I can. I have so many fantastic memories with them that I will cherish for the rest of my life, and I cannot wait until I can see them again.

Finally, I got to work with Suffolk staff in Madrid to organize honors community events while abroad. We visited Chocolatería San Ginés and then took a tour of the Royal Palace of Madrid. These were great opportunities for honors students to build community with each other and explore Madrid.

Living in Madrid was the most amazing experience and I will look back on it as being one of the best times of my life.
From November 2 to November 5, 2022, the College of Arts & Sciences Honors Program took eight students to the National Collegiate Honors Council’s Annual Conference in Dallas, TX. These students included Isabel Baynum (Political Science ’23), Kirbie O’Brien (Psychology ’23), Katie Winans (Political Science ’23), Kassidy Planas (Politics, Philosophy, and Economics ’24), Syeeda Rahman (Political Science ’24), Kaviya Vijayakumar (Psychology ’24), Lexi Cortes (Political Science and English ’24), and Alicia Isham (Criminal Justice ’25). Our students presented their research, explored Dallas, participated in a local service project, and attended various conference sessions.

Six of our students presented their research during the student poster sessions at the conference. Isabel Baynum presented her project, “Analysis on Constitutional Protections and Terrorism as related to Miranda Rights,” where she analyzed whether exceptions to Miranda Rights are constitutionally sound and whether domestic terrorists should be included or excluded from these protections. Kirbie O’Brien presented her research, “Importance of Activities of Daily Living in Those Diagnosed with Dementia,” which discussed dementia, its etiology and prognosis, as well as the benefits of activities of daily living (ADLs). Katie Winans explored how TikTok has influenced Generation Z to be more politically active in her project, “TikTok: Is it a New Trend to be Politically Active?” Kassidy Planas presented her research, “Preposterous: How Philosophy Permeated a Pandemic,” which examined the influence that COVID-19 has inflicted on perspectives concerning collective good, impermanence, and above all, life amid the constant reminder of death. Syeeda Rahman outlined the Vaccine Equity Initiative project set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in her project, “The Impact of Direct Community-Based Outreach During COVID-19.” Finally, Kaviya Vijayakumar addressed the effectiveness of community-based child abuse prevention strategies through a systematic
review and identification of key factors in a program's effectiveness in child abuse prevention in her research, “Assessing the Effectiveness of Community-Based Strategies in Child Abuse Prevention.” Several of our students joined a service project at Kirkpatrick Elementary and Middle School, working with children in this community to complete mural paintings. Other students participated in a “City as Text” excursion, allowing students to learn more about the city of Dallas through exploring various neighborhoods. During conference sessions, our students heard from keynote speaker Cece Cox, a civil rights activist and CEO at Resource Center in Dallas, Texas, one of the primary LGBTQ+ and HIV/AIDS service organizations in the United States, and plenary speaker Brian Broome, an award-winning author of memoir "Punch Me Up to the Gods."

Overall, the NCHC conference was a wonderful opportunity for our students to connect with other honors students, faculty, and staff from across the United States, explore the Dallas community, and learn from a variety of perspectives.
NCHC Awards & Accomplishments

2022 Student Posters:
Sloane Prize for Undergraduate Research Awards, Arts & Humanities


Isabel was also featured in the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) newsletter for her thesis. She is a DCSA Student Experience intern working in the Background Investigations front office and recently received an offer for employment with the agency upon her graduation.

Third Place: Kaviya Vijayakumar, “Assessing the Effectiveness of Community-Based Strategies in Child Abuse Prevention”

Kaviya also wrote an article about her conference experience on HerCampus at Suffolk, "NCHC’s 57th Annual Conference Builds Community Among Honors Students."
On December 8, the Honors Program held its biannual Honors Symposium, which provides students the opportunity to celebrate their hard work and creative efforts as they showcase their theses and capstone projects. This fall, 13 graduating seniors presented their work in the Sargent Hall Keches Room.

Graduating seniors presented their theses and capstone projects on a plethora of topics to the Suffolk community. Biology major Georgia Polychroni presented her project, "Exploring the Genetic Contribution to Panic and Anxiety Disorders," where she discussed how "there is limited understanding of the etiology of panic and anxiety disorders, and it may be expected that the likelihood of a specific candidate gene being connected to the condition is very low." Pavlos Rousoglou, economics and computer science major, investigated "whether the rise of remote work has impacted the migration decision of individuals in the state of California," in his project, "Effects of remote work on migration."

Finally, English major Mamata Head explored how the portrayal of men and women "demonstrate the power hungry politics of the male dominated arena" in her project, ""A Mourning That Will Have No End?": A Closer Look at Feminine Suffering in Euripides' Iphigenia at Aulis and Michael Cacoyannis' Iphigenia (1977)."

Thank you to all student presenters for their hard work and dedication throughout the fall semester as they prepared their projects. Additionally, thank you to the faculty and mentors that supported these students by providing exceptional guidance and insight throughout the process.
SENIOR THESES & PROJECTS

Janina Benchimol, "Evolution of the Coexistence of the Spanish Society with the Sephardic Jewish Community Over Time"
Project Supervisor: Professor Lola Colomilla
Major: Advertising

Janaya Bennett, "Elder Abuse: An Epidemic That is Not Seen in the News"
Project Supervisor: Professor Mary Flaherty
Major: Law

Jasmine Francoeur, "Korean Food and Culture Website"
Project Supervisor: Professor Cynthia Irizarry
Major: Public Relations

Rafal Fryc, "China: The New Hegemon"
Project Supervisor: Professor Roberto Dominguez
Major: International Relations

Project Supervisor: Professor George Kalogeris
Major: English

Alessandra Macina, "Advertising III: Ad Copy and Design – Final Portfolio"
Project Supervisor: Professor Susan Alessandri
Major: Advertising

Antonio Pereira Torres, "The Effect Economic Disruptions/Shocks Have on Developing Nations and their People"
Project Supervisor: Professor Amy Agigian
Major: Sociology

Georgia Polychroni, "Exploring the Genetic Contribution to Panic and Anxiety Disorders"
Project Supervisor: Professor Magnus O’Seaghdha
Major: Biology

Pavlov Rousoglou, "Effects of remote work on migration"
Project Supervisor: Professor Inmee Baek
Majors: Economics and Computer Science

Olivia Sears, "The Impact of Healthcare Disparities and Legislation Targeting Gender-Affirming Care on LGBTQ+ Patients"
Project Supervisor: Gloria Boone
Major: Environmental Science

Lisette Van Den Boogaard, "Metamorphoses"
Project Supervisor: Professor Heather Stern
Majors: Theatre and History