



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Honors College

2024-2025 HONORS COLLEGE GRADUATES



FALL 2024 GRADUATES



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Honors College



KLEDIS AHMETAJ



Kledis Ahmetaj, from Gjirokastër, Albania, earned a B.S. in mathematics *summa cum laude* with a minor in computer science, and Departmental Honors in Mathematics. After graduation, Kledis plans to pursue a PhD in mathematics at University of Michigan. What Kledis appreciated most about the Honors College was completing the honors projects for honors contracts and his honors thesis. Kledis would like to thank his family and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics for their invaluable support while he was a student at EMU.

AMANDA BONO

Amanda Bono, from Allen Park, MI, earned a B.S.N. in nursing *summa cum laude*, with University Honors. Amanda worked with the orientation team for two years, served as the communications editor of the Student Nurses Association, and participated in an externship focused on labor and delivery. What Amanda appreciated most about the Honors College were the events and the personalized classes. After graduation, Amanda plans to work at Henry Ford St. John Hospital as a labor and delivery nurse. Amanda would like to thank her parents for all the home-cooked meals and support and her fiancé for being her number one fan.





MANDIRA CHENJIRI

Mandira Chenjeri, from Canton, MI, earned a B.B.A. in marketing *summa cum laude* with Departmental Honors in Marketing. Mandira served on the e-board for the Sales and Advertising Club and worked as a field manager for The Center For Digital Engagement. What Mandira appreciated most about The Honors College were the small classes and the opportunity to learn more beyond the normal class curriculum through honors contracts. After graduation, Madira will continue her internship at Rocket Companies, with hopes of moving into a full-time role. Mandira would like to thank her parents for all their love, encouragement, and patience.

LAUREN MARA COLINA

Lauren Mara Colina, from St. Clair Shores, MI, earned a B.B.A. in international business-entrepreneurship *magna cum laude* with University Honors. A Presidential Scholar, Lauren worked for Orientation and the Admission and Enrollment Office as a campus tour guide, served as president of the Kapamilya Club and vice president of marketing for the Entrepreneurship Club, and volunteered for various campus and service events. She received an Honors College study-abroad scholarship to spend the fall 2023 semester in Barcelona, Spain. After graduation, Lauren plans to work as a business operations consultant for a multinational corporation. She also wants to travel and has planned tours through Europe and Asia in the next year. Lauren would like to thank her family, her boss at the admissions office Misty Sparrow, and Dr. David Victor for all their support and valuable time and experience that empowered her over her 4 years at EMU and deepened her love and dedication towards her career path.





NIA CRUTCHER

Nia Crutcher, from Grosse Pointe Woods, MI, earned a B.F.A in fine arts with a concentration in 2D media, and Departmental Honors in Art. Nia served as Fundraising and Community Service Chair for I Am Pink, and, in 2023, she was a winner in the Annual Juried Student Show. In her senior year, she hosted her own solo exhibition, "A Black Girl's Garden," and curated a group show, "Black Girl Rising," earning recognition in the *Eastern Echo*. In 2023 and 2024, Nia received the John Loree Endowed Scholarship from the Department of Art. After graduation, Nia plans to pursue a M.F.A. at the Pratt Institute in New York and then become a professor and start her own gallery for young people of color. What Nia most appreciated about The Honors College were the forever friendships she made. She would like to thank her family and close friends for getting her to this point in her career.

YASHODA DAS

Yashoda Das, from New Delhi, India, earned a B.S. in neuroscience *summa cum laude*, a minor in statistics, and Departmental Honors in Neuroscience. Yashoda worked as a Supplemental Instructor at the Holman Success Center and as a Student Fellow in The Honors College, and was a member of the Neuroscience Club. What Yashoda appreciated most about The Honors College was getting to know other honors students and learn about their passions. After graduation, Yashoda will work in a research lab that studies the molecular pathways for memory and learning. He would like to thank his sister for being a shoulder to cry on, his mother for providing financial support and sage advice, and his father for reminding him what matters in life.



KAILA DEVRIES



Kaila DeVries, from Byron Center, MI, earned a B.S. in elementary early childhood teaching and learning *summa cum laude*, minors in language arts and integrated science, and University Honors. Kaila was a member of Alpha Xi Delta and worked at the Women's Resource Center. She also participated in the Disney College Program, working at Disney World for 7 months. After graduation, Kaila plans to teach elementary school. What she liked most about The Honors College was taking classes with like-minded individuals. Kaila also appreciated The Honors College for supporting her desire to participate in the Disney College Program and helping her earn credit for the experience. She would like to thank her family for their encouragement to follow her dreams.

ALIVIA EDDINGS

Alivia Eddings, from Pinckney, MI, earned a B.A. in political science *summa cum laude* with a concentration in public law and judicial politics, minors in sociology and literary studies, and University Honors. Alivia competed on the Moot Court team for two years, participating in the pre-national tournament in Kentucky in fall 2024. She also received an Honors College study-abroad scholarship to study abroad in Florence, Italy. After graduation, Alivia plans to attend law school somewhere in Michigan to pursue a career as a lawyer. What Alivia appreciated most about The Honors College was having smaller classes that allowed her to form closer connections with her professors. She would like to thank her mom and dad for getting her to where she is today, her entire family for supporting her, and the lovely professors from the Department of Political Science who helped her pursue her degree in the field.





EMILY EVEREST

Emily Everest, from Lansing, MI, earned a B.S.N. in Nursing *cum laude* with University Honors. Emily worked for The Commons, the EMU COVID Testing Center, McLaren Greater Lansing Hospital, East Lansing Hannah Community Center, and the EMU Children's Institute. She also performed in the Marching Band, the Pep Band, and the Campus Band and was a member of Sigma Theta Tau, where she served as Vice President of Special Projects. Emily appreciated the small class sizes, the early class registration, and the fun experiences she received through the Honors College. After graduation, Emily will work at McLaren Greater Lansing as a nurse in the ICU step-down unit. Emily would like to thank her family, friends, and sorority sisters for all their love and support.

PAUL GANAGO

Paul Ganago, from Ann Arbor, MI, earned a B.A. in English *magna cum laude* with a concentration in linguistics, minors in psychology and Japanese language, and University Honors. Paul served as international coordinator for the Japanese Student Organization. What he appreciated most about The Honors College was the ease of meeting with advisors. After graduation, Paul plans to earn a master's in communication sciences and disorders at EMU. He would like to thank Nick Malendowski and Drs. Daniel Seely, Hitomi Oketani, and Sarah Quinn for showing him a way to apply everything he learned in a concrete way and for their help in applying to graduate school.





ANTONIA GITAU

Antonia Gitau, from Nairobi, Kenya, earned a B.S. in psychology with a minor in human biology. Antonia founded the student organization Lori's Hands and served as its president since its inception. She also worked as a research assistant in the Self-Regulation, Early Experience, and Development (SEED) Lab in the Department of Psychology and led two research projects over two years. Her academic excellence was recognized with a scholarship for her outstanding presentation at the Undergraduate Symposium. She also received the Francine Study Abroad Scholarship, which enabled her to study abroad in Ireland. After graduation, Antonia plans to attend medical school. Among her many experiences in The Honors College, Antonia most valued the weekly activities. She would like to extend her heartfelt thanks to her family for their unwavering support throughout her academic journey.

KAYLA GRACE

Kayla Grace, from Harrison Township, MI, earned a B.A. in criminology and criminal justice *summa cum laude* with a minor in psychology and University Honors. Kayla worked as a CGL, OGL, and OTeam member in the Office of Orientation and Transition and as a welcome specialist in the Admissions Welcome Center. She served on the board of the gymnastics club and studied abroad in London. Kayla received the Marilyn Horace Moore Award, the Marilyn of Monroe Award, the Women's Association Award, and the EUMFT Labor Lives Award. What Kayla appreciated most about The Honors College were all the opportunities it provided to her. After graduation, Kayla plans to work in the Disney College Program and then return to EMU to complete her master's degree. Kayla would like to thank her parents, friends, family, and professors for their unwavering support.





ELAINE HART

Elaine Hart, from Livonia, MI, earned a B.S. in biology *cum laude* with a concentration in ecology, organismal diversity, and evolution and University Honors. She received the Bert Johnson Biology Endowed Scholarship, the Meta Hellwig Special Study Scholarship, and the Stephen and Christine Liu Scholarship. After graduation, Lainey plans to continue doing conservation work before entering the master's degree program in ecosystem science and management at the University of Michigan. What Lainey appreciated most about The Honors College were the advisors and small classes. She would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her on all of her adventures and, especially, her parents for helping with school.

HEATHER HOLLBUSCH

Heather Hollbusch, from Canton, MI, earned a B.S. in biology *cum laude* with a concentration in cellular and molecular biology, a minor in biochemistry and University Honors.





ELIZABETH JOFFE

Elizabeth Joffe, from Ann Arbor, MI, earned a B.S.N. in nursing *summa cum laude* with University Honors, Departmental Honors in Nursing, and Highest Honors. Elizabeth served as communications editor, vice president, and then president of the Student Nurses Association. Elizabeth appreciated the Honors College for providing her with multiple opportunities to get involved in both research and leadership activities. After graduation, Elizabeth will work as a pediatric nurse at Michigan Medicine. She would like to thank her family, friends, and faculty for all their support throughout her time at Eastern.

MAYA LEWY

Maya Lewy, from Dearborn, MI, earned a B.S. in elementary early childhood teaching and learning *magna cum laude* with a concentration in early childhood comprehensive and University Honors. Maya participated in the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning, HighScope, and the National Society of Leadership and Success. After graduation, Maya plans to pursue a masters' degree in educational leadership and policy. What Maya appreciated most about The Honors College were the volunteer opportunities she participated in. Maya would like to thank her loving family, the College of Education, the Honors College staff, and her colleagues in the field for all of the support and encouragement that they gave her throughout her undergraduate experience.





HANNAH RUFFNER

Hannah Ruffner, from Southgate, MI, earned a B.S. in geotourism and historic preservation *magna cum laude* with a minor in history and University Honors. Hannah participated in Alpha Xi Delta, serving as Finance and Operations Vice President and Chapter Life Vice President. She also served as president of the Student History Association and worked as a student assistant for the Campus Life office. After graduation, Hannah plans to pursue a master's degree in her field. What Hannah appreciated most about The Honors College was the variety of classes available to her each year and the chance to visit Stratford with her peers. Hannah would like to thank her mom, dad, and siblings for their never-ending support.

ANGELA SCHNEIDER

Angela Schneider, from Delaware, OH, earned a B.S. in neuroscience *magna cum laude* with University Honors. Angela participated in psychology and neuroscience club activities, worked as a student employee for Crossroads Marketplace, the Holman Success Center, and the College Supports Program. After graduation, Angela will gain work experience at a hospital or school in Columbus, OH in a role related to child behavioral therapy and clinical child psychology. Angela would like to thank her mom and dad for their financial support, for helping her become a more grounded and developed individual ready for post-college life, and for always being dedicated in every part of her life.





ANNA SEIFERT

Anna Seifert, from Chelsea, MI, earned a B.S. in environmental science and society *summa cum laude* with a concentration in environment and society and University Honors. Anna served as vice president of the Sierra Club and interned with the National Youth Team of Citizens' Climate Lobby. After graduation, Anna plans to work for an environmental nonprofit organization. What Anna appreciated most about The Honors College were the early registration and extra advising support. Anna would like to thank her parents for all their support.

KATHERINE STEGER

Katherine Steger, from Canton, MI, earned a B.S. in psychology *summa cum laude* with a minor in human nutrition and University Honors. Katherine participated in EMU Vision and Voices and the SUPER Research Lab with Dr. Neilson, served as secretary of Psychology Club/ Psi Chi, volunteered with UPAS, and worked as a student assistant at the Behavioral Health Clinic. She received awards for Outstanding Service to the Psychology Department and recognition of commitment, research, and scholarly activities from The Honors College. What Katherine appreciated most about The Honors College was the individual attention from professors and the opportunity to expand her knowledge through honors projects. After graduation, she plans to attend graduate school and pursue a career in therapy. Katherine would like to thank her family for the social support and encouragement they provided throughout college.





CLAIRE STUARD

Claire Stuard, from Guilford, IN, earned a B.M.T. in music therapy *magna cum laude* with a minor in psychology and University Honors. Claire served in leadership roles with Mu Phi Epsilon and the Music Therapy Student Association and received the Alfio Pignotti Scholarship and the Brehm Fellowship. Claire is now a board-certified music therapist working in Madison, WI. What Claire appreciated most about The Honors Program were the small, discussion-based classes and unique opportunities for lectures and other out-of-classroom learning. Claire would like to thank her husband, Dj, for his unending support, as well as her father and siblings.

JENNA TARZWELL

Jenna Tarzwell, from Lapeer, MI, earned a B.A. in nonprofit and public administration *summa cum laude* with a minor in leadership and University Honors. Jenna was involved in Cru as an e-board member for 3 years, serving as vice president during her junior year. A Presidential Scholar, Jenna also volunteered in a variety of activities through the Honors College. During her last semester, Jenna traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in The Washington Center internship program. In 2024, she was named the Nonprofit and Public Administration Student of the Year Award. After graduation, Jenna plans to pursue a career in the nonprofit industry, with a specific focus on ministry and humanitarian aid. Jenna would like to thank The Honors College and, specifically, Dr. Ann Eisenberg, for making not one, but two of her biggest dreams become a reality.



KYNA MONIQUE VELILLA



Kyna Monique Velilla, from Canton, MI, earned a B.S.N. in nursing *magna cum laude* with University Honors. Kyna was a member of the women's club soccer team and Kapamilya, the Filipino student organization. What Kyna liked most about The Honors College was that it allowed her to have an extraordinary experience inside and outside of academics while she studied at EMU. After graduation, Kyna will work as a cardiac ICU nurse at Detroit Medical Center. Kyna would like to thank her parents, family, and friends for their unconditional love and support as she worked to achieve her dreams.

CIARA WHEELER

Ciara Wheeler, from Johnson, IA, earned a B.S. in computer science applied *summa cum laude* with University Honors. Ciara served as a captain of the swimming and diving team and as a CORE leader with Athletes in Action, earned Academic All-MAC Honors twice, and presented at the Undergraduate Symposium. After graduation, Ciara will return to Iowa to work as a salesforce developer for the Veteran Evaluation Services team at Maximus, Inc. What Ciara appreciated most about The Honors College was the push to become involved in unique ways on campus that she would not have known about. Ciara would like to thank her dad and mom, Ron and Paulette, for their constant support from afar and her teammates and coaches who pushed her to grow as an athlete, student, and person throughout her time at Eastern.



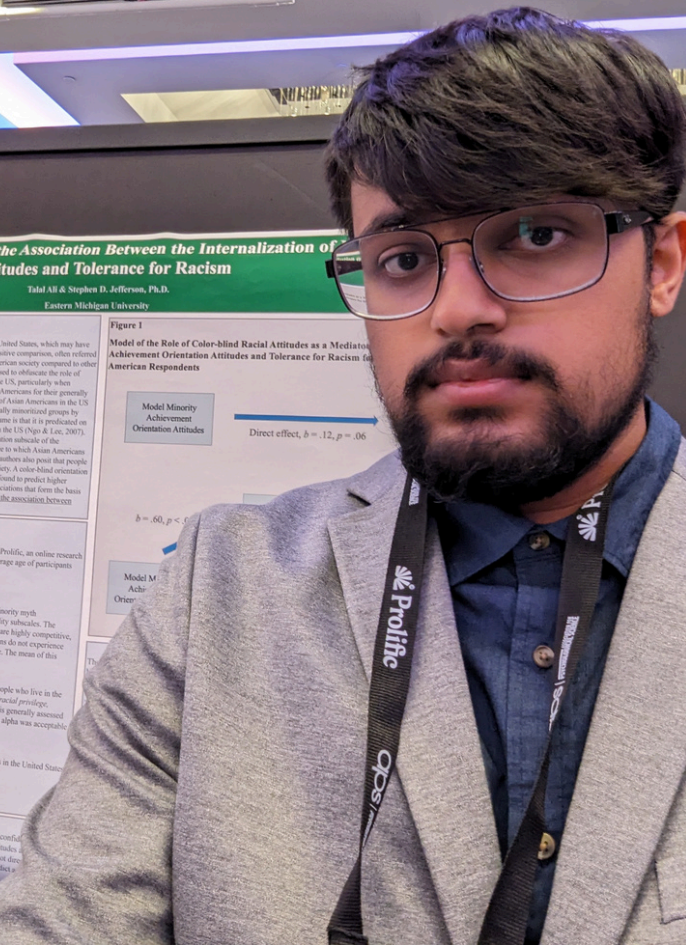
WINTER 2025 GRADUATES



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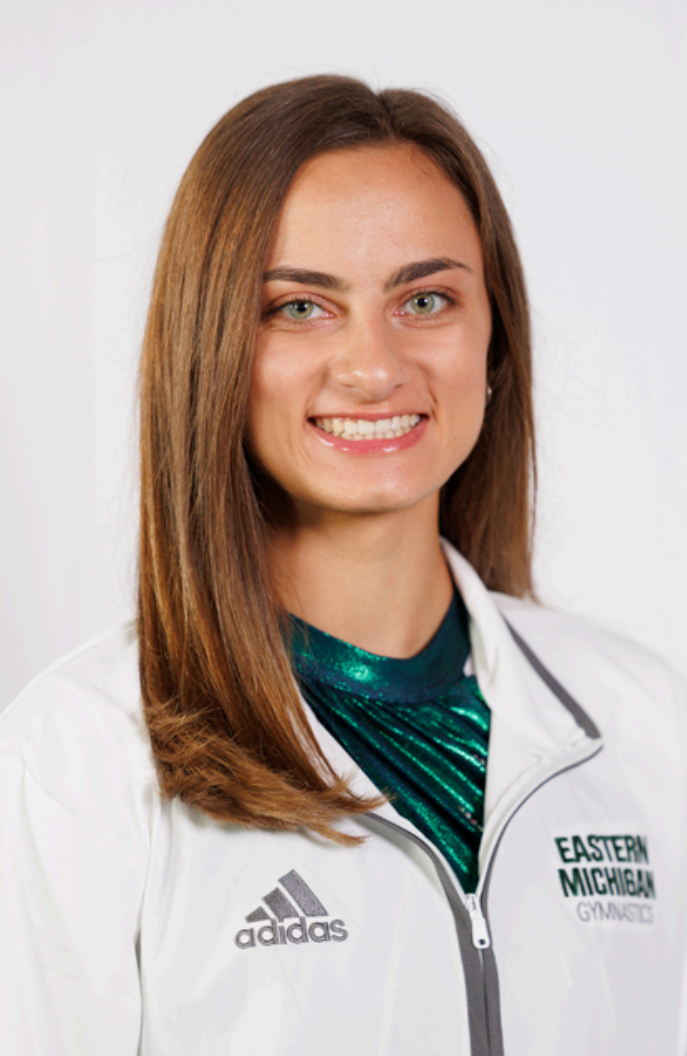
Talal Ali from Ypsilanti, MI, earned a B.S. in neuroscience *summa cum laude* with a minor in biochemistry, University Honors, Departmental Honors in Neuroscience, and Highest Honors. Talal worked as a supplemental instructor and tutor at the Holman Success Center, participated in research on genetics with Dr. David Kass, research on psychology with Dr. Stephen Jefferson, and EEG research with the Dr. Naomi Hashimoto and the B.R.A.I.N. lab. After graduation, Talal will take a gap year while applying to medical school. What Talal appreciated most about The Honors College was the easy access to Honors classes and the better learning environment they provided. Talal would like to thank his mother, father, brother, and grandparents for their support, financial and otherwise.

HIBA ALKHUZAEE

Hiba Alkhuzae, from Garden City, MI, earned a B.A. in political science *cum laude* with a concentration in comparative politics and international relations, a minor in information assurance security architecture, and Departmental Honors in Political Science. Hiba participated in an Internship at the U.S. Department of State, a fellowship at the Carnegie Mellon University IT Lab, where she worked along classmates to publish a cybersecurity analysis of Anchorage port in Alaska, and a fellowship with the city of Ann Arbor that focused on a carbon neutrality plan. She was also a nation representative for and vice presiden of EMU's Model U.N. club. What Hiba appreciated most about The Honors College were the academic support and advising offered during and after office hours by Dr. Eisenberg and other Honors College staff. After graduation, Hiba will seek employment in a position that aligns with her ambition to serve in national security. Hiba would like to thank her mother and family for their emotional support and her friend Malaak for being an academic inspiration.



GIANNA ANTONIO



Gianna Antonio, from Novi, MI, earned a B.S. in neuroscience *magna cum laude* with a minor in psychology and University Honors. She was involved in leadership with SJB Campus Ministry and the Neuroscience Interdisciplinary Club. She also competed on the varsity gymnastics team and received the Commissioner's Award from the Mid-American Conference and the Ella Dover IMPACT Award. After graduation, Gianna will earn her optometry degree at the University of Detroit Mercy. What Gianna appreciated most about The Honors College were the extra, in-depth learning opportunities offered both in and out of the classroom. She would like to thank her parents and family, her EMU gymnastics coaches and teammates, her athletic-academic advisor and athletic trainer, all the professors, faculty, and staff that she had the pleasure of learning from, her St. John the Baptist community, all of the new friends that she met over the last four years, and The Honors College for providing all of the love and support that she needed to help her through her undergraduate journey. She would not be standing where she is today without their encouragement and help. They made her years at EMU the time of her life!

MOHAMMAD ARJAMAND ALI

Mohammad Arjamand Ali, from Lahore, Pakistan, earned a B.S. in computer science applied *summa cum laude* with a minor in mathematics and Departmental Honors in Computer Science. Mohammad participated in four internships in software engineering and information technology, worked as a research assistant for the Department of Computer Science for over two years, and received the Doc M. Mathematics Endowed Scholarship two years in a row. What Mohammad appreciated most about The Honors College was the support it provided through funding and resources for his work in research throughout college. After graduation, Mohammad will work as a software engineer at Truss.



NITHRA ARULKUMAR



Nithra Arulkumar, from Tamil Nadu, India, earned a B.S. in computer science applied *cum laude* with a minor in general business and University Honors. She served as president of the Indian Students Association, worked as a student admission officer for the Office of International Admissions, and completed internships at Caresoft and United Wholesale Mortgage. Nithra received the Emerald Scholarship and several internship recognitions. After graduation, Nithra plans to pursue a master's degree in management to build on her leadership experiences and further develop her skills in business and organizational strategy. What Nithra appreciated most about The Honors College were the sense of community and the opportunity to engage in meaningful, interdisciplinary learning. She would like to thank her family, professors, mentors, and peers for their unwavering support, encouragement, and belief in her potential.

JOUD BAMEHRIZ

Joud Bamehriz, from Canton, MI, earned a B.S. in engineering physics *summa cum laude* with a minor in mathematics and University Honors. Joud worked as a peer writing consultant and a research assistant specializing in computational fluid dynamics. She received multiple awards from the Department of Physics and was inducted into Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honor Society. After graduation, Joud plans to attend flight school to earn a private pilot license and then pursue a PhD in aerospace engineering. What she valued most about The Honors College was its warm and welcoming community. Joud is deeply grateful for her family's continuous support and her friends' constant encouragement.



NAOMI BARBOUR



Naomi Barbour, from Adrian, MI, earned a B.A. in political science *magna cum laude* with a concentration in public law and judicial politics, minors in public and nonprofit administration and criminology and criminal justice, and University Honors and Departmental Honors in Political Science. She participated in and led several student organizations, including serving as president of the Leftist Student Coalition, vice president of Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society, and vice president of Planned Parenthood Generation Action. Naomi was awarded the Student Gold Medallion in Outstanding Volunteerism in 2024 and Exemplary Leadership in 2025, and was a recipient of the MLK Student Scholarship, Sidlik Leadership Scholarship, a Women in Philanthropy grant, and the Undergraduate Research Stimulus Program. After graduation, Naomi will attend the University of Maryland and pursue a Master's degree in Public Policy, with a specialization in social policy. What Naomi appreciated most about being in The Honors College was the benefits and support extended to students. Throughout all of her achievements, the Honors College has stood by her side and provided her with the exact direction she needed. She would like to thank her parents for everything, her family for their love and support, and her professors, who enriched her beyond her expectations.

ANNA BENNETT

Anna Bennett, from Clio, MI, earned a B.S. in geotourism and historic preservation *summa cum laude* with a minor in history, University Honors, Departmental Honors in Geotourism and Historic Preservation, and Highest Honors. Anna studied abroad in Italy, participated in the Honors trip to Stratford, and helped restore a historic lighthouse at Beaver Island for a field school. She received the College of Arts and Sciences' Dale and Gloria Heydlauff Undergraduate Symposium Student Excellence Scholarship for 2024-25 and an Honors Senior Research Fellowship for her work on the Michigan suffrage movement. After graduation, Anna will enter the master's program in historic preservation at EMU before pursuing a career as a program director or museum textile curator. Anna would like to thank her parents for their eternal support and encouragement.





CASSIE BERGIN

Cassie Bergin, from Islip Terrace, NY, earned a B.S. in biology *magna cum laude* with a concentration in cell and molecular biology and University Honors. Cassie was a member of the gymnastics team, where she earned the 2023 Mid-Atlantic Conference (MAC) Commissioner's Award and recognition as a member of the Gymnastics Academic All-MAC team from 2022-2024. After graduation, Cassie will take a gap year while she applies to medical school for the fall of 2026. Cassie would like to thank her mom and dad for the continuous support they provide.

LIDYA BERHANU

Lidya Berhanu, from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, earned a B.S. in biology *magna cum laude* with a concentration in cell and molecular biology and University Honors. Lidya worked as a supplemental instructor and tutor for Organic Chemistry II, served as president of GOLEMU and treasurer of the International Students Association, and participated in Dr. Liepman's research lab for three semesters. After graduation, Lidya will study for the MCAT and apply to medical school. What Lidya appreciated most about The Honors College were the small classes and the friendships she made during her time at EMU. She would like to thank her professors, mentors, and friends for their support and encouragement throughout her journey.



SAVANNAH BERNER



Savannah Berner, from Frankfort, IL, earned a B.B.A. in economics *cum laude* with a minor in finance and University Honors. Savannah was a member of the Financial Management Association and the women's lacrosse, where she earned the Teammate of the Year award in 2024. After graduation, Savannah plans to work in finance. Savannah would like to thank her family for everything they have done for her and her teammates and coaches for making her experience at Eastern so special.

AIDAN BONNEY

Aidan Bonney, from Brighton, MI, earned a B.B.A. in finance *magna cum laude* with University Honors. He worked as the treasurer for the board game club Dungeons and Dreadnaughts and as the business manager for the *Eastern Echo*. After graduation, Aidan plans to continue to work at a financial institution to gain additional experience in the field. What Aidan appreciated most about The Honors College were the excellent classes and the unique opportunities the College provided. Aidan would like to thank his parents for continually pushing him to succeed and excel in his studies.





ABIGAYLE BREITNER

Abigayle Breitner, from Ida, MI, earned a B.A. in anthropology and history *summa cum laude* with a minor in social studies, Departmental Honors in Anthropology, and Highest Honors. Abigayle presented her research at the First Conference on Global Indigenous Studies from Multiple Perspectives and at the EMU Undergraduate Symposium on three occasions. She also served on the executive board of the Anthropology Club, attended a student research and ethnographic field school, worked as a supplemental instructor, and studied abroad in Italy. She received the 2024 Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology Endowed Scholarship, the Opperman Travel History Award, an Honors Undergraduate Research Fellowship, an Honors Study Abroad Scholarship, and an Honors Travel Grant, was recognized by the University as a Woman of Excellence, and was named to the Dean's List for 8 semesters. After graduation, Abigayle will continue her undergraduate research before applying to graduate school. What Abigayle appreciated most about The Honors College were the opportunities provided to her and the relationships formed between a group of tight-knit individuals. She would like to thank God, her family, and her friends for their constant love and support and Dr. María Luz García and Dr. Ronald Delph for their insightful guidance and encouragement.

ANNALYSE BROGAN

Annalyse Brogan, from Milford, MI, earned a B.S. in biology *cum laude* with a concentration in ecology, organismal diversity, and evolution, University Honors, and Departmental Honors in Biology. Annalyse participated in undergraduate research in the arachnid lab and received a Woman of Excellence award. After graduation, she plans to pursue a masters degree in ecology. What Annalyse appreciated most about The Honors College were all the opportunities that facilitated activities, including her field research in Colorado. She would like to thank all of the biology faculty members, the arachnid lab, and her friends and family, especially her mom, dad, partner Zachary, and cat Boo, for all their support.





JOE BROWN

Joe Brown, from Ann Arbor, MI, earned a B.S. in psychology and criminology and criminal justice *summa cum laude* with a concentration in law enforcement and Departmental Honors in Psychology. Joe conducted clinical-experimental research in the Department of Psychology, studied abroad in Europe and the United Kingdom, was an EMU Edge program graduate, and received an Honors Undergraduate Research Fellowship, an Undergraduate Research Stimulus Grant, and the Criminal Justice Greg O'Dell Endowed Scholarship. After graduation, Joe plans to work in the community with individuals who have serious mental illness and continue conducting research before he applies to graduate school.

CALLAHAN BURNS

Callahan Burns, from Almont, MI, earned a B.S. in public health *magna cum laude* with a concentration in community health education, a minor in sustainability, and University Honors. A Presidential Scholar, Callahan joined Emerald Harmony, an *a capella* singing group, in her freshman year and served as the organization's treasurer for two years. She also joined ETA Sigma Gamma Health Education Honor Society. In The Honors College, Callahan enjoyed the small class sizes and early registration perks. After graduation, Callahan plans to start her career in public health. She would like to thank her friends and family for their countless support.



KALLIA CARLSON



Kallia Carlson, from Pinckney, MI, earned a B.S. in psychology *summa cum laude* with minors in biochemistry and human biology and University Honors. Kallia was involved with Special Olympics beginning in her freshman year, served as president of the Pre-PA Club, and received the Women of Excellence Award. What Kallia appreciated most The Honors College was the financial freedom it afforded her as a Presidential Scholar. After graduation, Kallia will enter the physician assistant program at Wingate University in North Carolina. She would like to thank her family and friends for all their support and memories made along the way.

VICTORIA CECI

Victoria Ceci, from Westland, MI, earned a B.S. in data science and analytics and political science *summa cum laude* with a concentration in American politics and public administration and University Honors. Victoria received the Women of Excellence Award and the McWilliams Memorial Scholarship. What Victoria appreciated most about The Honors College were the small classes that enabled her to form close relationships with her professors and peers. After graduation, Victoria plans to work in survey or market research, ideally with a focus on political public opinion. She would like to thank her family for all of their love and support that helped shape her into the person she is today.





ZAYAN CHAUDHRY

Zayan Chaudhry, from Dubuque, IA, earned a B.A. in anthropology *magna cum laude* with a minor in language, literature, and writing and Departmental Honors in Anthropology. Zayan served as vice president of the EMU Anthropology Club, presented research at several conferences, and received multiple university awards. After graduation, Zayan plans to continue his field work in Ohio and prepare for doctoral programs. What Zayan appreciated most about The Honors College was the support of advisors. He would like to thank his family for their financial and personal support and his faculty mentor Dr. María Luz García.

RILEY COFFEE

Riley Coffee, from Southgate, MI, earned a B.A. in history and political science *cum laude* with a concentration in American politics and public administration and University Honors. Riley worked as lead student programming fellow in The Honors College and was a member of the McNair Scholars Program, which took him to conferences around the country. After graduation, Riley will pursue a master's degree in higher education student affairs at EMU while he works as a graduate assistant in The Honors College. Riley would like to thank all the dedicated staff at the Honors College, Dr. John Wegner, and his family for their unwavering support.



KRYSTAL CORREAL-TIPPIE



Krystal Correal-Tippie, from Tampa, FL, earned a B.A. in international affairs *summa cum laude* with Departmental Honors in International Affairs. She studied Spanish and Japanese and is currently studying Chinese with the intent to work with companies internationally. After graduation, Krystal plans to work in non-governmental organizations that work to address humanitarian or environmental concerns while she considers returning to school to earn a master's degree. What Krystal appreciated most about The Honors College was the resilience, determination and compassion of staff who assisted her while she was going through an unexpected illness. If not for them, she would not be here today. She would like to thank the Dean of The Honors College, Dr. Eisenberg, for her determination to maintain contact during that illness, the Department of Political Science and its inspirational professors, including Dr. Soltani, Dr. Stahler-Sholk, and Dr. Kullberg and the dearly departed Dr. Krause. She would also like to thank her friends, Brooke, Paola, and Bob, as well as family members, Jason, her husband, and their children, Loki and Eevie, for their support through her endeavors.

EMMA CROY

Emma Croy, from Carleton, MI, earned a B.S.W. in social work *summa cum laude* with a minor in special education and Departmental Honors in Social Work. What Emma appreciated most about The Honors College was the dedication to building community. Networking events, small get-togethers, and community volunteer events provided a way to meet new people. After graduation, Emma plans to pursue a master's degree in social work with a focus on children and families. Ultimately, she intends to work in a child welfare setting. Emma would like to thank her mom, sister, brother, and grandparents for their unwavering support throughout her journey. She would also like to thank the Honors College for reconnecting her to Girls on the Run, where she has helped volunteer and coach. Finally, she would like to thank the School of Social Work and the dedicated individuals who helped her succeed at EMU.



HAMZAH DAJANI



Hamzah Dajani, from Amman, Jordan, earned a B.B.A. in finance and accounting *magna cum laude* with University Honors. He served as EMU's Student Body President for the 2023-2025 academic year and received the College of Business Student of the Year Award along with Eagle Ambassador and Exemplary Student Leadership awards. After graduation, Hamzah will work in banking in New York City with Bank of America. Hamzah would like to thank his family, friends and EMU faculty for their support and confidence in him.

JACQUELINE DEINEK

Jacqueline Deinek, from Shelby Township, MI, earned a B.A. in international affairs *magna cum laude* with Departmental Honors in International Affairs. She was involved in Model United Nations and received the Woman of Excellence award. After graduation, Jacqueline plans to pursue a J.D. degree. What Jacqueline appreciated most about The Honors College were the helpful advisors in the College. She would like to thank her family for supporting her education.



APRIL DEMBINSKI



April Dembinski, from Chelsea, MI, earned a B.S. in biology *summa cum laude* with a concentration in cell and molecular biology, a minor in biochemistry, and University Honors, Departmental Honors in Biology, and Highest Honors. April participated in research in microbiology for two years, joined Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, and received the Women of Excellence Award, the Bert Johnson Scholarship, and the Barry A. Fish Undergraduate Symposium Endowed Scholarship. After graduation, April plans to gain additional research experience before applying to Ph.D. programs in cell and molecular biology. What April appreciated most about The Honors College were the small classes that enabled her to form lasting connections with faculty. April sends her sincere thanks to her family for their unwavering support in her pursuit of a career in science and to her faculty mentor, Dr. Price, for his invaluable guidance in navigating research and preparation for graduate school.

DEHLIA DERIEMAKER

Dehlia DeRiemaker, from Macomb, MI, earned a B.S. in biology with a concentration in cellular and molecular biology, and University Honors and Departmental Honors in Biology. Dehlia studied abroad in the Bahamas, volunteered in Thailand, and served as President and Founder of the Pre-Veterinary club. She received the Emerald Scholarship, the Honor's College Founders Award, the Bert Johnson Award, and the Undergraduate Research Stimulus Award. After graduation, Dehlia plans to attend the Royal Veterinary College at the University of London and to complete her Accelerated Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine. What she appreciated most about the Honors College was the opportunity to complete an Honors Thesis. She would like to thank her parents for all of their support. She would also like to thank Dr. Greenwald, Dr. Liepman, and Dr. Judd for all of their help with her research.



REBECCA EARLY



Rebecca Early, from South Lyon, MI, earned a B.S. in elementary early childhood teaching and learning *summa cum laude* with a concentration in comprehensive elementary education and University Honors. Rebecca mentored incoming students through the Mentor Collective, joined Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society for Educators, and made the Dean's List every semester. After graduation, Rebecca will pursue a job as an elementary school teacher. She would love to teach third grade, but is open to teaching any grade. What Rebecca appreciated most about The Honors College were the small classes, registering early, and the opportunity to complete honors projects and dive deeper into her field of education. Rebecca would like to thank her mother Brenda and father John for their financial support, as she would not have been able to complete college without them. She would also like to thank the rest of her family for their support during her endeavor to becoming an educator.

COLAE EASON

Colae Eason, from Romulus, MI, earned a B.S. in journalism *summa cum laude* with minors in dance and Africology and African American studies and University Honors. A Presidential Scholar, Colae was a member of the Black Honors Student Organization (BHSO), a news reporter for *The Eastern Echo*, a presenter at the Undergraduate Symposium, a member of the committee for the Women of Color Symposium, a dancer for Company E, and a spring 2025 initiate of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She also received the 2023 Member of the Year award from BHSO and was named to the Dean's List on multiple occasions. After graduation, Colae will earn a master's in journalism from the University of Illinois. What Colae appreciated most about The Honors College was the abundance of resources available to her. Colae would like to thank her friends and family for their unwavering support during her college journey, the EMU faculty who used their resources to help her, and the university for recognizing her as a Presidential Scholar in 2021.





ABDURRAHMAN ELDER

AbdurRahman Elder, from Canton, MI, earned a B.A. in public relations *summa cum laude* with a minor in electronic media and film studies and University Honors. AbdurRahman competed with the Forensics team, performed in theater shows, and gave over 200 tours to prospective students. What AbdurRahman appreciated most about The Honors College was the community. After graduation, AbdurRahman plans to work in media as a journalist and filmmaker. He would that to thank his family and the Eastern community for helping him get this far.

NATALIE FALERIOS

Natalie Falerios, from Chelsea, MI, earned a B.S. in mechanical engineering *cum laude* with a minor in computer science and Departmental Honors in Mechanical Engineering. Natalie served as chief engineer for EMU's Baja SAE Racing club and president of the Society of Women Engineers. After graduation, Natalie plans to work as an engineer at Williams International in Pontiac, MI. What Natalie appreciated most about The Honors College was the opportunity to learn and explore more about her major outside of classes. Natalie would like to thank everyone in the Department of Mechanical Engineering as well as her friends and family for all their support.





LYNDSEY GOLEN

Lyndsey Golen, from Monroe, MI, earned a B.S. in sociology *magna cum laude* with a minor in psychology and Transfer Honors. Lyndsey worked as a Student Fellow at The Honors College, and received the Women of Excellence Award. After graduation, Lyndsey plans to attend graduate school in organizational behavior and human resources. What Lyndsey appreciated most about The Honors College was working in a supportive environment and meeting people who provided new opportunities for her. She would like to thank her mom, three cats, and her dog for supporting her and her friends for being there throughout this journey!

SASHA GRINDALL

Sasha Jade Grindall, from Jackson, MI, earned a B.A. in English *summa cum laude* with a concentration in creative writing, a minor in simulation, animation, and gaming, and University Honors. Sasha published three poems and received the Paul Bruss Creative Writing Award and a Department of English scholarship in 2023. After graduation, Sasha plans to work toward a master's degree at EMU and work as a graduate assistant. What Sasha appreciated most about The Honors College were the opportunities presented to Honors students. They would like to thank their parents for their unconditional love and support and know they would not be the person they are today without constant reminders to be kind, be brave, and be smart. Sasha loves both her parents very much!





ESTELLE HACKOS

Estelle Hackos, from Broomfield, CO, earned a B.A. in political science *magna cum laude* with a minor in economics and University Honors. Estelle served as a co-captain of EMU Forensics, president of the American Marketing Association, Speaker of the Senate for Student Government, and a cycling instructor for the Rec/IM. She also received the Student Government Presidential Award and the Women of Excellence Award and was recognized as Novice National Champion in Persuasive Speaking. What Estelle appreciated most about The Honors College was the community she found along the way. Estelle would like to thank EMU Forensics, The Honors College, and her incredible professors for making this journey one to remember.

BENJAMIN HADDAD

Benjamin Haddad, from Plymouth, MI, earned a B.S. in neuroscience *cum laude* with University Honors and Departmental Honors in Neuroscience. Ben conducted lung cancer research with Dr. Hedeel Evans' team, presented the team's work at the Undergraduate Symposium on multiple occasions and the 2024 Discover BMB conference in San Antonio, participated in the Teaching and Learning Together (TaLT) committee, and received an Honors Undergraduate Research Fellowship. After graduation, Ben will take a gap year to work as an endoscopy technician at Huron Gastro while he applies to medical school. What Ben appreciated most about The Honors College were the highly supportive community of peers and faculty. He would like to thank Dr. Hedeel Evans, Dr. Ann Eisenberg, the Honors College and the Department of Chemistry, and his family for the unwavering support, mentorship, and friendship they provided throughout his undergraduate studies.





GRACE HALCROW

Grace Halcrow, from Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada, earned a B.S. in biology *cum laude* with a concentration in ecology, organismal diversity, and evolution and University Honors. Grace participated in research with freshwater jellyfish and native fish passes and received the Meta Hellwig Undergraduate Research Fellowship and the Honors Undergraduate Research Fellowship. After graduation, Grace plans to a master's degree in biology at EMU. What she appreciated most about The Honors College were the research opportunities and support for transfer students. Grace would like to thank her parents, grandparents, brother, and partner, Alaina for their unwavering support and love.

NICHOLAS HALEY

Nicholas Haley, from Flushing, MI, earned a B.S. in mathematics *magna cum laude* with a minor in international business and University Honors, Departmental Honors in Mathematics, and Highest Honors. Nicholas participated in research, studied abroad at ICN Business School in France, served in CKI for many years, and was named to the Dean's List every semester. After graduation, Nicholas will enter the master's program in applied mathematics at EMU. What Nicholas appreciated most about The Honors College were meeting wonderful people and learn so much more about subjects that interested him. He would like to thank his family for their emotional and financial support, Dr. Andrew Ross for mentoring his Senior Project, Dr. E. for her guidance in meeting honors requirements, and all the friends he made along the way.





MCKENZIE HARRIS

McKenzie Harris, from Rockwood, MI, earned a B.A. in secondary education/language, literature, and writing *summa cum laude* with a minor in psychology teaching and University Honors. McKenzie participated in the organization Secondary Education Empowerment Association. After graduation, McKenzie plans to work as an English or psychology teacher in a middle or high school classroom. What McKenzie appreciated most about The Honors College was the community of people, both students and faculty, who supported one another and made college a wonderful experience. She would like to thank her parents and siblings for always supporting her no matter the circumstance and for always reminding her of the strength she has within. She would also like to thank Dr. Seely, Dr. Dobbins, and Hannah Kearney for their constant support in her education and for promoting safe and nurturing classrooms that helped motivate the teacher she wants to become.

JULIETTE HARRISON

Juliette Harrison, from Belleville, Michigan, earned a B.M. in music performance *summa cum laude* with a concentration in vocal performance and Departmental Honors in Music Performance. Juliette was a member of the service sorority Omega Phi Alpha and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and received the Women of Excellence Award, the Robert Fountain Memorial Honorarium from the Macro Analysis Creative Research Organization, the Rosemary Russell Memorial Award from the Michigan Federation of Music Clubs, the Frances R. Warren Scholarship, the Women's Association Scholarship, the Muriel Gilbert Scholarship, and the Jessie Dillman Endowed Scholarship. She also qualified for NATS Nationals in 2022, worked as a music theory tutor on campus, and displayed a passion for teaching music. After graduation, Juliette plans to continue teaching piano and voice while building her studio and earning additional teaching certifications. What Juliette appreciated most about The Honors College was the opportunity to dive deeper into subjects that are incredibly useful for her field of study, including vocal and piano pedagogy. The College also enabled her to complete other trainings and courses outside of her degree, including attending Shenandoah Conservatory's Vocal Pedagogy Institute in VA, where she earned 3 graduate credits with the help of an Honors College Travel Grant. Juliette would like to thank her family for always supporting her dreams, the incredible faculty at the EMU School of Music and Dance for all their feedback and instruction, and the staff at The Honors College for all their help as she sought departmental honors.



IRSAH HASAN



Irsah Hasan, from Canton, MI, earned a B.S. in biology *summa cum laude* with a concentration in general biology and University Honors. A Presidential Scholar, Irsah worked as a Student Fellow at the Honors College, the Holman Success Center, and the University Writing Center, served as president of Active Minds, and worked on research with Dr. Aaron Liepman. After graduation, Irsah will take a gap year while she applies to dental school. What Irsah appreciated most about The Honors College were the small classes that allowed her to build closer connections with fellow students and professors. She would like to thank her family for their endless support and Dr. Liepman for being an awesome research mentor.

EMILY HOLTHUS

Emily Holthus, from South Lyon, MI, earned a B.S. in psychology *summa cum laude* with a minor in art and University Honors. Emily worked at the Department of Psychology SEED Lab, presented research at the Undergraduate Symposium in 2024 and 2025, and received the Emerald Scholarship. After graduation, Emily plans to apply to doctoral programs in psychology with concentrations in sleep and neurocognitive research on dreams. What she appreciated most about The Honors College were the discussion-based courses, where she met many amazing people and professors. Emily would like to thank her family for their unwavering support and love throughout these past four years.



MEG HOOTS



Meg Hoots, from West Linn, OR, earned a B.S. in information assurance and cyber defense *magna cum laude* with University Honors. She worked as a tour guide and coordinator in the Office of Admissions office and as a peer tutor in the cybersecurity lab, and was a member of the Information Assurance Student Association. What Meg appreciated most about The Honors College were the honors classes. Meg would like to thank her classmates and professors for their support.

HANNAH IHRIG

Hannah Ihrig, from Wadsworth, OH, earned a B.A. in arts and entertainment management *summa cum laude* with a minor in marketing and University Honors. She was a member of the EMU Forensics team, served as media director for the student organization Amplifying the Arts, and worked with the EMU Foundation and Alumni Association. Hannah received the Student Gold Medallion Award for Exemplary Workplace Integrity and the Women of Excellence Award. She also received numerous awards on the national circuit as a competitor with EMU Forensics. After graduation, Hannah plans to take a gap year before she applies to master's programs in communication or marketing, where she intends to work as a graduate assistant for a forensics team. What Hannah appreciated most about The Honors College was how welcoming everyone was. She would like to thank everyone at EMU who supported her through these last four years and her parents, without whom she couldn't have done any of this.





WAZNI JABER

Wazni Jaber, from Ann Arbor, MI, earned a B.B.A. in finance with University Honors and Departmental Honors in Finance. Wazni participated in the Eagle Investment Fund and served as vice president of the Finance Club. What Wazni appreciated most about The Honors College were the class projects. After graduation, Wazni plans to work in strategy and operations consulting with a focus on enhancing efficiency and growth for corporate firms. Wazni is grateful to God, his parents, and his professors for their support.

JESSE JOHN

Jesse John, from Macomb, MI, earned a B.S. in psychology *summa cum laude* with minors in human sexuality and women's and gender studies, University Honors, Departmental Honors in Psychology, and Highest Honors. A Presidential Scholar, Jesse served as president of the Psychology Club, founded the Honors Crochet and Knitting Service Club, became program manager for EMU Changing the Cycle, and received the Student Gold Medallion Exemplary Leadership Award, the Robert Anderson Best Psychology Student Award, and the Dr. Everett and Mrs. Helen Marshall Endowed Scholarship. After graduation, Jesse plans to earn a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ. What Jesse appreciated most about being in The Honors College was the inclusive and encouraging community. They would like to thank their family and friends for their constant support and encouragement.





JALEN JONES

Jalen Jones, from Westland, MI, earned a B.B.A. in marketing *magna cum laude* with University Honors. Jalen served as vice president of the Collegiate DECA chapter and as a peer academic coach for the Holman Success Center. He also received the Dr. Russel Ogden Scholarship. After graduation, Jalen plans to teach at Edward Brooke Charter Schools in Boston, MA. What Jalen appreciated most about The Honors College was the community that accompanied membership. He would like to thank his mom and family for being extremely supportive throughout the years as well as Scott Kardel for helping him with the transition into a new career path.

JEN KOCO

Jen Koco, from Canton, MI, earned a B.S. in interior design *magna cum laude* with a minor in general business and Departmental Honors in Interior Design. Jen worked with Dr. Diane Guevara on a publication entitled, *Utilizing Virtual Reality Before, versus During, the COVID-19 Pandemic*, and held many positions in the interior design student organization, including co-president, social media secretary, and class representative. After graduation, Jen plans to seek a commercial-based interior design job and obtain a LEED Green Associate and NCIDQ certification. What Jen appreciated most about The Honors College was completing the work associated with her Honors pathway. She would like to thank her parents for supporting her financially throughout college and helping her with various school activities and functions.



ALYSSA KOWALSKI



Alyssa Kowalski, from Brighton, MI, earned a B.A. in secondary education history and geography comprehensive *summa cum laude* with University Honors. Alyssa completed a study-abroad program in Poland entitled, *World War II and the Holocaust in Poland*, and another in Germany entitled, *Nazi Germany*. She received the Women of Excellence Award and multiple awards at the History Honors Ceremony and Reception. After graduation, Alyssa plans to become a secondary school history teacher while pursuing a master's degree in history. What Alyssa appreciated most about The Honors College were the Honors classes and the community that formed in those classes. She would like to thank her mother and father for their continued support throughout her life and her degree.

CAMILLE LEHRMANN

Camille Lehrmann, from Ann Arbor, MI, earned a B.S. in psychology *summa cum laude* with a minor in Spanish and University Honors, Departmental Honors in Psychology, and Highest Honors. Camille served as president of the Food Recovery Network and conducted research in the SEED Lab and the Parents for Healthy Kids lab. After graduation, Camille plans to work as a part-time research assistant for a few years before applying to Ph.D. programs in psychology. What Camille appreciated most about The Honors College were the many opportunities to connect with faculty and other students. She would like to thank her parents for their continued support during her college career.





RHEMA LEVERAJ

Rhema Leveraj, from Bengaluru, India, earned a B.S. in clinical sciences *magna cum laude* with University Honors. At Rhema participated in the Honors Crochet and Knitting Service Club, the Pre-Med Club, and the Clinical Lab Science Organization. What Rhema appreciated most about The Honors College was the support and sense of community. After graduation, Rhema will pursue a master's degree in cell and molecular biology at the University of Toledo for a master's in cell and molecular biology. Rhema would like to thank her parents for their support and prayers.

HOLLY LOURIA

Holly Louria, from Trenton, MI, earned a B.S. in psychology and neuroscience *summa cum laude* with University Honors. Holly studied abroad at the University of Reading in England, served as a student vice president for Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, and conducted research with Dr. Heyl-Clegg of the Department of Chemistry. After graduation, Holly plans to apply to graduate programs in behavioral neuroscience. What Holly appreciated most about The Honors College were early registration and the friends she made over the years. Holly would like to thank her family, friends, and dog Rex for supporting her over the last four years and helping her continue to chase her dreams.





WYNTON LOVE

Wynton Love, from Detroit, MI, earned a B.S. in information assurance and cyber defense *summa cum laude* with University Honors. A Presidential Scholar, Wynton participated in Athletes in Action, served as vice president for Special Olympics at EMU, and represented the university and the GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology on the Amazon Prime *College Tour* show. What Wynton appreciated most about The Honors College was the community of people he met through the Presidential Scholars program. After graduation, Wynton plans on working to get his CompTIA Security+ certification to pair with his degree and to minister to kids in Missouri with Kids Across America. Wynton would like to thank God, his family, friends, Special Olympics, Athletes in Action, the soccer team, the lacrosse team, the dance team, and especially the cheer team for their love and support during his college tenure. Go Eagles!

PENELOPE MANKEY

Penelope Mankey, from Roseville, MI, earned a B.S. in information assurance and cyber defense *summa cum laude* with University Honors. She served as secretary of the Information Assurance Student Association and earned her CompTIA Security+ certification. After graduation, Penelope plans to work in security operations as an incident responder, or security engineer. What Penelope appreciated most about The Honors College was that her Honors professors cared deeply about the subjects they taught. She would like to thank her mother and father for their total sacrifice and support during her educational journey and the GameAbove College for all of the professional development opportunities provided to her.





LOUISE MISSOME ENGOHANG

Louise Missome Engohang, from Canton, OH, earned a B.A. in political science and philosophy *magna cum laude* with a concentration in public law and judicial politics and University Honors, Departmental Honors in Philosophy, and Highest Honors. Louise served as co-captain for the EMU Forensics team, secretary of the National Black Pre-law Student Association, Senator and Senate Parliamentarian of Student Government, and student member of the EMU Public Safety Oversight Committee. She was also a member of the Model U.N. and Moot Court teams and worked for TRIO SSS supporting first-gen/low-income students and students with disabilities. Louise earned the 2024 Esther Walker Barnard Philosophy Scholarship, the 2024 Philosophy Undergraduate Essay Prize, and a 2025 Women of Excellence Award. After graduation, Louise will attend Harvard University on a full-ride scholarship to obtain a master's in public policy before going to law school. She would like to thank her family for their unwavering support and all past and present members of the EMU forensics team for giving her a home on campus.

NAJIYAH MOHIUDDIN

Najiyah Mohiuddin, from Canton, MI, earned a B.A. in English *summa cum laude* with a concentration in creative writing, a minor in psychology, and University Honors. Najiyah worked as a writing consultant at the University Writing Center and a graphic designer for the *Eastern Echo*, received the Paul Bruss Creative Writing Award, and served on board of the Muslim Student Association. What Najiyah appreciated most about The Honors College were the small classes. After graduation, Najiyah plans to work in digital marketing. She would like to thank her family for all their support through her journey.



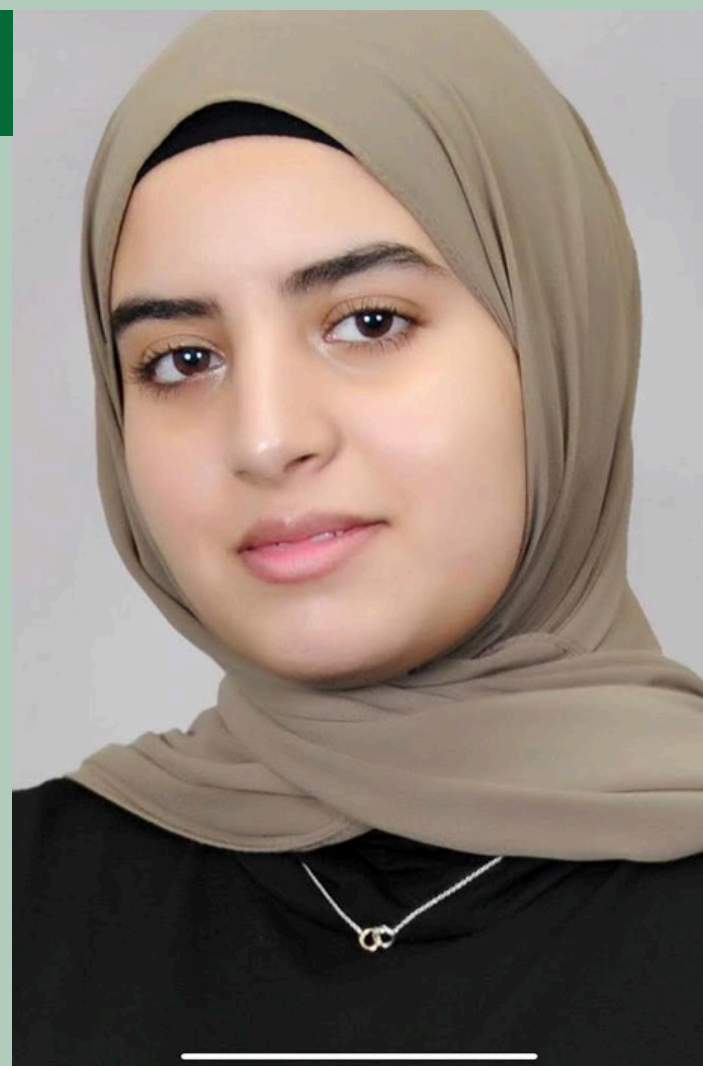


ISAAC MULLISON

Isaac Mullison, from Chelsea, MI, earned a B.S. in computer science curriculum *summa cum laude* with Departmental Honors in Computer Science. He was also a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. What Isaac appreciated the most about The Honors College was the opportunity to complete extra projects to enhance his education beyond what others in his major would experience. He would like to thank his family and friends for their support.

NAYROOZ MURSHED

Nayrooz Murshed, from Dearborn, MI, earned a B.S. in biology *magna cum laude* with a concentration in cell and molecular biology and University Honors. Nayrooz was actively involved in the Pre-Med Club and served as a supplemental instructor. After graduation, Nayrooz will apply to attend medical school, where she aspires to become an OB/GYN or a general surgeon. What Nayrooz appreciated most about The Honors College was priority registration. She would like to thank her family for their continuous support throughout her academic journey.





RALPH NOTZ

Ralph Notz, from Ann Arbor, MI, earned a B.B.A. in finance *cum laude* with University Honors. At EMU, Ralph served on the board of the Financial Management Association and worked for the Eagle Investment Fund. What Ralph appreciated the most about The Honors College was the network of mentors who were always willing to provide guidance. After graduation, Ralph will join the finance operations team at General Motors. He would like to thank his friends and family for always supporting him and encouraging him to succeed.

HAILEY O'SULLIVAN

Hailey O'Sullivan, from Lockport, IL, earned a B.S. in data science and analytics *summa cum laude* with University Honors. A Presidential Scholar, Hailey was an active member of Alpha Xi Delta, Women in Computer Science, and Special Olympics. She worked as a TA for the Department of Computer Science and as a data scientist for CNO Financial Group. After graduation, Hailey will work as a data scientist near her home in Chicago and eventually plans to attend graduate school. What Hailey appreciated most about The Honors College was being surrounded and supported by like-minded, hardworking individuals. She would like to thank her parents and family for their constant support of all her academic and personal dreams and aspirations. She would also like to thank all of her friends at EMU who made the last four years unforgettable.



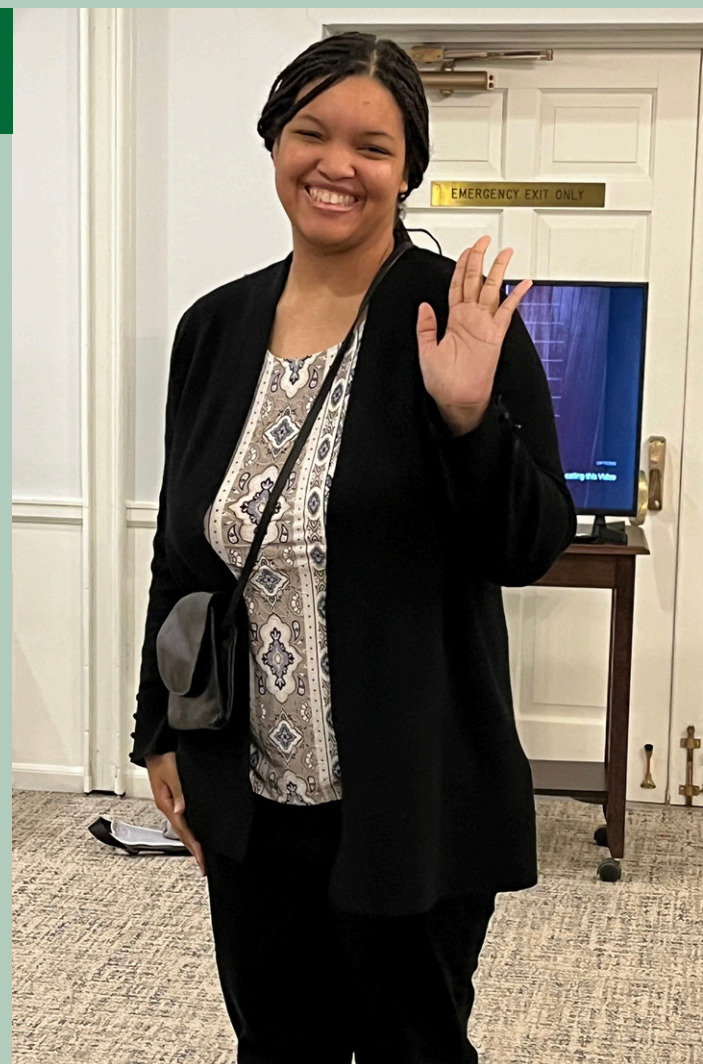


LORE OLUWATOMINIYI

Lore Oluwatominiyi, from Lagos, Nigeria, earned a B.S.N. in nursing *magna cum laude* with University Honors, Departmental Honors in Nursing, and Highest Honors. Lore served on the E-board for the African Student Association and Lori's Hands. She was also involved in research and study-abroad trips and received several scholarships and awards, including the Women of Excellence Award and third place in the DECA ICDC conference. After graduation, Lore will continue working as a nurse in the ICU while she pursues master's degree at EMU to become a nurse practitioner. What Lore appreciated most about The Honors College were the sense of togetherness, the open doors, and the support from everyone in the College. Lore would like to thank Dr. Eisenberg, Dr. Pauli, every nursing school professor who helped throughout the years, and her parents and family for the support and help throughout college.

CARSYN PERRY

Carsyn Perry, from West Bloomfield, MI, earned a B.S. in psychology *summa cum laude* with a minor in creative writing and Departmental Honors in Psychology. She participated in the Music Therapy Student Association, worked as a Resident Advisor for Campus Housing, and assisted in research projects in psychology. After graduation, Carsyn plans to apply for internships in psychology to gain additional experience before applying to graduate programs in counseling psychology. What Carsyn appreciated most about The Honors College were the research opportunities. She would like to thank her family for supporting her and helping her grow along the way.



CHLOE RAJEWSKI



Chloe Rajewski, from Midland, MI, earned a B.B.A. in supply chain management *summa cum laude* with University Honors. Chloe played varsity soccer for EMU, participated in a co-op at Arthrex, volunteered with Special Olympics and Athletics in Action, and received the 2025 award for the most outstanding student in supply chain management through the College of Business. What Chloe appreciated most about The Honors College were the professors. After graduation, she plans to work in her field of supply chain management. She would like to thank her family, friends, and teammates for all their support.

MOLLY RENAUD

Molly Renaud, from Redford, MI, earned a B.A. in criminology and criminal justice *magna cum laude* with a concentration in corrections, a minor in psychology, and University Honors. While at EMU, Molly met wonderful people who have become lifelong friends, studied abroad in Ireland, led the Honors College Book Club, and received the Women of Excellence Award. After graduation, Molly plans to help women and children, specifically those who are victims of violent crime, in whatever capacity she can. She hopes to work for an organization that supports youth or serves victims of sexual violence. What Molly appreciated most about The Honors College were the small classes and helpful advisors. Molly would like to thank her family and friends for all their support, but especially her Mom and Dad for their financial support and belief in her, and Vivi and Allison, her dear friends whom she met at Eastern, for showing her what love is.





GRANT SABA

Grant Saba, from Monroe, MI, earned a B.S. in psychology *summa cum laude* with a minor in social work and University Honors, Departmental Honors in Psychology, and Highest Honors. Grant worked as a supplemental instructor courses in psychological statistics and research methods, teaching over 200 students across two years. He also received the College of Arts and Sciences Endowed Scholarship, and was recognized by the Department of Psychology for his service. After graduation, Grant will enter the M.S. program in clinical behavioral psychology at EMU. What Grant appreciated most about The Honors College was the opportunity to meet so many great classmates and faculty with whom he built lasting professional and personal relationships. He would like to thank his faculty advisor, Dr. Sydney Batchelder, for her constant support and willingness to help as he worked on his Honors senior project and applied to graduate programs.

BROOKE SADLOWSKI

Brooke Sadlowski, from Brownstown, MI, earned a B.S. in psychology *summa cum laude* with a minor in general business and University Honors. Brooke was a member of the EMU Cheerleading Team and the Psychology Club. After graduation, Brooke plans to work with children in a school setting. What Brooke appreciated most about The Honors College was the opportunity to take classes that challenged her. She would like to thank her parents, her roommates, and her cheer team for showing her unconditional love and creating unforgettable memories with her.



SARAH SAROFIM



Sarah Sarofim, from Cairo, Egypt, earned a B.S. in neuroscience *cum laude* with Departmental Honors in Neuroscience. While in college, Sarah worked as an EMT, balancing emergency calls, exams, and the occasional existential crisis. She also volunteered with her church community (because, clearly, she doesn't believe in free time). After graduation, Sarah plans to pursue a master's in Chemistry before heading to medical school. What Sarah appreciated most about The Honors College was how ridiculously supportive the faculty were – respond-to-your-emails-at-2AM kind of supportive. Sarah would like to thank her professors, the Honors College team, and her church family for their prayers, pep talks, and pretending not to notice when she showed up with coffee instead of a functioning sleep schedule.

SYDNEY SCHROPSHIRE

Sydney Schropshire, from Inkster, MI, earned a B.S. in digital media production *magna cum laude* with minors in Japanese language and theatre arts and University Honors. A Presidential Scholar, Sydney studied abroad in Tokyo, Japan, was a member of the Black Media Association, Videographers of EMU, and Cru, made the Dean's List 7 times, earned an Honors College Study Abroad Scholarship and the Certificate of Academic Achievement for 2 consecutive years for her proficiency in Japanese language. After graduation, Sydney plans to take a gap year to explore her field before eventually attending graduate school sometime. What Sydney appreciated most about The Honors College were the connections she made with professors and classmates and the abundance of opportunities that she was able to participate in. She would like to thank God, her family, and everyone she has met and grown to know throughout these four years because every little thing has exponentially grown her character, motivation, and outlook on life.





NOAH SHELTON KASIR

Noah Shelton Kasir, from Hartland, MI, earned a B.S. in information assurance and cyber defense *summa cum laude* with a minor in general business and Departmental Honors in Information Assurance and Cyber Defense. A Presidential Scholar, Noah earned the Outstanding Student Award in his program for the 2024-2025 academic year. He was also a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the Information Assurance Student Association. After graduation, Noah plans to pursue a career in the field of cybersecurity. What Noah appreciated most about The Honors College was the opportunity to explore topics of interest in greater detail through honors contracts and the completion of his Honors Senior Project. Noah would like to thank EMU and The Honors College for the Presidential Scholarship since it allowed him to explore topics of interest beyond his major and to graduate debt free. He also wants to give a special thank you to his mother for her unwavering guidance and support throughout his entire college experience, beginning with the early college program to the present.

EFTHYMIA SKRETTAS

Efthymia Skrettas, from Ann Arbor, MI, earned a B.A. in public relations *magna cum laude* with a minor in public law and government and University Honors. Efthymia worked as a marketing fellow for the Honors College and sang with the Emerald Harmony all-treble *a cappella* group. What she appreciated most about The Honors College was the community of friends it gave her. After graduation, Efthymia plans to do earn a master's degree in integrated marketing communications at EMU. She would like to thank her family and friends for their unwavering support.





MAKAIYA SNEAD

Makaiya Snead, from Livonia, MI, earned an M.P.A. in public administration and a B.A. in political science *cum laude* with a minor in psychology and University Honors. She was a member of the Black Honors Student Organization, NAACP, and the Sisterhood Scholars Program, and she received the MLK Humanitarian Award and the Student Gold Medallion Award for Leadership. After graduation, Makaiya plans to work on Capitol Hill. What Makaiya appreciated most about The Honors College was the support. She would also like to thank her family for their support.

KELSI SZAKOVITS

Kelsi Szakovits from Elmore, OH, earned a B.S. in communication sciences and disorders *summa cum laude* with a minor in special education and University Honors, Departmental Honors in Communication Sciences and Disorders, and Highest Honors. Kelsi served as president of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association and worked as a mathematics tutor and Resident Advisor. She was a research assistant in the Aphasia Lab, a sister in Omega Phi Alpha, a member of Delight Ministries, and a volunteer with Best Buddies. She also presented at the Undergraduate Symposium and earned a Brehm Scholar and a Women's Association Scholarship. After graduation, Kelsi will pursue an M.A. in communication sciences and disorders to become an acute care speech-language pathologist. What Kelsi appreciated most about The Honors College were the service opportunities and honors contracts, which allowed her to further explore topics she was passionate about. Kelsi would like to thank her family, friends, and faculty mentors for their endless support and encouragement.





HANNAH TAYLOR

Hannah Taylor, from Utica, MI, earned a B.S.W. in social work *summa cum laude* with a minor in psychology and University Honors. She was a member and facilitator of the Honors Book Club, studied abroad in Ireland with the “Exploring Social Justice” course, and received the Women of Excellence Award and the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship. After graduation, Hannah plans to work with underserved children and families as a case manager and earn a master's in clinical social work to become a licensed children's therapist. Hannah also plans to travel as much as possible with her loved ones. What Hannah appreciated most about The Honors College were the classes and events that introduced her to new friends she hopes to keep in her life forever. Hannah would like to thank her family and friends, especially her mother, grandmother, and Peg MacTavish for their unconditional love, support, and encouragement, which allowed her to succeed at EMU in more ways than one.

OCEAN THOMAS

Ocean Thomas, from Detroit, MI, earned a B.S. in biology with a concentration in ecology, organismal diversity, and ecology and Transfer Honors. He has been actively involved in the McNair Scholars Program, served as president and co-founder of Elevate His Mind and Euphoric Modeling Troupe, and worked as a Supplemental Instructor and Teaching Assistant. Ocean received the Education First Opportunity Scholarship and was named to the Dean's List every semester. After graduation, Ocean will pursue graduate study in ecology and conservation biology, with a focus on research and community impact. What Ocean appreciated most about The Honors College was the opportunity to connect with faculty mentors and peers who challenged and supported him through rigorous academic and research experiences. He would like to thank his mentors, family, and McNair Scholars and student organizations communities for their unwavering support, guidance, and encouragement throughout his journey.



CHRISTINA TROTTA



Christina Trotta, from Chesterfield, MI, earned a B.S. in data science and analytics and Spanish *summa cum laude* with a concentration in Spanish language and University Honors, Departmental Honors in Data Science and Analytics, and Highest Honors. A Presidential Scholar, Christina participated in the Presidential Scholars Association, Women in Computer Science, the Latinx Student Association, the International Student Association, and the EMU Division I Rowing team. She worked at The Honors College for four years becoming Lead Recruitment Fellow. She also interned at Comerica Bank and worked as a data science consultant for the EMU Physician Assistant program. Christina studied abroad in Seville, Spain, for a semester, where she took five classes entirely in Spanish. She earned an Honors Study Abroad Scholarship and was named a semi-finalist for a Fulbright Scholarship to Mexico. Christina presented twice at the Undergraduate Symposium, once for each of her majors, and she received an Honors Undergraduate Research Fellowship Scholarship to support her senior project. After graduation, Christina will continue working as a data analyst at Comerica Bank and will pursue her love of traveling.

XIOMARA TRUJILLO

Xiomara Trujillo, from Ypsilanti, MI, earned a B.B.A. in marketing *magna cum laude* with University Honors. A Presidential Scholar, Xiomara served as co-president of the Student Alumni Association and as an Advancement Student Ambassador for the Office of Alumni Programs and the EMU Foundation. After graduation, Xiomara plans to get married and work in event planning. What Xiomara appreciated most about The Honors College were the community and the honors classes. Xiomara would like to thank her Mom and Dad for supporting her through her college journey and her fiancé James for supporting and helping her as well.





CLARE WILCOX

Clare Wilcox, from Plymouth, MI, earned a B.S. in biochemistry *magna cum laude* with a minor in mathematics and University Honors. Clare participated in undergraduate research in the Cell and Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Lab and received the Grace Simmons-Gregory Scholarship, the Perry S. Brundage Scholarship, the Collins' Endowed Scholarship, and the Frank and Christine Roth Memorial Award. What Clare appreciated most about The Honors College was priority registration for classes as well as the smaller classes. After graduation, Clare will work at Cayman Chemical before returning to pursue her a master's degree in chemistry at EMU. Clare would like to thank her parents, family, friends, and professors for their unwavering and continuous support throughout her time in college.

PATRICIA WOGHIREN

Patricia Woghiren, from Lagos, Nigeria, earned a B.S. in biochemistry *summa cum laude* with a concentration in biochemistry research and Departmental Honors in Biochemistry. Patricia joined a research lab beginning in her sophomore year and participated in two summer research programs at the University of Michigan. She was also an active member of the SJB campus ministry club and received the Collins Endowed Scholarship in biochemistry, the Elva Mae Nicholson Organic Chemistry Endowed Scholarship, an American Chemical Society Huron Valley section undergraduate award, and a Woman of Excellence award. After graduation, Patricia will apply to medical school. What Patricia appreciated most about The honors college were the small classes and the scholarship opportunities. She would like to thank her family, friends, professors, and colleges for all the support she received during her time at EMU.





SAFEYA WOOLCOCK

Safeya Woolcock, from Kingston, Jamaica, earned a B.S. in economics *magna cum laude* with a minor in general business and University Honors. Safeya was a member of the track-and-field team and served as the Director of Fundraising for the American Marketing Association. After graduation, Safeya plans to launch her own real estate business. She would like to express her heartfelt gratitude to her father, mother, and other family members for their unwavering support throughout her journey to pursue higher education abroad. Without their encouragement and sacrifices, this achievement would not have been possible. She is especially thankful to her father for his financial support, ensuring that she never faced any hardships while completing her undergraduate studies. Safeya is deeply appreciative and aspires to give back and repay the generosity she has received tenfold.

SUMMER 2025 GRADUATES



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Honors College



UYEN DAO



Uyen Dao, originally from Vietnam, earned a B.S. in biology *magna cum laude* with a concentration in cell and molecular biology, a minor in biochemistry, and University Honors and Highest Honors. A Presidential Scholar, Uyen participated in Active Minds, the Pre-Med Club, and undergraduate research. She also worked as a peer academic coach, providing mentorship to first-year students. After graduation, Uyen will working as an endoscopy technician at Huron Gastro while she applies to medical school. What Uyen appreciated most The Honors College was the support from faculty and peers, which made all the difference. Uyen would like to thank The Honors College for awarding her the Presidential Scholarship, which provided financial support throughout all four years of college, especially Dr. Ann Eisenberg, and her family for their support during her journey.

MEGAN SLEMP

Megan Slemp from Brighton, MI, graduated with a B.S. in Exercise Science *magna cum laude* and University Honors. Megan was named Exercise Science Student of the Year in 2025. She also represented Team USA at the 2024 Nations Cup figure skating event in Bordeaux, France, earning third place in the individual competition. What Megan appreciated most about The Honors College was the continued support from advisors throughout her degree. After graduation, Megan will enter the doctoral program in physical therapy at the University of Michigan. Megan would like to thank her mother for answering all of her phone calls.

