Letter From the Dean

Dear Friends of the Honors College,

Building on the strong foundation established by our founding Dean Richard Garner, PhD, associate deans Craig Carson, PhD, and Nicole Rudolph, PhD, and I continue to reimagine the Honors College.

In March 2022, the Honors College underwent a program review by representatives of the National Collegiate Honors Council. It was a large undertaking that started with gathering a considerable amount of data and writing a very detailed self-study. We welcomed two site visitors to meet with President Christine M. Riordan, Christopher Storm, PhD, provost and executive vice president, members of our Honors College faculty, deans, department chairs, Honors College students and colleagues across campus. The reviewers were impressed with the rigor and quality of our program, our commitment to diversity initiatives and the broad range of cultural experiences that we provide our students. Helpfully, they suggested ways to further improve the college and student experience. While the process of preparing for the review and hosting the site visit was overwhelming at times, it was a tremendous learning experience for us all.

In April 2022, the Northeast Regional Honors Council conference took place in person for the first time since 2019. Seven Honors College students joined Dr. Carson and me at the event and presented the findings of their thesis research. They gave talks on panels, presented their work on posters and exhibited their art. The students, Margaret Brackey ’22, Kaitlyn Brooks ’22, Michael Davide ’22, Olivia DiSanto ’22, Matthew Pezzulich ’22, Sarah Sohn ’22 and Jasur Shukurov ’22, did a stellar job of representing Adelphi and demonstrating the depth of their knowledge and passion for their subjects. In April 2023, five students will attend this regional conference with me in Pittsburgh.

The goal of the Honors College remains to provide the most exceptional learning experience possible to Adelphi’s most academically ambitious students. The experience emphasizes interdisciplinary and intellectual creativity—you can see evidence of our ethos in this report.

This report details the contributions of the Honors College faculty and our students to Adelphi’s campus culture of intellectual inquiry and creative endeavors. Honors students embrace a passion for learning and asking questions, a commitment to social justice, an enthusiasm for exploring what is new to them and compassion toward their peers. The Honors College serves them by creating a community of academic rigor, cultural exploration and social bonding. Ultimately, we seek to cultivate joy and wonder in everyone who is part of the Honors community.

Please enjoy this report and email me if you have any questions about the Honors College.

Sincerely,

Susan Dinan, PhD
Dean, Honors College
sdinan@adelphi.edu
“In all of our seminar classes, we are encouraged to think of concepts not just as existing in the world of academia, but how they can apply to the world we live in. For example, we don’t want to think only about where *The Iliad* came from. We also want to examine why the lessons we can gain from *The Iliad* are still relevant today.”

—Kevin Lubin ’22, music performance major
An Extraordinary Learning Experience

An Adelphi Honors College student is an exceptional student—both academically gifted and driven by a particular passion. A hallmark of our College is a deep understanding of each individual’s strengths and respect for their individual goals. They might be passionate about theater, be tech protégés, be driven to help others through social or service work, or have a lifelong dream to become a doctor, a nurse or a psychologist. The Honors College is a place where they can nourish their passion and find exceptional academic support to achieve their goals.

Our coursework is academically rigorous, like all honors colleges. The difference, at Adelphi, is the strong community-based learning within our Honors College, with strong bonds of support between students, and between students and faculty, to achieve objectives.

Seated at a long conference table in our seminar room, every voice is heard and diverse points of view are honored. We commit to these aims:

- Academic excellence
- Exceptional supplemental advisement regarding choice of major or minor, study abroad, senior theses and national fellowships
- Community-based learning to help each student reach academic goals
- Cultural enrichment through events based in New York City

Our goal is to continue, at the highest level, the work of founder Dean Richard Garner, PhD, while welcoming in fresh perspectives.
Honors by the Numbers

Our 313 Honors College students in 2022 hailed from 19 U.S. states with diverse backgrounds and academic pursuits.

We are:
76% women

Spotlight on Outstanding Honors College Students

Julia Smith is an interdisciplinary studies major and art history minor from New Orleans, graduating in 2023. She also serves as the Honors College’s social media coordinator. With concentrations in photography and creative writing, Smith grounds her passion for the arts in the intellectual realm of the humanities. In March 2023, Smith traveled to Kosovo with Professor Cindy Maguire, PhD’s nonprofit organization ArtsAction Group, for a cross-cultural collaboration with the Fellbach-Haus Centre for Creative Education. The annual exchange facilitates art and education initiatives with youth in conflict-affected environments.

“My Honors seminar with Professor Hannah Allen combined my love of history and photography through a study of the history of photography. This carved my interdisciplinary curriculum to fit my academic and creative pursuits.”

Thomas Horsley is a second-year student from England pursuing a degree in economics. He took Professor Mariano Torras, PhD’s seminar “Rethinking Progress,” which considered economics through a broad social lens. Horsley was interested in readings that illustrate how light and sound pollution are markets of economically developed regions, noting that while economic output was measured, the decrease in living quality resulting from the pollution was not. Horsley appreciates that his Honors courses challenge him to interpret writings and synthesize arguments for class discussion and written assignments. Also a member of Adelphi’s tennis team, Horsley said his teammates and classmates make playing and attending classes rewarding and exciting.
In today’s society, it is hard to disagree with someone and remain engaged in a reasonable debate, but this happens in Honors courses. It is important for democracy that these conversations take place.”

Dianne Doytchinov is a third-year student from Queens, New York, pursuing premedical studies with a biology major. In Fall 2022, Doytchinov studied at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Australia. Post-COVID-19, more Honors students are interested in studying abroad and Doytchinov shows that this is possible, even for students in very rigid academic programs.

“I visited Hervey Bay to observe humpback whales as part of our marine vertebrates class, perform interesting genetics labs, study human anatomy and learn in depth about indigenous Australia! I’ve made wonderful friends and met international students from all over the world. The support from my Honors community made this a life-changing experience.”

**Student Conference Attendance**

Matthew Gootman, a double major in physics and mathematics, and physics majors Kyle Cash and Zain Ritee are a research team from Associate Professor and Physics Chair Matthew Wright, PhD’s lab.

The group is working to create a program that will provide the best representation of one-dimensional shapes in MATLAB. Their research is titled “Developing an algorithm for arc length-weighted anti-aliasing propagation of beams with 1D Fourier spectra.”

The team presented their research at Physics Congress 2022 in Washington, D.C. and the Optica Conference in Rochester, New York. They are pictured with their faculty mentor Kevin Liang, PhD, assistant professor of physics.

Jasleen Kaur, a biology major, and Miriam Yushavaeiv, a biology major and art and art history minor, attended the Metropolitan Association of College and University Biologists at SUNY Old Westbury. They won the award for Best Presentation for Environmental Biology and Ecology.

Kaur will attend Columbia University College of Dental Medicine in Fall 2023. Yushavaeiv will graduate from Adelphi in 2024.

Kyana Gordon, a biology major, attended the Biomedical Research Conference in Anaheim, California. She presented research she conducted at Johns Hopkins Medicine Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine.
The Challenging—and Enlightening—Honors Curriculum

In a supportive, holistic learning environment, students in the Honors College engage in two yearlong courses designed to introduce them to important ideas and texts from around the world, culminating in individual thesis projects.

The Modern Condition—Students gain a foundation in the sciences, politics, economics, philosophy and the arts in a community environment, through collaborative projects, debate and inquiry, in and outside the classroom.

The Human Condition—Literature is the window to the world in this course, which builds on the foundations of The Modern Condition. Students read epics from different cultures around the globe to gain expertise in ideas from different personal, cultural and historical perspectives and aesthetic, political and religious contexts.

Advanced Seminars on Cutting-Edge Topics—These seminars allow students to not only specialize in their interests but to develop a critical and global concern for shaping the future of their field. Students pursue a subject of their choice, working closely with faculty from across the University whose courses grow out of their research interests.

Research and Thesis—The Honors Thesis applies what they’ve learned during the core courses through a yearlong thesis project, one that involves original, extended research. Putting their research and writing skills to good use, these concrete projects are then presented at Adelphi’s annual springtime Scholarship and Creative Works Conference. Projects in 2021 covered mathematics and epidemiology, coral reef changes, color-word associations in children’s picture books, and exploring contemporary issues through science fiction.

“The Honors College gave me such a wonderful foundation and prepared me so well for medical school—I owe my dedication to my education and my love of knowledge in part to the incredible role models that I met in my four years at Adelphi.”

—Wendy Podany ’11, MD, attending physician, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and assistant professor of medicine, Baylor College of Medicine
“With becoming a physician comes a genuine love of learning and the development of critical thinking and analysis skills. I’m always striving to know more, and exploring topics outside of my usual STEM-oriented discipline is exciting to me. Being a part of the Honors College has been an unforgettable experience, and it is something that I will always treasure.”

— Nicole Basilan ’22, molecular neuroscience major with a biology minor, currently at NYIT’s College of Osteopathic Medicine

Honors College 2022 Thesis Award Winners

Overall
The Ruth St. Denis Prize for the Best Work in Fine or Performing Arts:
Matthew Pezzulich ’22
“Creating in Response to COVID: A Reflection on Tradition and the Emerging Through ‘Antigone’”

The Frank Dickinson Blodgett Prize for the Best Work in the Humanities:
Rachel McKee ’22
“The Road to Radicalization: Tracking the Development of the Weather Underground’s Ideology” and
Jay Peierls ’22
“The Alias and Gender Fluidity in Surrealism and Dada”

The James H. Post Prize for the Best Work in the Social Sciences:
Isabella Andrade ’22
“What Leads to the Rise of Populist and Anti-establishment Political Parties in France?”

The Warren Eickelberg Prize for the Best Work in the Natural Sciences:
Jasur Shukurov ’22
“Improving Accessibility for Low Vision and Blind People Using Machine Learning and Computer Vision”

The Charles H. Levermore Prize for the Best Senior Thesis:
Margaret Brackey ’22
“Birds Into Bodies: Synthesizing Dance and Research”
Honors Students’ 2022 Thesis Titles and Faculty Advisers:

**Victoria Alonso**, Thesis Adviser Professor Laura Brumaniu
“Sibling Relationships in Adoption”

**Jenna Anderson**, Thesis Adviser Professor Edwin-Nikko R. Kabigting
“Loneliness: An Integrative Thematic Review Inspired by the Covid-19 Pandemic”

**Isabella Andrade**, Thesis Adviser Professor Katie Laatikainen
“What Leads to the Rise of Populist Anti-establishment Political Parties in France?”

**Victoria Arnold**, Thesis Adviser Professor Louise Geddes
“Canceled! A Look Into the Moral Obligation of the Fan”

**Victoria Asodi**, Thesis Adviser Professor Hannah Cates
“Evolution of PCSK Gene Isoforms in the Context of Human Menopause”

**Tasmiah Bashir**, Thesis Adviser Professor Katherine Fiori
“Differences in the Association Between Religious Coping Styles, Psychological Well-Being, and Covid-19-Related Stressors Among Christian and Muslim Young Adults”

**Nicole Basilan**, Thesis Adviser Professor Hannah Cates
“Investigating the Role of Transcribed Ultraconserved Regions on the Expression of Genes Related to Substance Abuse Disorders”

**Andrea Bentivegna**, Thesis Adviser Professor Susan Zori
“The Effectiveness of Online Learning and Virtual Simulation in Undergraduate Nursing Education and its Subsequent Impact on Students’ Transition to Practice”

**Margaret Brackey**, Thesis Adviser Professor Adelheid B. Strellick
“Birds Into Bodies: Synthesizing Dance and Research”

**Kaitlyn Brooks**, Thesis Adviser Professor Hannah Allen
“What Role Do NFTs Play in the Future of Art and Technology?”

**Dominique Brown**, Thesis Adviser Professor Andrea Ward
“Axial-Based Locomotion in Lepidosiren Paradoxa of Different Sizes on a Loose Pebble Substrate”

**Vincent Cahill**, Thesis Adviser Deborah Cooperstein
“The Effect of Menthol on Cancer Cell Proliferation and Migration”

**Tina Marie Ciorra**, Thesis Adviser Professor Hannah Cates
“The Role of Donepezil, Memantine, and Vitamin E on PC12 Neuroendocrine Cells”

**Michael J. Dimitrov**, Thesis Adviser Professor Alan Schoenfeld
“XH2AX a Radiotherapeutic Worker for Pancreatic Cancer”

**Michael J. Dicide**, Thesis Adviser Professor Katie Laatikainen
“The Perplexing Persistence of Wolf Warrior Diplomacy in Chinese Foreign Policy Doctrine Under Xi Jinping’s Presidency”

**Madeline Feehan**, Thesis Adviser Professor Katherine Hill

**Anastasia Fesenko**, Thesis Adviser Professor Murat Erogul
“Covid-19 Impact on Business Across the World”

**Isabella Franco**, Thesis Adviser Professor Anthony Dotterman

**Katherine M. Gifford**, Thesis Adviser Professor Sean Bentley
“I Forgot the Formula Again but It’s Cool: Exploring How Physics Students Pivot After Forgetting an Equation or Expression”

**Emily Hakimi**, Thesis Adviser Professor Deborah Ambrosio-Mawhirtner
“Nursing Practices for Pain Management and the Use of Non-Pharmacologic Alternatives to Opioids”

**Olga Horbal**, Thesis Adviser Professor Laura Sanzo
“Blood Loss Estimation and Its Effects on Patient Care”

**Angelai Ibragimov**, Thesis Adviser Professor Tandra R. Chakraborty
“Neuroprotective Effects of Estrogen on Alzheimer’s Disease”

**Paulina Karagianes**, Thesis Adviser Professor Lawrence Hobbie
“The Integration of Genetics and Genomics Education Into Undergraduate Nursing Program Curricula in the United States”

**Angelina Kolobukhova**, Thesis Adviser Professor Pricilla J. Owens
“Let’s Play It by Ear – Audiation and Creativity in Vocal Jazz Improvisation”

**Gianna Lavacca**, Thesis Adviser Professor Alan Schoenfeld
“The Effects of the Removal of PKM2 on Vhl and Vhl+ Kidney Cancer Cells”

**Nethanel Linzer**, Thesis Adviser Professor Edward A. Reno
“The Biography of Tiberius Julius Alexander”

**Sandrine Lorin**, Thesis Adviser Professor Maria Pilar Martin
“Disparities in Pregnancy Outcomes Among Afro-Caribbean Populations in Brooklyn: The Role of Doulas”

**Kevin Lubin**, Thesis Adviser Professor Sidney Boquiren
“The Creation of Four Jewish Women Playing Mah Jongg”

**Erin McElhone**, Thesis Adviser Professor Adelheid B. Strellick
“Der Lauf Der Dinge”

**Rachel Mckee**, Thesis Adviser Professor Martin Haas
“The Road to Radicalization: Tracking the Development of the Weather Underground’s Ideology”

**Mark Mikhail**, Thesis Adviser Professor Lawrence Hobbie
“Effect of Exam Wrappers on Student Learning and Metacognition in a Nursing Genetics Course”

**Helayna Ortiz**, Thesis Adviser Professor Hannah Cates
“Identifying Potential Target Genes Encoding Glycolytic Enzymes in Vhl Disease”

**Jay Peierls**, Thesis Adviser Professor Louise Geddes
“The Alias and Gender Fluidity in Surrealism and Dada”

**Matthew Pezzulich**, Thesis Adviser Professor Margaret Lally

**Erik Riedlinger**, Thesis Adviser Professor Arthur Leibowitz
“Accounting and Regulation for Cryptocurrency”

**Leea Rizzo**, Thesis Adviser Professor Patricia Pope
“The Covid-19 Pandemic’s Impact on Undergraduate Nursing Students’ Learning Activities”

**Jessica Rossi**, Thesis Adviser Professor Louise Geddes
“Performatice Gender in a Post Queer Era”

**Paul Russell**, Thesis Adviser Professor Matthew Wright
“Development of a Magneto Optical Trap”
World-Class Honors College Faculty
Exceptional professors make our exceptional students more so:

Craig Carson, PhD, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Dr. Carson received his doctorate in comparative literature from the University of California, Irvine, and is a former Harper-Schmidt Fellow at the University of Chicago. He has also taught at the University of Paris 10 at Nanterre.

Prior to his appointment to the Honors College in 2014, he was an associate professor in Adelphi’s Department of English. In addition to numerous articles, book chapters and translations, he is the author of the book The Aesthetics of Democracy: Eighteenth-Century Literature and Political Economy (Palgrave Macmillan 2017).

Nicole Rudolph, PhD, Associate Dean for Student Engagement
Dr. Rudolph, who earned a PhD in French Studies at New York University, graduated with a BA in American History and in French from the University of Pittsburgh. She also holds an MA in French from Pitt, an MA in French Studies from New York University and a master’s degree in social sciences from the École Normale Supérieure and L’École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris.

Before joining the Honors College in 2009, she was associate professor in Adelphi’s Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, and held a joint appointment in the Department of History. Prior to coming to Adelphi, she was the director of the Maison Française at Columbia University.

Benjamin Serby, PhD, Visiting Assistant Professor
Dr. Serby graduated from Columbia University with a PhD in American History in 2020 and then served as a 2020–2021 Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for American Studies at Columbia. He has published several articles and is finishing a book manuscript provisionally titled An Army of Lovers: Gay Liberation and Cultural Revolution in America, 1945–1976.

Faculty teaching Honors College core courses:

**Spring 2022**
- **Human Behavioral Ecology**
  - Matthias Foellmer, PhD
  - Department of Biology
- **Shared Roots: An International Collaboration**
  - Terrence Ross
  - Department of Communications
- **Anthropology and Social Justice: Past Meets Present**
  - Kathryn Krasingh, PhD
  - Department of Anthropology
- **Intergroup Dialogue: Facilitating Social Justice Conversation**
  - Rani Varghese, EdD
  - School of Social Work
- **Egyptomania!**
  - Maya Muratov, PhD
  - Department of Art and Art History
- **Buddhist Modernism: Philosophy of Buddhism and Science**
  - Sokthan Yeng, PhD
  - Department of Philosophy
- **Theogony, Myth and Ritual in Classical Antiquity**
  - Anagnostis Agelarakis, PhD
  - Department of History

**Fall 2022**
- **Rethinking Progress**
  - Mariano Torras, PhD
  - Department of Economics and Finance
- **Postmodern Condition**
  - Marty Haas, PhD
  - Department of History
- **A History of Nursing**
  - Susan Dinan, PhD
- **People of the Pleistocene**
  - Brian Wygal, PhD
  - Department of Anthropology
- **Romantic Love in Western Literature and Thought**
  - Susan Weisser, PhD
  - Department of English
- **Posthuman Condition**
  - Matthew Massai
  - Department of English
The Honors College is where I found myself. I developed passions I didn’t know I had, met friends I’d have for a lifetime, was given the support of terrific professors and I had the chance to grow intellectually.”

—Danielle Mebert ’04, MA ’05, MFA ’11, EdD, manager, academic advising, New York University
“I found Postmodern Condition to be an extremely informative and thought-provoking class. Reading articles about a variety of matters helped me gain additional insight into politics, economics, science and culture. I especially loved the conversations that questioned tradition and looked at how and why new ways of thinking about a particular topic emerged over time.”

— Prachi Shah, biology major

“The Postmodern Condition seminar focuses almost exclusively on student-led readings from *The New Yorker* and *The New York Review of Books*, but through the writings of contemporary authors and journalists, we explored subjects ranging from The Waste Land to Ukraine. Professor Haas always encourages intelligent political discourse and urges students to deal with unfamiliar thoughts; that is what I love most about his classes—range and depth. No matter how distant a reading could appear, there was always plenty to learn about yourself.”

— Edward Jansen, physics major
Postmodern Condition Seminar

Professor Marty Haas, PhD, has been teaching in the Honors College since its inception in 1994. He is an American historian of diplomatic and intellectual history. Dean Richard Garner, PhD, our founding dean, explained that while Professor Hass was always the toughest grader, students flocked to his sections of Modern Condition and “his teaching evaluations were always the most affectionate, positive and admiring of all the sections. He created such a strong community in the class. I considered it incredibly remarkable that the Honors students—so hugely (somewhat understandably) worried about grades and future graduate and professional study—loved his class so much that the rigorous grading simply never entered into the conversation.”

In the Honors College, Professor Haas has taught many students in his Modern Condition and Postmodern Condition seminar course. Hundreds of students have shared his passion for ideas and enthusiasm for compelling and elegant writing. Tom Westerman ’03 was in the first section of Postmodern Condition and defines it as a “formative experience.” According to Westerman, “It felt like all of the coursework I did in the Honors College led me to that class. I could apply all the knowledge and skills I acquired over the years to the assigned readings and discussions. Learning how to read great periodicals and connect those readings to my own perspective and ideas made me a more literate, empathetic and curious person. I still apply the teaching lessons and approach to learning that Professor Haas used on that class in my own teaching as a high school history teacher.”

According to Professor Haas, Postmodern Condition is uniquely structured with students selecting the readings and leading class discussions; few courses offer undergraduates so much agency. The goals of the course are to hone critical reading skills and engage students in a contemporary or postmodern analysis of major issues through a deep reading of essays, fiction and poetry.

On December 1, 2022, Professor Haas welcomed his former student Camille Pajor ’09, MBA ’16, an Honors College alum who graduated in 2009, to his seminar to discuss the humanitarian work she has undertaken in Ukraine. Pajor had served in the Peace Corps in Ukraine from 2009 to 2011 teaching English to children. Postmodern Condition students had read New Yorker articles about the war in Ukraine and Pajor was able to build upon their knowledge and answer their questions about the refugees fleeing from Ukraine. According to Professor Haas, “The personal experience of an Adelphi alum working with Ukrainian refugees on the Polish-Ukrainian border was invaluable.”
Honors Beyond the Classroom

The Honors College is a community that puts experiential learning over siloed thinking, branching out into a variety of campus and professional avenues to absorb, discuss and reflect.

Cultural Events in NYC—With New York City a short train ride away, Honors students have long taken advantage of the available museums, theaters and concert halls. In Spring 2022, students visited the American Museum of Natural History, The Morgan Library & Museum and the New Museum, and they attended a dance performance at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, a concert at Jazz at Lincoln Center and Elektra at the Metropolitan Opera. In Fall 2022, they explored the High Line and Little Island, the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, the New York Philharmonic, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and saw The Hours at the Metropolitan Opera. Over the course of the year, they also saw Dear Evan Hansen, Take Me Out, Macbeth and Hadestown.

Dean’s Circles—Students join with faculty members to discuss books, including What Water Knows, written by Jacqueline Jones LaMon, JD, vice president of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, in Fall 2022.

On-Campus Social Events—Honors students enjoy informal weekly teatime chats with a member of the Honors College faculty, and Honors Student Council-organized paint, movie and craft night events.

Honors Student Council—The Honors student governing body is a career-building experience with an immediate impact on campus life.

Internships—Honors College students participate in the Jaggar Community Fellows Program, the Disney College Program and other internships near and far.

“The World Is Your Oyster”—This expression, inspired by a line from Shakespeare’s The Merry Wives of Windsor, is certainly true for our Honors College students. Adelphi makes hundreds of study abroad programs available to students during academic semesters, summer and Intersession.
We Deeply Appreciate Our Donors

Given the economic toll of the COVID-19 crisis and the resulting instability, there is considerable need among our students. The Honors College is very grateful to our loyal alumni who contribute to the scholarship funds created by founding Dean Richard Garner, PhD.

Looking forward, we rely upon our donors to provide additional scholarships for students, and we also hope to create a fund to enable students of limited means to embrace the opportunity to study abroad. The Center for International Education provides students with a wide array of programs of study, and it is the goal of the Honors College to make these accessible to more of our students. Further, the Honors College seeks to develop a teaching fellows program to encourage a broader range of instructors, to offer new Honors courses, to team-teach interdisciplinary seminars and to mentor Honors students.

Thank you for your support. It is with your help that we create an engaged community of learners eager to embrace all that the campus and broader community have to offer.
Thank you for your generous support of the Honors College

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—Vinay Maddula ’19, biochemistry major, now studying at Columbia University College of Dental Medicine

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