



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Honors College

2023-2024 HONORS COLLEGE GRADUATES



FALL 2023 GRADUATES



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NOOR ABU-RUS

Noor Abu-Rus, from Dearborn Heights, MI, earned a B.S. in psychology *magna cum laude* with a minor in communication and University Honors. After graduation, Noor plans to complete her current research project before entering Master's and Ph.D. programs in forensic psychology. At EMU, Noor participated in Active Minds, serving as secretary for two years. During her final semester at EMU, Noor earned her 4th-degree black belt in TaeKwonDo, officially making her a Master. What Noor appreciated most about The Honors College were early registration and smaller classes. Noor would like to thank her dad Tareq, her mom Amal, and her brothers Ibrahim, Khalid, and Zacharia for being her #1 supporters and always a phone call away. She would also like to thank her best friend Ayah Baydoun for always being there for her.

MYA ABUGHANNAM

Mya Abughannam, from Canton, MI, earned a B.A. in political science *magna cum laude* with minors in marketing and language, literature, and writing and University Honors. After graduation, Mya plans to work towards a Master's degree in political science. What Mya appreciated most about The Honors College was early registration. Mya would like to thank her mother for always pushing her to do her best.





FAITH AEILLO

Faith Aeillo, from Lake Orion, MI, earned a B.S. in secondary special education *summa cum laude* with a concentration in cognitive impairment, minors in secondary education communication and theatre arts and arts and entertainment management, and University Honors, Departmental Honors in Special Education, and Highest Honors. After graduation, Faith plans to work as a teacher in a Michigan secondary special education transition classroom. At EMU, Faith was a founding member and president of the Sexual Assault and Rape Awareness (SARA) student organization and received a 4-year, full-ride Presidential Scholarship. What Faith appreciated most about The Honors College was the access to all the programs and resources the College provides. Faith would like to thank her mother for endless support, inspiration and encouragement and her family and friends for their love and support.

MONEEBAH ASHRAF

Moneebah Ashraf, from Ann Arbor, MI, earned a B.S. in neuroscience *summa cum laude* with University Honors. After graduation, Moneebah plans to continue her research internship at the University of Michigan while she applies to medical school. At EMU, Moneebah was involved with the EMU Pre-Med Club and served as a peer mentor. What Moneebah appreciated the most about The Honors College was the support she received from faculty, staff, and the close community of the Honors College. Moneebah would like to thank Dr. E. for her guidance and advice, her mom and dad for always being there through the highs and lows of the past few years, and her siblings.



EMMA BENNETT



Emma Bennett, from Grass Lake, MI, earned a B.S.N. in nursing *magna cum laude* with Departmental Honors in Nursing.

EMILIA BRANDENBURG

Emilia Brandenburg, from Wyandotte, MI, earned a B.A. in communication *summa cum laude* with a minor in management and University Honors. After graduation, Emilia plans to continue her career in human resources as a talent acquisition partner at American Axle & Manufacturing in Detroit while she pursues an MBA. What Emilia appreciated most about The Honors College was being part of a small community where she could connect with peers and faculty. She would like to thank her family for their endless love and support.



MAE BUMPUS



Mae Bumpus, from Ypsilanti, MI, earned a B.A. in arts and entertainment management *summa cum laude* with a minor in marketing and Departmental Honors in Arts and Entertainment Management. After graduation, Mae plans to seek employment in the film and TV production industry and work to recreate the magic she remembers from her childhood for generations to come. She was an active member and served as treasurer for Amplifying the Arts on campus and received the Emerald Scholarship during her time as a student. What Mae appreciated most about The Honors College were the opportunities it created to dive deeper into topics she was most passionate about. Mae would like to thank her mom, dad, grandparents, and three brothers for all that they have done to support, love, and encourage her along the way.

COREENA FORSTNER



Coreena Forstner, a first-generation student from Flint, MI, earned a B.S. in psychology *summa cum laude* with minors in criminology and sociology and University Honors, Departmental Honors in Psychology, and Highest Honors. After graduation, Coreena will attend graduate school to obtain a Master's of social work and a Ph.D. in social work and clinical psychology. At EMU, Coreena was involved in the McNair Scholars Program and Psi Chi, the international honors society for psychology. She also served as an Honors Resident Advisor for two years, the vice president of Active Minds, and a Supplemental Instructor, was a TaLT and SURF Fellow, and received multiple fellowships and scholarships. In summer 2023, Coreena interned in an NSF-funded criminology program at Wayne State University. What Coreena enjoyed most about The Honors College was building community with her cohort. Coreena would like to thank her family, friends, and mentor, Dr. Kim Barrett, for all of their support.

SAGE GRAY



Sage Gray, from Spring, TX, earned a B.G.S. in individualized studies *summa cum laude* with University Honors. After graduation, Sage plans to enter a Master's program in elementary education. At EMU, she was involved in the EMU marching band and spent a semester studying abroad in Melbourne, Australia. What Sage appreciated the most about The Honors college was getting to work with great Honors professors and advisors. She would like to thank her parents, Max and Joy Gray, for supporting her throughout her time at EMU.

HOLLY HEESTAND

Holly Heestand, from Salem, OH, earned a B.B.A. in accounting and an M.S. in accounting *summa cum laude* with a minor in psychology and University Honors. After graduation, Holly will begin her career in public accounting at Cohen & Company while studying for the CPA exam. During her time at EMU, she was involved in Beta Alpha Psi, His House, Circle K International, NSLS, a short-term study abroad program in Italy, and other student organizations. She received the Outstanding Student in Taxation Award and the Doris Tetlow Award. What Holly appreciated most about The Honors College were the small classes that allowed her to interact more closely with her classmates and her professors. She would like to thank her family for their endless support throughout her college education and her dad for sparking her love of learning.



RYLAND LAMBERT



Ryland Lambert, from Burton, MI, earned B.A. degrees in anthropology and history *summa cum laude* with a minor in political science and University Honors, Departmental Honors in Anthropology, and Highest Honors. After graduation, Ryland plans to travel and do research abroad before applying to graduate school. At EMU, he has been involved in Model United Nations, YDSA, the Anthropology Club, and Active Minds, and he received Best Delegate and Outstanding Delegation awards for Model U.N. What Ryland appreciated most about The Honors College was meeting people from around the world with interests and goals similar to his own. Ryland would like to thank his parents, Dr. Kimberly Brown and Dr. Carmen McCallum from the McNair Scholars Program, and his mentor Dr. Megan Moore for supporting him through all of his academic pursuits and for believing in his abilities as a student and as an individual outside of the classroom.

MATIAS MARTINEZ EKKEL

Matias Martinez Ekkel, from Valencia, Spain, earned a B.B.A. in finance *summa cum laude* with University Honors. After graduation, Matias will work as a financial analyst in General Motors' rotational program. At EMU, he was involved in the Financial Management Association as Treasurer and the Eagle Investment Fund as Vice President, and he worked for EMU in many capacities. What Matias appreciated the most about The Honors College were the small classes, friendly peers, and engaging professors. Matias would like to thank his family and friends for their support throughout his journey and the countless people who also contributed throughout the semesters.





KYLIE MCCLAIN

Kylie McClain, from Hudson, OH, earned a B.S. in elementary special education *magna cum laude* with University Honors and Departmental Honors in Special Education. After graduation, Kylie will move to Chicago to begin her teaching career. At EMU, she worked on campus at the Program Resource Center, was a member of SARA, and received the Presidential Scholarship. What Kylie appreciated most about The Honors College were the small classes. She would like to thank her family, friends, and partner for always supporting her and encouraging her to follow her passion for working with kids with disabilities.

HALEY MILLS

Haley Mills, from Saline, MI, earned a B.S. in biochemistry with University Honors. After graduation, Haley plans to attend graduate school to earn a Master's degree or enter the workforce. What Haley appreciated most about The Honors College were the activities that allowed her to connect with other people. She would like to thank Dene Westbrook, Jacob Westbrook, and Elizabeth Westbrook for the support and strength that allowed her to graduate.





KARLEY MISEK

Karley Misek, from Ann Arbor, MI, earned a B.A. in secondary education language, literature, and writing *summa cum laude* with a minor in teaching psychology and Departmental Honors in Language, Literature, and Writing. After graduation, Karley plans to start her teaching career and continue to pursue literary research. At EMU, Karley served as a peer tutor at the University Writing Center and a research assistant to Dr. Elisabeth Däumer. What Karley appreciated most about The Honors College was the support she received for her research and academic projects. Karley would like to thank Dr. Däumer for introducing her to the world of Muriel Rukeyser.

FIONA MORCOM

Fiona Morcom, from Saline, MI, earned a B.S. in Elementary and Special Education *summa cum laude* with Departmental Honors in Special Education. After graduation, Fiona plans to teach special education in a middle school life skills classroom. At EMU, Fiona was co-president of EMU's Special Olympics team and was a recipient of the Brehm Scholarship. What Fiona appreciated most about The Honors College was the never-ending support from the faculty. She would like to thank her parents, her brother Graham, her fiancé Collin, and all of her friends and family for all of their love and support over these past four and a half years.





KIFAYA NABILSI

Kifaya Nabilsa, a first-generation student from Ann Arbor, MI, earned a B.S. in neuroscience *magna cum laude* with University Honors, Departmental Honors in Neuroscience, and Highest Honors. After graduation, Kifaya plans to apply to and attend medical school. At EMU, she served as vice-president of the Pre-Med Club, secretary of the Neuroscience Club, and vice-president of the Minority Association for Pre-Med Students (MAPS). She also received the Student Gold Medallion Award for Outstanding Leadership in 2023. What Kifaya appreciated most about The Honors College was the community and support provided by everyone in The Honors College. She would like to thank her husband, family, and friends for their continued support and love.

REBECCA SABOL

Rebecca Sabol, from Scio, OH, earned a B.S. in biology *cum laude* with a concentration in physiology, a minor in chemistry, and University Honors. After graduation, Rebecca plans to pursue her license in veterinary nursing. What Rebecca appreciated most about The Honors College was the supportive atmosphere and space for collaboration. She would like to thank her friends, her partner, and her family for all of their support over the years.





SARAH SHAFI

Sarah Shafi, from Brighton, MI, earned a B.F.A in K-12 visual art education *summa cum laude* with a concentration in 2D media, a minor in K-12 Spanish teaching, and University Honors. After graduation, Sarah plans to become a visual art education teacher and obtain her Master's degree. At EMU, she founded the National Art Education Association (NAEA) Student Chapter of EMU, participated in the EMU Mentor Collective, the Intermedia Gallery Group (IGG), and the NEXT Scholars education collective, and was co-author on an article on the Honors virtual international experience, published in the journal *Honors in Practice*. She also presented her work at numerous academic conferences and art exhibitions and was selected as a 2023 Honors Spanish student, a 2023 Annual Juried Student Show finalist, and a recipient of the Undergraduate Research Stimulus Program grant and the Presidential Scholarship. What Sarah appreciated most about The Honors College was the sense of community and the extracurricular opportunities. She would like to thank her family, especially her mom, and her friends for their endless support and camaraderie throughout the years.

JOANNA SULIMIN

Joanna Sulimin, from Ann Arbor, MI, earned a B.S.N. in nursing *summa cum laude* with University Honors. After graduation, Joanna plans to work in critical care. While at EMU, she served as the Vice President of Cru at and worked as a nurse tech at Trinity Ann Arbor and a nurse extern at Michigan Medicine. What Joanna appreciated most about The Honors College were the opportunities for learning. Joanna would like to thank her family and friends for their gracious support.





JOANA XHANGOLLI

Joana Xhangolli, from Pogradec, Albania, earned a B.S. in biology *magna cum laude* with a concentration in cellular and molecular biology, a minor in chemistry, and Departmental Honors in Chemistry. After graduation, Joana plans to follow her dream in the medical field. At EMU, Joana worked on her Honors thesis *Separation of Silicone Phthalocyanine Compounds* with Dr. Vance Kennedy. What Joana appreciated most about The Honors College were the small classes, which enhanced interaction with professors. Joana would like to thank her family for all the support they gave during all these years.

HAVILYN YOUNG

Havilyn Young, from Grand Rapids, MI, earned a B.A. in K-12 Spanish teaching with a minor in language, literature, and writing and University Honors. After graduation, Havilyn plans to become a high school Spanish teacher to inspire the youth of tomorrow. At EMU, she was been a member of Kappa Delta Pi, worked for the Office of Housing and Residence Life, and studied abroad at the University of Salamanca. What Havilyn appreciated most about The Honors College was the kind and respectful community it has built inside and outside the classroom. She would like to thank her family for their loving support and her colleagues in teaching for their constant encouragement.





FARHA ZINDAH

Farha Zindah, from Ann Arbor, MI, earned a B.S. in computer science-applied *summa cum laude* with University Honors.

