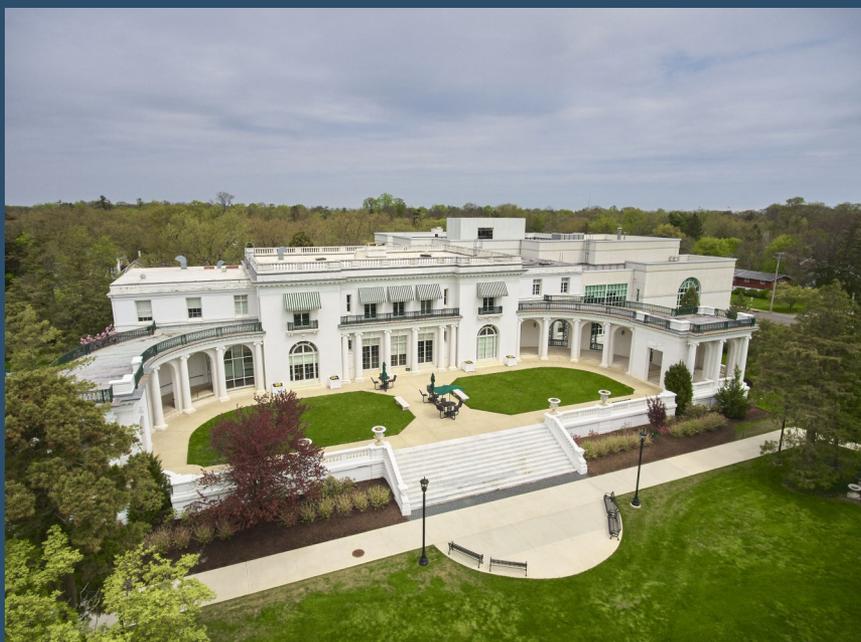


MONMOUTH
UNIVERSITY

HONORS SCHOOL

*GRADUATES AND
AWARD WINNERS
2020*



2020 FREED AWARDS

All Honors Thesis /Capstone projects receiving a grade of B+ or above are considered for the prestigious Freed Award. Faculty members of the Honors Council select the most outstanding student work based on originality of thesis, depth and range of research, clarity of argument, and quality of presentation.

FOR BEST THESIS

LANDON MYERS `19 Political Science

Chief Advisor: Dr. Joseph Patten Second Reader: Dr. Stephen Chapman

Hope Versus Fear: An Examination of the Left- Behind Voters in Michigan and Wisconsin in the 2016 Presidential Election

HONORABLE MENTION FOR THESIS

TAYLOR DONOVAN `19 Chemistry

Chief Advisor: Dr. Pedram Daneshgar Second Reader: Professor John Tiedemann

Characterizing Northern Diamondback Terrapin Nest Site Selection with Respect to Vegetation in Southern New Jersey

MICHAEL MAZZUCCO `19 Biology

Chief Advisor: Dr. Martin Hicks

Therapy RNA Interaction with HNRNPS to Induce Alternative Splicing in GBM

KOUSHIK MURALIDHARAN `19 Biology

Chief Advisor: Dr. Martin Hicks

RNA Therapeutic Strategies to Block VEGFR2 Expression and Angiogenesis in Glioblastoma Multiforme

2020 DR. WILLIAM P. MITCHELL AWARD

RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS BY A GRADUATE OF THE HONORS SCHOOL

Inspired by the work and legacy of the founding head of the then Honors Program Dr. William P. Mitchell, and in his honor, alumnus Terence Bodak, Jr., '12, '18M established and has generously supported this award that annually recognizes a superior graduate for their contributions to the Honors School. Senior Honors students who have achieved a 3.5 GPA in their major and who meet at least two of the following criteria may be included for consideration: active member of the Honors community, member of the Peer Mentoring Program for at least two years, represented the Honors School at an academic conference, served on the Honors School Association, or member of the Honors School Newsletter for at least four issues. The award winners are selected by the Honors School Dean.

GIANNI MAZZONE `20

Business Administration with a concentration in Finance and Economics

Gianni has been a fixture in the Honors School since he arrived on campus. He has been a long-time and effective Honors School Peer Mentor and has represented the Honors School at both the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Boston, and the Northeast Regional Honors Council Conferences in Baltimore and Albany. He was selected by the School of Business to represent the Honors School at their Annual Business Awards Dinner. Gianni's eagerness to share his academic passion is a credit to the Honors School.

KELLY SCHULD `20

Secondary Education and History with an endorsement in Teaching Students with Disabilities

Kelly has been a long-time office assistant in the Honors School. Her work ethic and consistent contributions in that role earned her a nomination for Student Employee of the Year. She has been an outstanding Honors School Peer Mentor for three years and has been selected as the Graduate Assistant in charge of the Peer Mentor Program for next year. Kelly has represented the Honors School at Open House, Mondays at Monmouth, and at the Brunch for Accepted Honors School Students. Kelly has presented her research at national, regional and university research conferences. She exemplifies the best of what a member of the Monmouth Honors School should be.

2020 GRADUATES

JESSICA BAALS

Chemistry

Minotola, New Jersey



Thesis: *Behavioral Outcomes of the Adolescent Co-use of Alcohol and Amphetamine in an Rat Model for ADHD*

Recreational use of amphetamine and other stimulants often prescribed as treatment for ADHD peaks in adolescence. This is also a time when many individuals experience alcohol for the first time. Previous studies in our lab found that when amphetamine and alcohol are consumed together, amphetamine attenuates alcohol withdrawal symptoms. My project tests Spontaneously Hypertensive Rats that are an experimental model for ADHD to see if this outcome is the same as or different from the previous study. This is important to understand since amphetamine is therapeutic for an ADHD brain, and its co-use with alcohol may result in the need for developing educational and preventative strategies for the ADHD population.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Green Squad Orientation Leader summer 2019; Honors School Peer Mentor 2017/28 and 2018/19; Coordinator for the First Year Service Project; Member of 5678 Dance Club; Chemistry Department Service Award (2019/20); Won 2nd Place in my category at the MACUB Research Conference hosted at Monmouth in Fall 2019 for the research that supports my thesis.

Why I joined the Honors School: I loved the idea of the smaller community setting and the mentor program to help me adjust to college life, both academically and socially.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: My fondest memory is being able to live in Beechwood for two years. It is by far the best for building community.

Plans after graduation: I will be attending the University of the Sciences in the fall to receive my Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

CHLOE CAROLINE BARONE

Communication Public Relations & Journalism

Point Pleasant, New Jersey



Thesis: *Swiping Right for Romance*

Swiping Right for Romance is a qualitative study which sought to find the relationship online dating applications such as Tinder, have on college aged individuals (18-24 years old) forming monogamous relationships. This study ultimately found that college students feel that the use of dating applications has destroyed the practice of monogamy, and has idealized the "hook-up" culture among their peers. Despite this encouragement of having multiple partners, college students expressed that dating applications have caused them to want to be valued and find a partner who ultimately respects them and their relationship.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: I was a writer and the Lifestyle's Editor at Monmouth's newspaper *The Outlook*.

Why I joined the Honors School: I joined the Honor's School because of the opportunities I knew it would provide me with during my undergraduate career at Monmouth, and after in my professional life. At my core I love being a student, and thrive in a rigorous learning environment. I ultimately wanted to challenge myself and maximize the heights to which I could achieve at Monmouth.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: My fondest memory the Honors School brought me was the opportunity to cultivate my thesis, with my advisor (and professor) who I look up to.

Plans after graduation: After graduation I plan to attend graduate school at Monmouth University, and obtain my masters in Interactive Digital Media. Upon obtaining a M.A., I hope to become a Professor of Communication.

STEPHANIE BIANCHINO

English and Elementary Education

Old Bridge, New Jersey



Thesis: *Reading Motivation Among Elementary Students*

There is currently great scrutiny in the field of education to determine what the best practices are in literacy instruction. Researchers in literacy education have begun to examine the role that motivation plays in learning to read. Reading motivation has risen to the top of what is considered to be a very important topic in the field of elementary education. Practitioners and academics alike recognize the need for students to be highly motivated and want to learn how to read in order for literacy instruction to be successful. Moreover, there is a correlation between low motivation for reading and low literacy levels. Additionally, researchers are studying factors that impact reading motivation. Proven practices that positively influence reading motivation include providing book choice, incorporating technology into literacy lessons, and integrating cooperative practices in literacy learning.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Member of Phi Eta Sigma and Sigma Tau Delta; peer mentor for the School of Education; member of the School of Education Dean's Advisory Council.

Why I joined the Honors School: I joined the Honors School because I love learning and challenging myself academically. By joining the Honors School, I had the opportunity to take challenging classes and complete multiple projects throughout my four years at Monmouth.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: My fondest memory of the Honors School is when I presented my Honors thesis. I was able to conduct research in an area that I was really interested in and I was really excited to present my research.

Plans after graduation: My plans after graduation include becoming an elementary school teacher and continuing my education through Monmouth's graduate school.

JARRET ROBERT BIRD

Anthropology

Wall Township, New Jersey



Thesis: *Monmouth University as an LGBTQ+ "Safe Space"*

This thesis paper sought to explore LGBTQ+ experiences at Monmouth University. Data was to be collected via surveys and interviews with LGBTQ+ students about their experiences and perceptions about the campus and its culture. This data helped answer the question of how favorably Monmouth compares to what the literature says about concepts of safety and "safe spaces", what this would look like if not, and whether or not there is a working definition of "safe space" that includes LGBTQ+ students. However, the paper also seeks to move beyond a "safe/unsafe" binary evaluation. Rather than simply comparing the policies of Monmouth to recommendations and results from literature on the topic, this thesis paper originally sought to incorporate the experiences and opinions of students, with explicit attention paid to LGBTQ+ students.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Vice President of the History and Anthropology Club.

Why I joined the Honors School: I joined the Honors School to challenge myself academically and to better prepare myself to find a career and perform well in it.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: Some of my fondest memories of the Honors School are from my first couple of years at Monmouth, where the honors clusters allowed me to better know some of the students in my department and gain insight into how different fields/majors had crossover.

Plans after graduation: My plans right now center around furthering my education in Monmouth University's graduate school program.

HAYLEY BRANSTROM

History and Secondary Education

East Windsor, New Jersey



Thesis: *Mackinac Island: The Great Turtle and the Jewel of Michigan*

Despite Mackinac Island's small size, low population, and limited resources, its unique placement, history, and occupants have profoundly altered the identity of the region. Major events in the Straits are also able to give historians an interesting understanding of topics in United States history, including Native American relations, the Revolutionary War, and the War of 1812 by providing a crossroads at which the Native Americans, French, British, and Americans interacted. The ways in which Mackinac Island acts as a microcosm of American history make it particularly valuable from an analytical and historical standpoint as key events in the Mackinac Straits have mirrored trends that have taken place on a broader scale in American culture.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Awarded the Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar in History Award; Dean's List every year of my time here; member of the Monmouth University History Honors Society Phi Alpha Theta; presented a research project at the Northeast Regional Honors Conference in Baltimore in 2019.

Why I joined the Honors School: I joined the Honors School because I believed that it would be a great opportunity for me to join a community of like-minded students and gain extra support at Monmouth.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: My fondest memory from the Honors School was going to Baltimore to present my research project. It was such an exciting event and I was able to meet other students from around the country and read about the work that they are doing.

Plans after graduation: After graduation, I will be continuing my education at Monmouth by pursuing a Master of Arts in History. After I complete that, I will begin searching for a job as a middle or high school teacher.

MELANIE BROMAN

ENGLISH

with a concentration in Creative Writing

Jackson, New Jersey



Thesis: *The Locked-Room Mystery*

My project consists of examining the “locked-room” subgenre in detective fiction, defining its elements, and writing a piece of original detective fiction containing the necessary components of a “locked-room” mystery. My goal was to define the structure and the elements of the Locked-Room mystery, as well as discover its various implementations in mystery writing.

The Gutenberg Bible was one of the first books printed in movable type at the start of the Gutenberg Revolution. Prized for its beautiful artistry and historical significance, a full copy had not been sold since the 1970s. Until now.

Everett Knox, owner of a bookshop dealing with rare books, has been commissioned to handle and restore the first Gutenberg Bible to be bought in nearly fifty years. The incentive? A quarter of a million dollars. In taking on such an important project, much is at stake. Knox and his manager, West, must take every precaution to protect the Gutenberg, but will it be enough to stop ruthless collectors?

Taking inspiration from such writers as Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle, “Gutenberg” is a classic locked-room mystery, full of crime, logic, and intrigue.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Member of Sigma Tau Delta; Published a short story in the Monmouth Review; Received English Departmental Creative Writing Award for Honors Thesis.

Why I joined the Honors School: To have unique educational opportunities I would not otherwise have.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: Seeing *Wicked* on Broadway!

Plans after graduation: I will continue writing and have my work published someday.

VICTORIA MEGAN CATTELONA

Political Science

Long Branch, New Jersey



Thesis: *Creating Citizens: Civic Education's Role in Encouraging Youth Voter Turnout*

Civic education and youth engagement have been my key interests since high school. With my thesis, I wanted to expand on work I had completed for the Honors Symposium when I was a student in Brookdale Community College's Honors Program. At first I researched youth support for democracy and recent challenges and opportunities for democratic governments, but when I began to redirect my career toward secondary school social studies education, I decided to look at civic education's role in youth voter turnout. I approached Dr. Patten for my Honors Thesis, and we discussed how to test for a relationship between states' mandatory civics curricula, such as civics exams and civics courses, and voter turnout for 18- to 24-year-olds in federal elections. I analyzed data from both the 2016 presidential and 2018 midterm elections and, with linear regression models and independent sample t-tests, found a statistically significant relationship between civics exam requirements and youth voter turnout for 2016. This result indicates that more intensive civics education requirements result in higher levels of political engagement. Though such a relationship was not evident for the 2018 midterm election, the findings reinforce education's primary influence in determining electoral participation and, thereby, creating citizens.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Interned at the Monmouth County Clerk's Office last summer; served as a study group teaching assistant for Media Law; member of the College Democrats, the History and Anthropology Club, the Order of the Phoenix, the Political Science Club, and the Transfer Hawks Club; office assistant for the renewed Institute for Global Understanding and will continue that role as a Graduate Assistant..

Why I joined the Honors School: I wanted to continue the kind of enhanced educational experience that I enjoyed in Brookdale's Honors Program and complete a thesis, so I prioritized joining the Honors School when I transferred to Monmouth to complete my bachelor's degree. Brookdale's Honors Program and Monmouth's Honors School also have an articulation agreement that made the transition seamless.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: My favorite memory is definitely seeing *Wicked* on Broadway in March of this year. I loved the show from start to finish and met many wonderful people during our day in New York City!

Plans after Graduation: I am staying at Monmouth to pursue a Master of Arts in Teaching degree. I will earn a certification to teach at the secondary school level with a social studies specialization and an English as a Second Language (ESL) endorsement. After I complete the accelerated program, I hope to find employment at a Monmouth County high school.

KATHY CHEN



Chemistry
with a concentration in Biochemistry

Branchburg, New Jersey

Thesis: *NMR Analyses of Rhenium Compounds*

The dynamic processes of rhenium tetrahydride complexes that were synthesized by students in an inorganic chemistry lab course were examined through variable temperature 1H NMR spectroscopy and the simulations of those results. The hydrogens on the rhenium tetrahydride complexes displayed hydrogen exchange through two different mechanisms. One mechanism involves the H1 hydride ligands, which are three chemically equivalent hydride ligands, and the H3 hydride ligand, that exchange in a turnstile fashion. Another mechanism involves an exchange between the H2 hydride ligand and the H3 hydride ligand on the molecule. Eyring plots were formulated with the k values for each reaction found in the simulations and with the temperatures from which each measurement was taken at. The activation parameters for the two hydride exchange mechanisms were then determined. The analyses of these specific compounds may be used as a method to analyze potential cytotoxic compounds in the future.

Notable activities and achievements: mCompeted in the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella and have performed at Prudential Center with the Monmouth University Sea Sharps; completed and presented my Honors Thesis; presented my research at various conferences around the East coast; served as a mentor, tutor and PLA to my peers around campus for a majority of my college career at Monmouth.

Why I joined the Honors School: I was attracted to the promise of a community within a community as well as the first year dorms in Beechwood Hall.

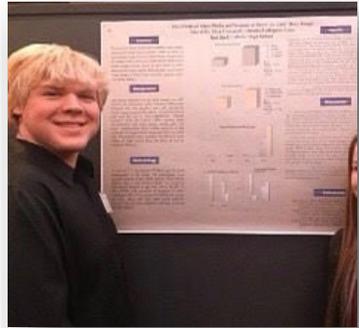
Fondest memory of the Honors School: The NRHC in Baltimore in 2019, it happened to fall on my birthday and it was a great way to celebrate it with my peers. We also had some downtime and were able to sight see around DC as well.

Plans after graduation: I will be attending medical school at Rowan SOM this coming July.

NICHOLAS JOSEPH COSCARELLI

Political Science with minors in English and Gender Studies

Manalapan, New Jersey



Thesis: *The Impact of Health Care Access on Medical Cost and Quality of Life in the United States*

Despite efforts to increase access to healthcare, millions of Americans are still left without protection from the economic effects of sickness because they are uninsured. Access, cost, and quality are three essential variables challenging the American healthcare system. This study examines how these three factors affect one another, in efforts to strategize improving costs by expanding access. Using data gathered from the US Census and other federal and state government agencies, this study compares these evaluated factors in all 50 states. Regression analysis shows an inverse relationship between rate of insured and percent of income spent on health expenditures.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Editor at *The Outlook*; President of Student-Alumni Association and student representation to the Alumni Board; member of the Model United Nations team; Senator in Student Government Association; conducted research under Dr. Johanna Foster in feminist theories, and with Dr. Jen McGovern in methodologies of gender and sports toys.

Why I joined the Honors School: I joined the Honors School because I wanted to pursue greater intellectual stimulation at Monmouth. The honors courses allowed me to engage with other like-minded students. The curriculum also allowed me to conduct research through my Honors thesis under Dr. Joe Patten and Dr. Jen McGovern in my junior year.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: I always enjoyed seeing Reenie and Kate, and having thoughtful conversations with Dr. Greason and Dr. Mezey. I also loved seeing all my fellow peers present their work and research at the Honors Research Conferences each semester.

Plans after graduation: I will be pursuing a Master's in political science and policy at Lehigh on a fully-funded teaching assistantship.

MORGAN ELIZABETH DEWINNE



English and Secondary Education with an endorsement in Teaching Students with Disabilities

Vineland, New Jersey

Thesis: *To Be or Not to Be...That is the necessary Question*

I researched colleges and universities whose English programs mandated Shakespearean courses to examine whether or not an entire course (or courses) are necessary for English majors to partake in. I studied the data provided by college and university English studies and current English Departments that have voted whether or not to eliminate Shakespeare as a required course for their English majors.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: President of the English Honor Society (Sigma Tau Delta); organized many fundraisers and events for multiple charities and philanthropies; dedicated my time and effort to the surrounding community of Monmouth University by being the Vice President of Growth for the sorority, Alpha Sigma Tau, to encourage new and current members to participate in philanthropy events for Relay for Life, Monmouth "Big Event," the Ashley Lauren Foundation, Suicide Awareness, and the Women's Wellness Initiative.

Why I joined the Honors School: Even though I qualified to be invited to the Honors School, I did not receive an invitation. During my "Mondays at Monmouth" visit, my father actually inquired how I could get into the program. I spoke with Reenie and organized my new housing situation and we scheduled my first semester of courses! I wanted to join to be a part of something bigger at college, and that's exactly what being in the Honors Program was. The community and friendships that the Honors Program provided me with are things that I will truly never forget.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: I loved working in the Honors School office alongside Reenie and Dr. Greason. They showed true kindness to me constantly, and they still continue to do so after I've graduated! Constantly getting lost in the basement of the library while going to retrieve/send out mail was something that Reenie and I never failed to laugh at! I also am so thankful for the Teacher Residency Program that Dean Henning of the School of Education first opened to Honors students -- this truly paved the way for my career in teaching!

Plans after graduation: After I finished student teaching on a Friday in the fall at Colonia High School in Woodbridge Township, I began my first full-time teaching position on the Monday after at Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield, New Jersey. I teach freshmen and seniors for English Literature, Writing and Research, and a collegiate academy at my school in the style of a senior seminar. I'm so happy and thankful for all of the opportunities the Honors School provided me with! I'm going to miss everyone!

MCKENNA DOUGLASS

PSYCHOLOGY

Hunterdon County, New Jersey



Thesis: *The Impact of Viewing Distressed Marine Life on Environmental Conscientiousness and Consumer Choices*

Each year thousands of marine animals die due to plastic pollution. That is why it is more pressing than ever to find what motivates people into making eco-friendly changes. Past research has done an excellent job examining if internal traits like empathy are correlated with people's thoughts on animal welfare. Few studies have examined if presenting people with photographs of animals in distress influences their environmental conscientiousness. The primary aim of the study was to investigate if viewing distressed marine wildlife due to human behavior impacts perceptions of environmental conscientiousness. The study was a mixed experimental design between and within-subject elements. Participants took a series of surveys measuring their environmental conscientiousness. Between surveys participants either viewed images of marine animals in distress or the ocean. Additionally, participants rated how impactful each image was to them. Vignettes were used to manipulate attitudes of helplessness/control over the situation. Participants also underwent a behavioral choice measure. Significance was found regarding an overall increase in participants' environmental conscientiousness. The findings of the present study could help determine how people produce public service announcements to encourage eco-friendly behaviors in order to improve the welfare of marine animals.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Research Assistant and Team Lead for the Gender Development Lab; Research Assistant for the HAWC Lab; Hawk Talk and Poster at the 2020 Scholarship Week

Why I joined the Honors School: I joined the Honors School because of all the wonderful opportunities they offer the students at Monmouth University

Fondest memory of the Honors School: My fondest memory was working on my Honors Thesis with Dr. Mehrkam

Plans after graduation: I am applying to various graduate schools and continuing with my research.

JOSEPH FAY

Finance

Wall, New Jersey



Thesis: *Life Insurance as a Financial Tool: A background and case study*

Life Insurance has been thought of as a risk management tool, yet it has another useful side. Life Insurance can also serve as a financial option, but most are unfamiliar with this aspect of the design. The main goal is to answer the question, what is the best life insurance policy for cash accumulation? The history and background of life insurance were included to form a foundation of knowledge. Next, a case study of several different life insurance policies were analyzed to see which is best suited for cash accumulation. The purpose was to see that a specific policy is more advantageously suited for cash accumulation. It was essential to acknowledge opposing views on this issue, as well. A large school of thought would prescribe that life insurance policies have no business mixing into the category of an asset class of a financial portfolio. Critics would subscribe to buying term life insurance for risk management and invest the premium cash difference you would have spent on the permanent policy into an investment vehicle. I addressed those concerns and pointed out how life insurance as a financial tool is more favorable.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Instructor in the Financial Literacy Program; member of "HAWK Capital," an actively managed, student-run, portfolio.

Why I joined the Honors School: For the challenge it offered, as well as the different groups of people I was able to meet and learn from.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: Going through the thesis process for sure. It was tedious, yet it was such a great learning experience for me.

Plans after graduation: I will continue my education at Monmouth and attain my MBA, after which I will then transition into the Financial Services Industry.

ARIANA GORDON

Nursing

Freehold, New Jersey



Thesis: *Influences on Parental Decision to Vaccinate Their Children*

The decision to vaccinate a child is ultimately made by the parent or caregiver of a child. Although school-aged children in the United States, and in many other countries, are required to be vaccinated against life-threatening diseases, some parents still choose not to vaccinate their children. A systematic review of the literature was conducted via the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL) and Proquest Central databases to identify the factors that influence parental decisions on whether or not to vaccinate. Nine articles that met the inclusion criteria were identified and examined. Findings revealed that parents have what they believe are valid reasons for choosing whether or not to vaccinate. It is important that healthcare providers are aware of these findings so they can educate and counsel parents about the reasons behind their decision-making. In doing so, parents will be able to make the most informed choices to keep their own children healthy and maintain the health of the greater community.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Member of Sigma Theta Tau - Lambda Delta Chapter Nursing Honors Society.

Why I joined the Honors School: I joined the Honors School for the opportunity to achieve a higher level of education, set high goals for myself, and complete research in my field.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: My fondest memory of the Honors School is presenting my thesis.

Plans after graduation: My plans after graduation are to work as a nurse at Centra-State Medical Center and to pursue further education with the goal of attaining a Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP).

JULIA HOOVER

Business Administration
with a concentration in Marketing
Edison, New Jersey



Thesis: *Viral Content in Social Media Marketing*

As social media platforms expand, scholarly understandings of the influence of this content on consumers' behaviors become increasingly valuable in both the marketplace and the academy. This study examines the role that influential Twitter users demonstrate in spreading popular messages through viral content. Four categories of users were observed: brands, educators, celebrities, and influencers. A ratio was generated for each user in these categories, based on content interaction by comparing a user's *followers*, its *average likes* per viral tweet, and *average retweets* per viral tweet. Ratios closer to 1 indicate a stronger viral effect than ratios closer to 0.1. This measure reveals strategies for corporate brands and educators to achieve viral content more effectively by emulating the tactics employed by celebrities and influencers.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: President of Monmouth's Chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma for the 2019-2020 school year; Vice President of Monmouth's Marketing Club from 2018-2020; volunteered as a Financial Literacy Club Student Instructure in Fall 2019; and won the First Year Writing Composition Award in 2017.

Why I joined the Honors School: I joined the Honors School to be part of a community of students that was inspired and dedicated to learning and doing work beyond classroom assignments. The Honors School allowed me to be challenged in my work and have the opportunity to conduct research in areas that I was passionate about.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: One of my favorite memories from the Honors School is attending a Monmouth basketball game and enjoying food and the company of my Honors School peers as we cheered on the team from the Honors Suite.

Plans after graduation: After graduation I plan to earn my MBA at Monmouth as part of the 5-year program, while I continue to work at Commvault as Marketing Automation Intern throughout the summer.

KARALYN DANA HOOVER



Communication Public Relations & Journalism

East Brunswick, New Jersey

Thesis: *The Effects of Social Media on Undergraduate Academic Performance*

Though many factors contribute to academic performance in college, the growth of social media within the past decade has become a cause for concern. Referred to as connectivism, there has been a recent push for the use of social media and other technologies to create new opportunities for people to learn and share information across the World Wide Web and among themselves. Yet, little is known about the actual effects social media usage has on academic performance. Does the usage of social media platforms affect the academic performance of college students? And, if there is an impact, are there certain platforms that contribute the most positively or negatively to undergraduate academic performance? Online surveys were distributed to 231 undergraduate students above the age of 18 who had completed at least one full year of college. These surveys measured social media usage (volume and frequency) as well as academic performance through a self-reported evaluation of participants' academic experience. Results of this survey suggest that time spent using social media has some impact on academic performance in college.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Co-President of Monmouth University's Public Relations Student Society of America; NJ Public Relations Society of America Future PR Professional of the Year (2019); Monmouth's Intern of the Month (August 2019); Outstanding Student Organization New Leader (April 2018).

Why I joined the Honors School: I wanted to attend a school that valued me as a student. As someone who always loved connections with peers and teachers in high school, Monmouth was the perfect fit for me. The Honors School has made Monmouth feel even more like home with their support, encouragement, and events. I'm so fortunate that I had the opportunity to attend Monmouth and even more grateful for the opportunities the Honors School at Monmouth has provided me. It has made me a better student, a better professional, and a better person. Thank you Reenie, Dr. Mezey, and Kate for all you do.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: Living in Beechwood Hall the second semester of my freshman year, I wouldn't trade that time for anything!

Plans after graduation: After graduation, I will begin the Masters of Communication and Media Program at Rutgers University whilst also starting my first full-time job as an Account Coordinator at Coyne PR in Parsippany, NJ.

HUNTER HOSTAGE

Marine and Environmental Biology & Policy with a minor in Statistics

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania



Thesis: *Red Mangrove Propagule Dispersal*

We explored how tide, mangrove density and location impact *Rhizophora mangle* (red mangrove) propagule dispersal. We simulated red mangrove dispersal by dropping 120 marked wood dowels throughout Paige Creek on Eleuthera at high and low tide and in dense and sparse mangrove cover. Global Position System (GPS) coordinates as well as descriptions of the drop locations were recorded. After ten days (the approximate mean time a mangrove propagule floats according to the literature), we searched the creek to try and recover as many as possible. For each one recovered, a description of the location where it was found as well the GPS coordinates were recorded. Slightly more than half of dowels (54%) were recovered. Of the recovered, 95% were found within the creek system itself. On average, dowels dispersed greater than 150 meters.. We observed no difference in dispersal distance between high and low tide drops or in high or low density drop locations. Dispersal distance was greatest for dowels dropped mid-creek, however dispersal distance for dowels dropped in the upper creek may have been limited by the limestone outcroppings. Our results suggest that propagation of new mangrove individuals in a creek comes directly from the creek itself.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Won research award at the Monmouth University School of Science 17th annual Student Research Conference; Research Assistant/Teaching Assistant for Tropical Island Ecology.

Why I joined the Honors School: I thought it would be a good way to push myself to setting higher goals.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: Going in to Philadelphia to see the city and museums.

Plans after graduation: Assist with family business and then pursue a Master's degree.



Biology
with a concentration in Molecular Cell Physiology

East Windsor, New Jersey

Thesis: *Examining the Role of Fascin in Primary Brain Cancers*

Fascin is one of the main actin-bundling proteins found in cells, and plays important regulatory roles such as in maintaining cell-cell adhesion through cytoskeletal structures. Its overexpression in various cancer lines leads to increased metastatic and invasive properties. Primary brain cancers also seem to have elevated fascin levels that correlate with tumor grade and aggression but are not studied to the degree of other cancers, prompting investigation to determine if fascin is an effective therapeutic target. Preliminary findings have allowed characterization of the robust fascin gene expression in brain cancer cell lines using RT-qPCR and immunocytochemistry in Neuro2a neuroblastoma and A-172 glioblastoma. We have begun to manipulate fascin expression levels to assess effects on cell motility using a custom-designed 2D invasion assay. This has allowed us to accumulate extended time-lapse imaging of cancer cell invasion across varying fascin expression conditions and complete accompanying computerized evaluations of the increased cell motility related to metastasis and invasion.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Served as Student Government Association President in 2018-2019 and currently as SGA's President Pro-Tempore; Manage The Nest, our on-campus food pantry; accomplishments during my time at Monmouth include: undergraduate research with Dr. Cathryn Kubera; acting as the student representative in the search for a new Honors School Dean; served as School of Science Peer Mentor, served on the President's Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion; and volunteered as a Spanish Medical Interpreter.

Why I joined the Honors School: I joined the Honors School to become part of a close-knit, caring community at Monmouth after hearing praise about the thesis capstone project and cluster courses. Having such an incredible support system in Reenie, Kate, and Dean Mezey is truly a privilege. Being an Honors student has been a highlight of my college education and career preparation by allowing me to present my research nationally and win awards, while also empowering me to advocate for our student population through the Honors School Association. The mentorship, personal attention, and enrichment opportunities present at the Honors School are unmatched and have allowed me to live up to my potential.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: My fondest memory of the Honors School would be winning 2nd place for my poster presentation at the National Collegiate Honors Council conference in Boston. I had been nominated by the Honors School for Student of the Year, but was surprised to hear I had placed nationally for my research presentation instead. The outpouring of support and enthusiasm I received from the Honors staff and professors afterward meant so much to me and demonstrated the pride we take in Honors accomplishments at Monmouth.

Plans after graduation: I will be attending medical school starting in the summer of 2020.

ANGELIQUE ITHIER

Chemistry with a concentration in ACS Advanced Chemistry

Jackson, New Jersey



Thesis: *Synthesis of Silver Nanoparticles*

The major goal of this project was to study silver nanoparticles (Ag-NP) with respect to their fundamental properties, environmental impacts and potential applications in environmental remediation and water treatment. In this project, chemical methods were used to create the nanoparticles (NP). The NPs were created using sodium borohydride as a reducing agent, citrate as a stabilizing agent, and silver nitrate as the silver source. Various analysis methods, such as UV-Vis spectrophotometry, were used to test the formation and stability and formation of the particles. To date, we have explored various reducing and stabilizing agents in the synthesis of Ag-NP, and the next steps would be (i) characterizing the NPs using analytical techniques such as atomic force microscopy (ii) testing the antimicrobial properties of the NP and (iii) bind ligands with affinities for toxic heavy metal(loid)s on the NP for use in environmental remediation. The ultimate goal would be to design a filter that will harness the antimicrobial properties of the Ag-NP and their ability to bind toxic elements to design a drinking water filter.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Chemistry Departmental Award 2020; Analytical Chemistry Award 2020; Jane M. Freed '81 Endowed Honors Scholarship Recipient 2018- 2020; Honors School 2017-2020; Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society 2017 - 2020; Academic Excellence Scholarship 2016- 2020; Shadow Lawn Grant 2016- 2020; Deans list Spring 2017, Fall 2016.

Why I joined the Honors School: I joined the Honors School because of the community it forms and the opportunities (and challenges) it would bring.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: Going to Sky Zone with all my fellow Peer Mentors! It was one of the most fun trips I did with the Honors School, and I was able to spend time with other mentors.

Plans after graduation: I will be attending Purdue University for Analytical Chemistry.

EVAN JEROLAMAN

Chemistry with a concentration in Biochemistry

Brick, New Jersey



Thesis: *The Opioid Crisis: History, Addiction, and Policy*

The opioid crisis is one of the most destructive issues facing Americans every year, causing thousands of deaths and trauma throughout our communities for over two decades. With this crisis, we have implemented many different policy measures, treatment options, and research to figure out how to best treat and help victims of addiction. Throughout this paper, the history of the crisis, the chemical biology of addiction, and the statistics will be explored in order to create a framework for how we got into this crisis, who exactly is affected by this crisis, and how we are trying to get out of this crisis. By reviewing these details and by looking to find trends in policy, demographics, and opioid related overdoses, we can answer the question whether our current plan and treatment methods are working and what needs to be further done to save the lives of those addicted.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Member of varsity Cross Country and Track and Field Division I teams; and finishing fourth in the MAAC Conference Championship 3000m Steeple event sophomore year.

Why I joined the Honors School: I joined the Honors School to surround myself with the brightest minds at Monmouth and to be a part of a community of people who want to be challenged and learn as much as possible

Fondest memory of the Honors School: My best memories are being in Beechwood Hall and going to both Harry Termyna's and Erik Smith's programs.

Plans after graduation: I plan to go to law school in the fall.

ALEXA LAVERE

Health Studies

Byram, New Jersey



Thesis: *The Impact of Educational Interventions on the Dietary Practices, Perceptions, and Motivations of College Students*

The purpose of the study was to assess the effectiveness of brief interventions in causing college students to shift towards or adopt a vegetarian or vegan diet. Participants were divided into three groups, all of which differed in methods of intervention. The first intervention consisted of a clip from an animal-advocacy film, the second intervention included the same clip as well as a short vegan recipe video, and the third intervention consisted of an informational clip focused on an unrelated topic. The inclusion of the third “intervention” allowed for comparison between the groups and effectiveness of the interventions. Dietary practices, perceptions, and motivations were assessed through an online survey before the interventions as well as one month following the interventions. I found that behavior change, especially among college students, requires a multi-step, complex, and continual approach rather than a one-time educational intervention.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Worked as a Research Assistant within the Health and Physical Education department; served as a Peer Learning Assistant in Dr. Chris Hirschler’s first-year seminar course, Anthrozoology; completed and presented by Honors thesis, proudly represented Monmouth as a member of the student panel during the University’s Accepted Students Day and Accepted Student Honors Brunch, sharing my Monmouth experiences and knowledge with prospective students; attended a five-course vegan meal prepared by celebrity chefs and hosted by President Dimenna and First Lady Nancy Kaplen at Doherty House with Dr. Chris Hirschler, Isabel Marmolejo Velez, and fellow students Jessica Henry and Megan Conchar to support the Together We Can Scholarship Drive.

Why I joined the Honors School: I joined the Honors School because I wanted to challenge myself academically. The cluster courses were very appealing as well, which consist of common themes, reading, and writing assignments, allowing students to align different disciplines. Lastly, I knew that there would be a sense of community among the Honors School students, especially while living in the Honors residence hall.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: My fondest memory of the Honors School was supporting my peers as they presented their Honors thesis as well as presenting my own research at the Honors Research Conference.

Plans after graduation: I plan to pursue enrollment into a Physician Assistant (PA) program in the near future.

ANNA LAZUR

**Health Studies
with a minor in Statistics**

East Hanover, New Jersey



Thesis: *Prevalence of Mental Illness in Elite Athletes*

There is a strong stigma surrounding mental illness, and this stigma holds even more power in the athletic community where an athlete's success is strongly influenced by their "mental toughness." Due to this stigma, it is sometimes believed that elite athletes would have protection from mental illness and would have a lower prevalence than their non-athlete peers, but some previous research provides evidence that the prevalence rates of mental illness are actually comparable in both populations. A cross sectional survey was administered online to Monmouth University students, which included athletes and non-athletes. Students were selected using convenience sampling. Previously composed questionnaires including the PHQ-9, Depression Risk Assessment, and The Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support were used to assess the participant's depressive symptoms. There was no statistical difference between the athletes and non-athletes in regards to the prevalence of various mental health issues (e.g. depressive symptoms, suicide ideation, eating disorders, and substance abuse). While previous research has had various findings, this study suggests that athletes are not protected from or more at risk for mental illness due to their physical activity. These results demonstrate the importance of having proper screening and treatment plans in place for elite athletes.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Monmouth University Women's Soccer player; member of the Chi Alpha Sigma-College Athletic Honor Society.

Why I joined the Honors School: I wanted to challenge myself academically and push myself to a higher standard.

Fondest Memory of the Honors School: Getting to take Honor's Courses, which were always interesting classes that usually had a fun discussion based approach and allowed students freedom to interact with each other and the professors.

Plans after Graduation: Attending Rutgers University to pursue my doctorate in Physical Therapy as part of the class of 2023.

DAVID LECHTER

**Business Administration
with a concentrations in Economics & Finance**

Hackettstown, New Jersey



Thesis: *Technology in Investments and Trading*

Technology has progressed exponentially in the past two decades leaving society with no other option than to reinvent the way in which our world operates. On a fundamental level, it appears that we are just rebuilding the wheel; regardless, it becomes the burden of society, government lawmakers, and industry leaders to keep up with the continuous progression of technology. In this instance, the securities industry has excelled greatly due to the outside pressures of technological advancements. To keep up with the times many stock exchanges, including the New York Stock Exchange, have evolved from using chaotic and riotous trading practices into operating with the assistance of complex digitally driven strategies that are controlled almost entirely autonomously. Technology has made the classic gamble of the stock market into a high stakes series of equations and econometric models in an effort to successfully predict what lies ahead. This transformation offers unlimited potential for global markets. Most importantly, the market has become increasingly accessible to investors of every degree who interact with the market both directly and indirectly. The stock market is no longer a competition amongst people, but rather an intense rivalry between machines.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Graduating summa cum laude; Dean's list 8 semesters; member of Phi Eta Sigma; member of Beta Gamma Sigma; executive board member of the Economics and Finance Club.

Why I joined the Honors School: I wanted more of a challenge out of my undergraduate education. I wanted another reason to take pride in my school work and motivate me to be the best student I could be.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: Giving my thesis presentation and having dinner at the president's house.

Plans after graduation: I plan on accepting a full time position at Morgan Stanley, where I am excited to begin my career in the financial industry. I also see myself continuing my education and earning my Masters in Business Administration.

OLENKA MALLQUI

Chemistry with a concentration in Biochemistry

Clifton, New Jersey



Thesis: *The role of Microplastics on the Mobility, Speciation, and Toxicity of Heavy Metal(loid)s in the Aquatic Environment*

Microplastics are characterized as plastic particles with a diameter of less than 5 mm. There has been a significant increase in research efforts regarding microplastics due to their abundance in bodies of water. Microplastic particles originate from erosion of larger pieces of plastic exposed to sunlight and environmental stress, abrasion of synthetic fabric, and microbeads that are manufactured for specific purposes such as exfoliating agents in soaps and other cosmetics products. Previous studies have found microplastics to be highly adsorbent to organic and inorganic molecules they come in contact with. An estimated 1 million tons of microplastics are introduced into wastewater every year. These particles enter the ocean where they interact with other chemicals found either in nature or as pollutants. Microbeads extracted from commercial soaps were studied in this project. Three different types of microbeads were investigated for their adsorption capacities for Pb. Adsorption was indicated by a decrease in the concentration of Pb in the solution. The adsorption of Pb on the microplastics was studied as a function of pH.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Served three years as an Honor School Peer Mentor; recipient of the 2019 Student Research Conference Dean's Award of Excellence in Chemistry and Physics.

Why I joined the Honors School: I wanted to challenge myself and chose to join the Honors School for this reason.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: Going to Baltimore with the Honors School and spending the day exploring the National Aquarium and eating some great grub.

Plans after graduation: Work as a market research analyst in healthcare to gain more insight into the corporate world and utilize my skills as a scientist to inform the public about new drugs going into the market.

DALLY MATOS



**Criminal Justice
with a minor in Legal Studies**

Union, New Jersey

Thesis: *Service Providers' Perspective of LGBTQ+ Victims and Law Enforcement Interactions*

This study examines the relationship between LGBTQ+ victims of intimate partner violence and law enforcement through the perspective of service providers. The study conducted interviews of service providers from both private and public agencies. The study set out to find if the relationship between LGBTQ+ community and law enforcement influences the rate of reporting crime/abuse, what are the barriers to reporting for LGBTQ+ victims and police training on LGBTQ+ victims.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: EOF Student; EOF Summer Peer Counselor; Honors School Peer Mentor; President of the Guardian's Club; participated in the MU AEP program enabling me to take classes at New Jersey State Men's Prison; and University Ambassador.

Why I joined the Honors School: I joined the Honors School because I wanted to further explore my passion for Criminal Justice at an academically competitive level. I also wanted to join to make new friends and have another community on campus.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: My fondest memory of the Honors School was when we went to go see *Kinky Boots* in NYC. *Kinky Boots* is one of my favorite shows and I got to see it with some of my best friends.

Plans after graduation: After graduation, I plan on continuing my education by getting my Master's of Social Work to continue advocating for those affected by the criminal justice system.

BRIAN JOSEPH MATHEW



Biology with a concentration in Molecular Cell Physiology

Colonia, New Jersey

Thesis: *Mechanism of action of Rhenium-based compounds on cancers of the oral cavity*
Oral Cancer affects many people worldwide, with a high prevalence in both developing and developed countries. In the past few years, metal-based chemotherapeutic drugs, specifically platinum-based (platins) have skyrocketed in popularity and utilization. Although these platins have shown high efficacy in targeting and destroying oral cancer cells, it has been known to lead to a multitude of negative side effects, more so than other treatment options. Extensive research has been done on the side effects, but these platinum-based cancer drugs are still consistently being used due to their effectiveness. This calls for research on possible metal alternatives to platinum that can be just as effective, yet lead to significantly less side effects. Rhenium is a third-row transition metal that has similar chemical properties to platinum; as a result, it is now being experimented with and researched on. However, there is still no clear verdict on whether or not Rhenium can match the efficiency of platins. The goal of this project is to determine if Rhenium-based compounds are a viable alternative to platinum-based drugs. We will determine both the Rhenium compound's mechanism of action, as well as its ability to attack the cancer cells with high specificity

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Participated in cancer research with Dr. Jeffrey Weisburg; clinical externship at Monmouth Medical Center, where I was able to attend resident lectures, and observe medical procedures; worked on campus in the Admissions Office as a tour ambassador; served as an Honors School Peer Mentor, providing mentorship and guidance to incoming first year Honors students; served as a peer tutor assisting many students with their courses.

Why I joined the Honors School: I believed the Honors school would provide an environment for me to flourish academically and socially, while also challenging me to meet the standards of scholarship and excellence. In addition, I knew that the Honors school would provide its students the necessary resources to help them reach their highest potential.

Fondest memory of the Honors school: The Honors school events around campus were probably my most fond memories. Whether it was a barbecue or an ice cream social, we were all able to meet up and enjoy each other's company. The Honors thesis presentation day in December was a fond memory for me as well. I was able to present on my research and watch the presentations of my fellow Honors students.

Plans after graduation: After completing my Biology degree at Monmouth, I will be applying to medical school. I plan to serve my community as a physician, while also participating in clinical research that can lead to the improvement and benefit of the healthcare system.

GIANNI MAZZONE



Business Administration with a concentration in Finance and Economics

Farmingdale, New Jersey

Thesis: The Future of Money: Block-chain and Cryptocurrencies

What is money? Most people would answer that money is a Dollar or a Euro, but they would only be partially correct. While the U.S. Dollar and the Euro are forms of currency, the original concept of money is sometimes more complex. Money is like gravity; it is always bearing down on us. Money is so common that we sometimes forget about the concept, and the set of rules that currency follows. The renowned economist David Hume philosophized that money is not in fact a part of the economy, but rather, money is the oil which keeps the wheel of the economy turning. Just as the wheel has evolved from a rounded stone slab, to a perfectly shaped, rubber cushioned circle, oil has been refined from a crude substance dug up from the ground, into a viscous, synthesized fluid with multiple applications. As the economy has evolved so has money; the world has gone from a barter system, to gold coins, to paper currency. Today, the boundaries of money are being pushed even further, into the realm of virtual currency and, more specifically, cryptocurrency.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: President of the Financial Planning Club; member of Beta Gamma Sigma and Phi Sigma Alpha honors societies; recipient of the Robert Sydney Needham Scholarship; recipient of the Business Council Award Scholarship; member of the Financial Literacy Program; tutor at the Center for Student Success; Honors School Peer Mentor.

Why I joined the Honors School: To further my academic studies while at the same time becoming a part of an incredible organization which has created more opportunities and friendships than I could have imagined when I first joined.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: Going to Boston and Baltimore as a part of the NRHC

Plans after graduation: To hopefully work in Manhattan as a financial analyst/advisor

TAYLOR NASON

Biology **with a concentration in Molecular Cell Physiology**

Lorton, Virginia



Thesis: *Analyzing the Expression Level of GABAA Receptor Genes in Gallus gallus Chick Tissues during Developmental Timepoints*

The research focused on determining and analyzing the gene expression of the nine GABAA receptor subunit genes throughout embryonic development in the chick model. The evidence taken from the results of this research should hold meaning as to why alcohol exposure during certain time periods in fetal development for humans proves to have severe effects on the fetus, as seen in cases of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Monmouth Women's Basketball player; Presentation Award for Regional MACUB conference; Biology Research Honors award; Summer Scholars Program.

Why I joined the Honors School: I really liked the idea of being apart of a community of students and faculty where you could rely upon each other both inside and outside the classroom. I loved how we were encouraged to achieve a higher level of learning through challenging courses and supported to stand out from the rest.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: Although I have not been able to attend a lot of Honors functions because of my extracurricular activity, I loved it when they came to support me during one of my basketball games! Seeing and hearing everyone cheering us on was awesome! It showed me they really support us no matter what it is!

Plans after graduation: After a gap year involved in traveling and volunteering I plan to apply to medical school, however, I am not sure exactly which ones yet.

NICOLE ONDROF



Secondary Education and English

Pompton Plains, New Jersey

Thesis: *Self-Directed Learning in the Secondary Classroom*

This research project engages with previous scholarship on topics related to Self-Directed Learning (SDL) and couples it with an analysis of pedagogical strategies in order to demonstrate the benefits of SDL in the Secondary English classroom. Self-Directed Learning allows high school students to feel comfortable in the classroom and take control of their educational path through choices in content, facilitated discussion, and the incorporation of technology. This freedom to make guided choices regarding their education will help students to fulfill educational needs, including intrinsic motivation, intellectual curiosity, and sustained critical thinking. This project provides useful context for teachers to help them understand both the benefits and potential difficulties that may arise with the integration of this type of learning into the current curriculum. This project suggests ideas for best practices and provides an example of a unit design that aligns with New Jersey state standards for teachers and students.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Honors School Association Academic Chair, Sigma Tau Delta Philanthropy Chair, Sigma Tau Delta Honors Society, Kappa Delta Pi Honors Society, Phi Eta Sigma Honors Society, NRHC 2017, NRHC 2018, Caryl Sills Teaching Award.

Why I joined the Honors School: I joined the Honors School in 2016 because I knew that it would help me to rise to my potential and be challenged as I continued my academic career. The Honors School provided challenge, community, and structure during my transition into college. The Honors School also provided me with opportunities to practice presenting, travel, research, and interact with other honors students throughout my four years.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: The NRHC 2018 conference led Reenie, me, and four other intelligent young women to Providence, Rhode Island for what turned out to be a girl only weekend trip! This trip is one of my fondest memories, not only of the Honors School, but of college. Honorable mention would be my many hours spent in the office with Kate, Reenie, Dean Mezey and the rest of the office staff after I said I was only stopping by for “one minute.”

Plans after graduation: My immediate plans after graduation include pursuing a career in Secondary Education and English. However, my future plans include obtaining a Master’s Degree in either English or School Counseling.

ANGELICA PELLONE



Interdisciplinary Studies for Education Majors

Edison, New Jersey

Thesis: *Classroom Seating Matters!*

Children learn and grow within a classroom. An educator's goal is to create a comfortable and effective learning environment where students can learn and develop, both academically and socially. To create this classroom environment, classroom design must have two components: promote social learning/collaboration and provide students with a choice. These components allow students to obtain and build upon different academic and social skills. There is a multitude of seating arrangements teachers can utilize to create the desired productive environment for student learning. The four seating approaches discussed, row seating, cluster seating, circular/horseshoe seating, and flexible seating, are popular amongst the host of approaches educators may want to apply. Of the four seating arrangements, flexible seating, upheld these standards of an ideal classroom seating arrangement, while the other arrangements lack one or both of the crucial components of ideal classroom seating. While there are setbacks with flexible seating, such as cost and storage, educators have overcome these obstacles due to the major impact this particular seating design holds on a student's education. By upholding both characteristics of an ideal classroom seating arrangement, flexible seating creates an effective learning environment, as per why flexible seating is popularizing across classrooms nationwide.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Completing and presenting my thesis; Northeast Regional Honors Council (NRHC) Conference, 2017-2019; National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, 2019; National Association for Professional Development Schools Conference; MU Student Representative; Teacher Residency Program; Omicron Delta Kappa Honors Society; Kappa Delta Pi Honors Society; NRHC's Student of the Year Nomination; Office Assistant; Honors School Peer Mentor; Honors School Social Media Coordinator; President/Secretary of Honors School Association; School of Education Dean's Undergraduate Advisory Council; Conference Chair, Human Resources Club.

Why I joined the Honors School: I wanted to challenge myself and prove to myself and others that I am capable of more challenging and vigorous work. The Honors School gave me the confidence I never had in high school.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: My first NRHC Conference (Spring 2017), Move-in Day, Presenting my thesis.

Plans after graduation: I will be attending Monmouth University for grad school and get my M.A. in Teacher of Students with Disabilities next spring (2021). After completing my education, I plan to be an elementary school teacher in New Jersey .

LIANA PLOSKONKA

Social Work

Parlin, New Jersey



Thesis: *Smartphones and Social Skills: College Freshmen*

For college students in the 21st century, smartphones have become a necessity. Smartphones offer college students ways to stay connected with people, through texting and social media. However, it is unknown how these devices can negatively affect the social skills needed to succeed in college, such as working cooperatively or communicating with professors. This study looks at the effects using smartphones has on these social skills.

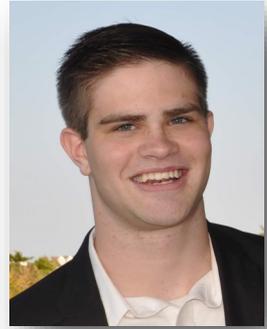
Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Member of Social Work Society, serving on the organization's E-board twice; completed around 500 hours of interning in the field of Social Work.

Why I joined the Honors School: I joined the Honors School for the academic and social benefits it provided.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: My first night was probably the most memorable. My suitemates and I went around the whole building knocking on the other suite doors just seeing who answered and introducing ourselves. We all bonded with one other suite of Honors students, and it built a great sense of family on that first night. While not all of us remained friends or in the Honors School, it will always be one of my favorite memories.

Plans after graduation: I plan to return to Monmouth to get my MSW, and then sit for my LSW and work in a school as a Licensed Social Worker.

THOMAS PRIOLI



History and Political Science Interdisciplinary with a minor in Legal Studies

Howell, New Jersey

Thesis: *Wilson and U.S. Intervention in the Russian Civil War: The Path from Moralism to Pragmatism*

Following the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, President Woodrow Wilson was presented with a military, political, and philosophical conundrum. He opposed the idea of intervention in the new Soviet Russia, espousing self-determination as the proper means of determining governance. Despite his distaste, Wilson did approve of US intervention, both through indirect means such as financing operations, and even direct measures like putting US troops on the ground. Historians have argued over what inspired this change in Wilson's attitude and actions. This paper argues that due to a lack of reliable information and tremendous pressure from the Allies, Wilson eventually surrendered his principles and gave the green light to US intervention.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Undefeated winner for 3 years in a row in the team MU Trivia Challenge

Why I joined the Honors School: The Dean when I signed up really sold the program to me.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: The Honors Bowling night this semester.

Plans after graduation: I am getting married this summer and potentially go to law school.

EVAN PRON

**Business Administration
with a Concentration in Finance
Political Science
with a concentration in Legal Studies
Monroe Township, New Jersey**



Thesis: *Predicting the United States' Next Economic Downturn*

This paper identifies the United States' massive unfunded pension liability as a potential cause of the next notable economic downturn in the United States and the states most significantly affected. There are a variety of factors that contribute to a particular state's ability or inability to fully fund its pension debt. Understanding the correlations between different states may allow for more comprehensive funding moving forward and an avoidance of a pension bubble burst.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Student Athlete (Men's Cross Country and Track & Field); MAAC All-Academic Student Athlete Honors; Dean's List; Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honor Society; Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society; Phi Eta Sigma National First Year Scholastic Honor Society; Chi Alpha Sigma Athletics Honors Society; Washington Center Internship with the U.S. House Committee on Small Business in Washington, D.C. during the summer of 2019.

Why I joined the Honors School: As an incoming freshman, joining the Honors School was an opportunity to meet other students my age while taking on the challenges of college together. In addition to meeting new people and seeing familiar faces during class, being a member of the Honors School at Monmouth University allowed me to reach a high standard of academic excellence while remaining focused on my schoolwork and learning.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: My fondest memories of the Honors School will forever be my time spent living in Beechwood Hall my freshman and sophomore year on campus. Beechwood Hall is where I met some of my closest friends, and kindled friendships that I will forever cherish.

Plans after graduation: After completing my undergraduate degrees, I will be returning to Monmouth University for a fifth year to complete an MBA. As a member of the 5 year MBA program, I have the opportunity to remain at Monmouth for an additional year as I prepare for life after college.

ALEXIA RAESS



Social Work

Wayne, New Jersey

Thesis: *High School Dropout Rates and School Social Work in Charter Schools: A Case Study*

This is a case study analysis of a local public charter high school in the northeastern United States. The purpose of this research is to explore the relationship between school social work influences and high school dropout rates specific to charter schools. A mixed methodology means of data collection and analysis was utilized including direct observations, individual interviews of both staff and administrative personnel, and aggregate secondary data provided by the school administration. Data specific to dropout rates by cohort was analyzed over a period of five to six school years in order to seek out trends or themes. Findings suggest that dropout rates were relatively low within the entire school population. Data reveals that elements of the school's mission and its resulting student-centered culture, collaboration, and relationships were identified to be strengths of the overall school and its design. Further research is needed to study the important role of school social work within school systems.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: My most notable achievement at Monmouth was being inducted into Phi Alpha, which is the social work honor society. Also, receiving the Jane M. Freed '81 Endowed Honors Scholarship was a great achievement of mine.

Why I joined the Honors School: I joined the Honors Schools to be challenged academically and attain higher levels of knowledge. Joining the Honors School also provided me with the ability to collaborate and conduct research with faculty mentors.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: My fondest memory of the Honors School was having the opportunity to present my thesis at the Fall 2019 Annual Research Conference. The opportunity for me to disseminate my research was truly rewarding and will be a long-lasting memory of the Honors School.

Plans after graduation: I plan to continue my graduate studies here at Monmouth. I am currently enrolled in the Advanced Standing MSW Program that has a Clinical Practice with Families and Children Concentration. Upon graduating with my MSW, I plan to seek out further certifications to become a school social worker.

NATHANIEL RODRIGUEZ

Mathematics

Perth Amboy, New Jersey



Thesis: *Heronian Simplexes and Polygons*

We explore the existence, number, and properties of polygons and higher dimensional triangles with the restriction that the edge lengths, surface area, volume, hyper-volume, be integer. We discover a parallelisable algorithm to efficiently enumerate Heronian tetrahedra constructed from Heronian isosceles triangles and investigate a potential path towards placing Heronian quadrilaterals onto the Cartesian plane.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Secretary of the Math Club, Graduate of the Honors School

Why I joined the Honors School: I joined the honors school for the opportunity to be more intimately involved in the overall research process.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: Presenting my Honors Thesis.

Plans after graduation: Attending George Mason University as a PhD student in Mathematics.

ESOSA RUFFIN



**Political Science
with minors in Legal Studies and Statistics**

East Orange, New Jersey

Thesis: *Impact of State and Federal Educational Opportunity Programs: Why Their Existence & Expansion is Critical*

In order to remedy the economic and racial disparities in this county, the United States has crafted Educational Opportunity Programs (EOPs) both on a state and federal level. EOPs exist in order to make higher education more accessible to minority, low-income, and first-generation college students. College access and degree attainment is imperative given the linkage between higher income and quality of life for college graduates. EOPs offer counseling, academic and financial assistance to marginalized students in order to provide them better access to college, while also working to ensure successful degree completion. State-level programs vary in their programmatic functions as do federal level programs. One of the largest EOPs in the United States' are the federal TRIO (TRIO) programs. By means of quantitative analysis on New Jersey's state EOPs and exploratory research of the federal TRIO programs, a key finding is the consistency in effectiveness of these programs as it relates to student graduate rates. This consistency may serve as an indicator to the significance of EOPs very existence and the tremendous need for their expansion, both by increased funding and number of students served.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Chief Justice & Director of Specialty Funding of the Student Government Association, Chapter President of the Tau Eta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Peer Counselor for the 2022 Cohort of the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program Intern through The Washington Center for the Spring 2020 semester.

ZACHARY SANDLER

Music Industry with a minor in Business Management

Clark, New Jersey



Thesis: *The Creation of Clark Westfield: What Drives a Musician to Create a Stage Persona?*

I have been a professional in the music industry since my freshman year of high school. I've performed in front of 20 people at bars and 20,000 people at sold-out arenas. I've gotten the chance to work alongside "A-List" artists and have respectfully been granted exclusive access to the inner workings of their team. With all of this first-hand knowledge culminated from years of experience, this paper will explore a decades old questions that, from my experience, music fans all over the world have asked themselves countless times: what drives a musician to create a stage persona? I have also created the persona of Clark Westfield, my own version of the 'ideal' stage persona, which exemplifies the concept of an artist that creates a persona in order to capitalize on marketability and the overall profitability of the persona's brand.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: President of Men's Club Soccer; Treasurer of Chabad; performed at the Prudential Center, opening for Bon Jovi; worked with Bruce Springsteen at the Stone Pony Summer Stage; toured the country with Remember Jones; designed, developed and published my award-winning 'Save Bread' app in the App Store.

Why I joined the Honors School: I wanted to push myself to work my hardest in college and achieve the highest degree of education. I also wanted to enjoy the benefits of the program, such as priority housing and class registration, trips to see Broadway shows in NYC, special breakfasts and tougher but more rewarding classes.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: I will always remember the companionship of the hard working students and faculty throughout my four years of being in the honor school.

Plans after graduation: I plan on pursuing my career in the music industry by continuing to perform and work in the management sect of the industry.

MIKA SCHIEVELBEIN

**Chemistry
with a concentration in Biochemistry**

Medford, New York



Thesis: *The Theophylline Riboswitch: Its Design and Implementation*

Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorting, or FACS, is a method that was used to convert the theophylline aptamer into a riboswitch. This method could theoretically be used to convert other discovered aptamers into riboswitches, however it is a costly method and is only available to those with access to these high-tech, expensive machines. The theophylline riboswitch was previously discovered by implementing the theophylline aptamer, with random sequences linking it to the expression platform, into a specifically-designed plasmid, and then using a FACS machine to sort the cells. We can structure a new system that would select only the correct sequence, containing the theophylline riboswitch out of a pool 65,000 different sequences, without the use of a FACS machine. To do so, the pool of sequences containing the aptamer, linked to the Shine Dalgarno by eight randomized nucleotides, will be inserted into a newly designed plasmid, *placNEO*, and the plasmid will be transformed into bacteria cells. Then, the use of replica plating along with screening will select the cells that only contain the plasmid with the correct riboswitch sequence. By doing so, we will confirm that this system is efficient in converting aptamers into riboswitches without the need for a FACS machine. After an aptamer has been successfully converted into its riboswitch, the system of ratiometric fluorescence will allow for testing of the riboswitch's function. Ratios of the fluorescence intensities of two fluorescent proteins, mCherry and eBFP, will provide the ability to measure the riboswitch's function through fluorescence readings.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: President of NextGen Science Club; 2019 Monmouth University Biochemistry Award recipient; 2019 ICFNJ Undergraduate Research Award recipient.

Why I joined the Honors School: I wanted to challenge myself of what I would be able to achieve academically during my time at Monmouth. I have always had an interest in research and the Honors thesis was a way that I could start my future in scientific research. The Honors School also has given me connections to many people who share similar interests and work ethic.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: Presenting my Honors thesis. It was a great accomplishment to finally finish my thesis and share the celebration with my fellow peers and also learn about all of the success we have achieved researching our concentrations for the past few years.

Plans after graduation: Pursuing a Ph.D. in Biochemistry at the University of Notre Dame.

KELLY SCHULD



Secondary Education and History with an endorsement in Teaching Students with Disabilities

Thesis: *Historical Roots of American Sign Language*

American Sign Language is a language spoken by the deaf individuals in the United States of America. A language that was born and cultivated on American soil has historical roots dating back to medieval monasteries in Europe. As methods of teaching the deaf evolved, certain individuals developed their own systems of educating the deaf. By the late 18th century, a public school for the deaf was established in Paris, France, the first of its kind, establishing a French Sign Language. A pupil from this school met an American in the early 19th century and they brought the method of teaching the deaf French Sign Language. This school, established in Connecticut became the birthplace of American Sign Language (ASL). The language struggled with social acceptance as a movement of Oralism swept the globe, where teaching the deaf to speak was more desirable than signing. Today, the language stands with all its history as the language of the deaf in the United States, a proud Deaf Community.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Lighting Designer for 4 years in a row for student run theatre company (Monmouth Players, formerly Boom Roasted); Presented in 2 national, 1 regional, 1 state, and 2 Monmouth conferences.

Why I joined the Honors School: My older brother and sister were both part of the program before me.

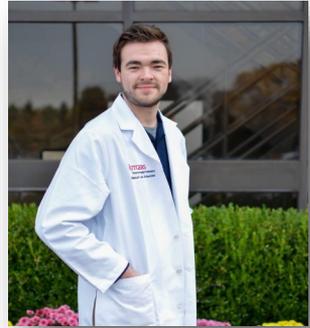
Fondest memory of the Honors School: My weekly hours working in the Honors School Office!

Plans after graduation: Get married this summer and finish my Master's degree!

MICHAEL SCOGNOMILLO

Clinical Laboratory Science with a concentration in Medical Lab

Old Bridge, New Jersey



Thesis: *The Active and Passive Compliance of the German Population to Rising Nazi Anti-Semitism Between the Years of 1933-1939*

An historical analysis and explanation as to why the German population actively or passively complied with the Nazis. Compliance can best be explained by examining the historical background that led to the Nazi takeover of the German government, the Nazification of German culture, racial pseudoscience and the promotion of Nazi ideals from academia, the use of propaganda, and extreme anti-Semitism that was pervasive throughout the early 20th century.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Member of the Monmouth University debate team and was a double octofinalist at the 2018 Phyllis Schatz Invitation debate tournament; served as Orientation Leader during the summer of 2018; was a Resident Assistant in Beechwood for the 2018/2019 school year; participated in the 2019 Climate Change, Coasts & Communities Symposium as a student presenter.

Why I joined the Honors School: I joined the Honors School my freshman year because I believed it was one of the best ways to get to know my fellow students as well as a great way to improve and expand my college experience.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: One of my fondest memories in the Honors School was a social event I helped set up in 2019 Beechwood where Mark Holfelder, the Associate Director of Residential life, made pancakes for all the honors students. I vividly remember the lobby of Beechwood Hall being completely packed with freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior members of the Honors School all socializing before finals.

Plans after graduation: After graduation, my immediate plans are to work in the microbiology department of a hospital. Eventually I would like to get my master's degree in microbiology and hopefully work in public health.

OMAR SHAH

Chemistry
with a concentration in Biochemistry

Toms River, New Jersey



Thesis: *Exploring Oxazole and Thiazole-based Macrocycle Binding to DNA*

The presented research is devoted to a computationally-aimed selection of small organic molecules (ligands) that have shown potential as anti-cancer drugs with low toxicity. Different ligands, depending on their structure and substituents, bind highly selectively to certain DNA forms. In the current work, a small set of oxazole- and thiazole-based macrocycles have been selected to explore their potential for optimal binding to specific DNA forms, and subsequent targeted inhibition of telomerase in cancer cells. Initially, comprehensive samplings of various conformations of the preselected oxazole- and thiazole-based macrocycles were performed. The Density Functional Theory (as implemented in the B3LYP functional) has been employed for geometry optimization of the selected conformations. At the next stage, molecular docking methods, embedded into the AutoDock4.2 program, have been used to explore the ligand interactions with DNA. Each low-energy conformation resulted from our DFT optimization being docked to a double stranded dodecanucleotide d(CGCGAATTCGCG) obtained from the Protein Data Bank. The results of the simulations included the most probable docked structures and binding energies.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Dean's list multiple semesters; member of the Honors School, graduated Magna Cum Laude; attended the MERCURY Consortium conference; President of the Circle K Club; Treasurer of the Geographical Information Systems Club; awarded 1st place at the Monmouth Junior Science Symposium; Summer Research Program several years; lifetime member of the Alpha Epsilon Delta Honor Society; worked in tutoring services, both Math and Science as a CRLA-certified Tutor.

Why I joined the Honors School: I joined the Honors School to realize my full potential. It allowed me to push myself and reach endless boundaries that helped me develop into a well-rounded student. In addition, being a part of the Honors School gave me a welcoming community that provided me with the platform to become a student leader and create positive change on campus.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: My fondest memory of the Honors School was the day I was finally able to present my Honors Thesis at the Honors School Research Conference. I was grateful to be able to show my parents that with hard work and their support, I could complete an amazing research project.

Plans after graduation: After graduation, God willing, I plan on traveling a lot to explore as many parts of the world that I have not already. As for my career, I plan on working in the healthcare industry. Lastly, no matter how far I go I will never forget to represent the wonderful Monmouth University Honors School.

CHANELL SINGLETARY-ESKRIDGE



Psychology

Neptune, New Jersey

Thesis: *Decisions, Decisions...Exploring Workplace Bias in a Comparative Study*

Despite the literature that supports diversity in organizational teams (e.g. Byoun, 2016), the business community has been slow to change their practices as there are still many teams that are lacking in this area. For instance, there are two times as many men than women represented on executive boards (Whitler & Henretta, 2018). Even in recent years, less than a quarter of Congress is female (Morgenson, 2016). The current study investigates how gender proportions influence perceptions of productivity within business teams by examining factors such as cooperation, timeliness, and decision-making.

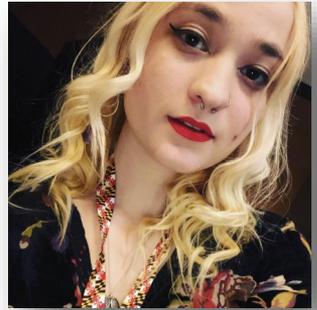
Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Participated as part of the 2019 Study Abroad Cultural Anthropology Trip to Jamaica!; inducted into Psi Chi International Honor Society; research presentation at the NCHC in New Orleans; Psychology Thesis Presentation 2019; served as a Research Assistant for the Applied Developmental Psychology Lab from 2018-2019.

Why I joined the Honors School: I wanted to continue to push myself beyond my boundaries and take advantage of a great support system/ resource center during my undergraduate experience at Monmouth University. At the same time, I wanted to sharpen my skills in research.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: Trip to New Orleans with a few Honors students who I had the liberty to bond with. That had been my first time going to that city and it was nice being able to be immersed in the culture. This was also a great opportunity to get feedback on my research and possible areas I could explore in the future.

Plans after graduation: I am currently in the process of building my career and life coaching business where I have the goal of assisting young women whose goals do not align with a traditional 9-5 mindset. I do plan on going back for my Master's degree within the next year, but I am still exploring my educational options. Eventually, I would like to become licensed and start a consulting private practice with a focus on minority communities.

ZOELLA SKULTETY



Psychology

Sicklerville, New Jersey

Thesis: *It's Not Always Black and White*

My study looked at police meta-perceptions in order to start a conversation between law enforcement and civilians. The study asked law enforcement officers about their opinions of how the community views them, with the hypothesis that the police officers would have a negative view of themselves. Contrary to the hypothesis, the police actually reported positive meta-perceptions. These findings could have been the result of a general mistrust of the researcher not being a police officer, or they could be reflective of a positive change going through the police department that increased police meta-perceptions. This study could be further extended and researched by asking the community on its perceptions of the police in order to increase growth and communication between law enforcement and civilians.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Accepted into 4 Professional Conferences; APA (national conference) EPA (regional conference) and twice at the NRHC conferences (2019 and 2020); made dean's list every semester; served as VP of Psychology Honors Society.

Why I joined the Honors School: I knew I wanted to focus on higher education more than just attending a class. I wanted more from my undergraduate degree.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: The Ice Cream socials and talking to Kate Sosnowski about my thesis .

Plans after graduation: Attend my top doctoral program and simultaneously earn my sign language interpreters degree in Ohio.

JON PAUL SUTTILE

Political Science

Chesterfield, New Jersey



Thesis: *A Comparative Analysis of the Historical Rise of Nazi Germany and Contemporary Populist Movements of Hungary and Austria*

Populist movements are challenging democratic institutions worldwide. Democratic institutions such as free and fair elections, an adherence to a constitution, a free press, separation of powers and political opposition are vital to the strength and quality of democratic governance. What are the historical antecedents that Europe has witnessed that have caused the erosion of democratic institutions and paved the way to the rise of populism? This paper will review the historical transition of Germany from the Weimar Republic to the rule of Hitler and the Nazi Party. The historical transition will depict how the populist Nazi Party was able to weaken democratic institutions in order to consolidate power. As an interesting parallel, in contemporary Europe, populist movements in Hungary and Austria have increased. Political leaders are attempting to reshape their countries. Hungary has witnessed an erosion of its constitution and separation of powers, a decline of free press and an increase in anti-immigration sentiment. In Austria, there has been an increased threat to free press, separation of powers and free and fair elections. Thus, this paper will analyze the historical and contemporary challenges that populism presents to democratic institutions in European countries, such as Austria and Hungary.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Interned for the Executive Office for United States Attorneys at U.S. Department of Justice; traveled with the Monmouth University Debate Team to Mumbai, India as part of a United States State Department Grant to teach debate to at risk students; worked as a Student Ambassador, Orientation Leader, and Research Assistant at the Monmouth University Polling Institute.

Why I joined the Honors School: I joined the Honors School because I wanted to be a part of a community that would foster my success and allow me to excel academically.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: My fondest memories of the Honors School were attending the Broadway trips that the Honors School hosted and stopping into the Honors Office and talking with Reenie, Kate and any of my friends who were working in the office.

NICOLE TARSITANO



English with a concentration in Creative Writing

Jefferson, New Jersey

Thesis: *Reciprocation: A Creative Thesis*

My creative thesis highlights how human relationships are reciprocated in the natural environment. Based on psychological studies that focus on human interaction, it was found that different types of relationships, such as familial, romantic or friendly, impact the individual's self-image and their understanding of healthy attachment. These impacts are often mirrored in nature through the cycles that occur. Seasons, life cycles, and weather patterns, for example, can be seen as analogies that directly mirror the way humans cycle through relationships and the lasting effects of their outcomes. This analogy between nature and human psychology informs the following collection of original poems, written in the style of free verse, with special emphasis on: enjambment, voice and imagery.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Published twice in *The Monmouth Review*; member of Phi Eta Sigma and Sigma Tau Delta; featured on the English Department's website for my accomplishments in my internship.

Why I joined the Honors School: I wanted to be involved in the Honors School to meet students with similar goals as myself. I loved the idea of being a part of a tight-knit community and met some of my closest friends through it. I also wanted to challenge myself in my education, which the Honors School allowed me to do.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: I loved the amazing trips that the Honors School organized!

Plans after graduation: I am making a huge move to Florida with my family and hoping to get a job writing there. I will work on writing a book for publication.

ALLISON TURTURRO



Business Administration with a concentration in Finance Concentration

Sound Beach, New York

Thesis: *Radicalization: The Association Between Personal Relationships and Joining Terrorist Organizations*

This research project determines if there is an association between personal relationships and how individuals join terrorist organizations. Terrorism is a major threat to our nation today. In order to prevent future terrorist attacks, it is imperative to understand why individuals become radicalized; that is, why they join a terrorist organization or cause. There have been numerous terrorism-related incidents since September 11, 2001 that have caused major destruction and death to our nation. One potential factor of radicalization that has not yet been empirically examined is the impact of personal relationships on the likelihood of becoming radicalized. In that vein, Social Identity Theory can provide insight regarding why and how some individuals radicalize based on these relationships. In order to examine this potential relationship, data from the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism And Response to Terrorism (START) will be analyzed by conducting inferential bivariate statistical tests. The importance of this research is to explore how individuals become radicalized in nature through a social identity theory lens. The independent variables of this study are the absence/presence of a parent, close/not close family, presence/lack of a romantic relationship, and/or the presence/lack of platonic relationship. The dependent variable will be if these factors influence how an individual becomes radicalized in nature: actively recruited or self-recruited.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Monmouth University Women's Lacrosse Team Member; Hess Business School Excellence in Scholarship Series Gold Medalist 2018; Monmouth University Dean's List; Guardians Club 2016.

Why I joined the Honors School: I joined the Honor's School to challenge myself academically. The Honor's School provided me with guidance throughout my entire collegiate career and kept me focused on my academics. I also gained the knowledge of completing a research project which gave me the ability to develop strong relationships with my professors and advisors.

Fondest memory of the Honors School: My fondest memories include being a Peer Mentor and guiding my mentees, the barbecues, and the trip to the Library in Philadelphia.

Plans after graduation: I am coming back to Monmouth University to advance my education. I will be working towards a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice with an Intelligence Analyst focus, while also playing Division 1 lacrosse for another year.

ALLISON ZALINSKY



**Business Administration
with a concentration in Accounting**

Brick, New Jersey

Thesis: *Ethics of Tax Evasion*

Tax evasion has been an issue throughout the country since the early stages of the United States tax system. Those who commit tax evasion have respective reasons and beliefs for why they are able to commit this crime. In addition to the various reasons behind tax evasion, questioning factors of the United States tax law contribute to the ease of tax evasion. With the most recent tax code change came confusion for many individuals. If the tax code were easier for everyday citizens to understand, would there be fewer cases of tax evasion in the country? My thesis paper took a look at peer-reviewed sources to look into the reasons for tax evasion and how the tax law could be changed in ways to make it easier for individuals to understand.

Notable activities and achievements while at Monmouth: Received an internship with Ernst & Young; serve as a supplemental instruction team leader for managerial accounting for five semesters; graduate of the Honors School.

Why I joined the Honors School: I joined the Honor School to continue to challenge myself to do well in my classes

Fondest memory of the Honors School: My fondest memory was presenting my honors thesis.

Plans after graduation: I plan to return to Monmouth to get my Masters in Business Administration and to take the CPA exam.

Congratulations Class of 2020

Jessica

Hunter

Evan

Chloe

Mehdi

Alexia

Stephanie

Angelique

Nathaniel

Jarret

Evan

Esosa

Hayley

Alexa

Zachary

Melanie

Anna

Mika

Victoria

David

Kelly

Kathy

Olenka

Michael

Nicholas

Dally

Omar

Morgan

Brian

Chanell

McKenna

Gianni

Zoella

Joseph

Taylor

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Nicole

Nicole

Julia

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Karalyn

Liana

Allison Z.

Thomas

