

TU Honors College Convocation

2024–2025 Graduate Information Catalogue

Theresa Abalum

Major: Biology

Minor: Molecular Biology, Biochemistry & Bioinformatics

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - Conducted breast cancer research under Dr. Rebecca Riggins through the Georgetown Lombardi Diversity in Cancer Research Internship.
 - Awarded the FCSM Undergraduate Research Grant for continued work on TirB signaling pathways.
 - Joined the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation Program and utilized CRISPR/Cas9 to knock out TirB genes and investigate their molecular mechanisms in host innate immune responses.
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - ABRCMS (Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists).
 - Celebration of Scholarship and Learning (Towson University).
 - Research & Creative Inquiry Forum.
 - 2025 Northeast Regional Honors Council (NRHC) Conference.
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Pre-Med Club
 - Food Recovery Network
- **Honors College Roles:**
 - Honors Orientation Mentor

Bio: Theresa Abalum was born in Nigeria and moved to the United States at age five, growing up in Baltimore, Maryland. She is graduating Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Biology and a minor in Molecular Biology, Biochemistry & Bioinformatics (MB3). A proud recipient of the Willard Hackerman Scholarship, Theresa plans to study for the MCAT and apply to medical school, aspiring to become a physician. At Towson, she served as an Honors College Orientation Mentor and joined the Food Recovery Network, helping collect and distribute unused campus food to local shelters. As a freshman and sophomore, she conducted breast cancer research under Dr. Rebecca Riggins through the Georgetown Lombardi Diversity in Cancer Research Internship, presenting her work at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists (ABRCMS) in 2023. In her senior year, she received the FCSM Undergraduate Research Grant to study TirB, a bacterial protein, using CRISPR/Cas9 under Dr. Michelle Snyder. She presented her findings at the 2025 Northeast Regional Honors Council (NRHC) Conference. Theresa has earned Dean's List honors for all eight semesters. She thanks the Honors College faculty, her professors, and most importantly her family for believing in her and supporting her throughout her undergraduate journey.

Thomas Bailey

Major: Computer Science

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Software Engineering Club

Bio: Thomas Bailey is from Avalon, New Jersey, and will graduate with a degree in Computer Science, concentrating in Software Engineering. During his time at Towson University, Thomas was a member of the Software Engineering Club and an active participant in the Honors College community, including living in Douglass House. He appreciated the flexibility the Honors College provided in course selection and the opportunities it created to explore his interests in greater depth. After graduation, Thomas plans to travel while continuing to apply for software development positions. He is grateful for the experiences and support he received at Towson and is excited for what comes next.

Jeremy Balda

Major: Psychology

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - Research Assistant in the Studies on Motivation Addiction and Health Lab, working on studies like Social Interaction Study, College Student Gambling and Substance Abuse Study, and Attitudes Toward Different Clients Study.
- **Study Abroad Experiences:**
 - Summer 2024 TU-Faculty-Led Program - “Finding the Good Life: An Exploration of the Happiest Place on Earth” in Copenhagen, Denmark, with Dr. Christa Schmidt.
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Presented “Exploring Happiness and Positive Psychology in Denmark” at the Celebration of Scholarship and Learning, Towson University, October 2024.
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Tau Beta Sigma - Eta Sigma Chapter (Vice President of Special Projects, Treasurer, Assistant Vice President of Special Projects, and Focus on Five Chair).
 - Towson University Marching Band and Pep Band.
 - Psi Chi - International Honor Society of Psychology.
 - Omicron Delta Kappa - National Leadership Honor Society.

Bio: Jeremy Balda is from Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, and will graduate from Towson University with a B.S in Psychology. Following graduation, Jeremy plans to gain clinical experience and pursue a master’s degree in clinical psychology. During his time as an undergraduate, he marched with the Towson University Marching Band, where he played piccolo and alto saxophone, and participated in the Towson University Pep Band and Symphonic Band. Furthermore, he was an active member of the Eta Sigma chapter of Tau Beta Sigma, the co-ed national honorary band sorority, where he served as assistant vice president of special projects, treasurer, and vice president of special projects. He was also a member of the national honor societies Psi Chi and Omicron Delta Kappa. Additionally, Jeremy has had his photography published by Towson’s literary magazine, Grubstreet. He participated in undergraduate research with Dr. Elizabeth Katz on several studies related to addictive behaviors and substance abuse. He studied abroad in the summer of 2024 in Copenhagen, Denmark, and received the TU Foundation’s Dr. John M. Govern Memorial Scholarship to help him do so. Jeremy would like to thank his professors, mentors, family, and friends for making his undergraduate experience valuable and memorable.

Sydney Bayne

Major: Interdisciplinary Studies, Psychology

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**

- Participated in two BIOL 491 independent studies resulting in poster presentations:
 - "Body size plasticity under inter- and intra-specific competition in co-occurring species of Atlantic Coast sea anemone"
 - "Proximity-mediated movement patterns in an Atlantic Coast sea anemone"

- **Research or Conference Presentations:**

- Presented "Body size plasticity under inter- and intra-specific competition in co-occurring species of Atlantic Coast sea anemone" at:
 - 52nd Benthic Ecology Meeting, Charleston, SC, April 2024
 - CURE Poster Session, Towson University, May 2024
 - Celebration of Scholarship and Learning, Towson University Honors College, October 2024
- Presented "Proximity-mediated movement patterns in an Atlantic Coast sea anemone" at the Celebration of Scholarship and Learning, Towson University Honors College, March 2025

- **Internships:**

- Naturalist Intern at Marshy Point Nature Center (Summer 2025)

- **Awards:**

- Undergraduate Research Grant from the Fischer College of Science and Mathematics
- Audience Choice Award at the Celebration of Scholarship and Learning
- Dean's List

Bio: Sydney Bayne is from White Marsh, Maryland, and is graduating with a degree in Animal Behavior and Psychology. She is graduating summa cum laude with a final GPA of 4.0. During her undergraduate career, Sydney received an Undergraduate Research Grant from the Fischer College of Science and Mathematics and an Audience Choice Award at the Celebration of Scholarship and Learning. She was also on the Dean's List every semester. After graduation, Sydney plans to work in the field of animal rehabilitation or research. Her favorite experience at Towson was participating in undergraduate research on sea anemones and presenting her findings at the Benthic Ecology Meeting in Charleston. Sydney would like to thank her mentor Dr. Ryan, her lab mates, and her family for their unwavering support.

Kayla Beam

Major: Psychology and Criminal Justice

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**

- Independent study under Dr. Dana Kollmann in the Anthropology Department, utilizing forensic alternate light sources and colored goggles to optimize wavelengths for visualizing bodily fluids at crime scenes.

- **Internships:**

- Judicial Intern at Anne Arundel Circuit Court under Judge Mark Crooks (Summer 2024)

- **Research or Conference Presentations:**

- Presented independent study research at the 2025 Celebration of Scholarship and Learning (CSL).

- **Clubs and Organizations:**

- Social Media Chair of Undergraduate Research Club
- Psi Chi - International Honor Society of Psychology
- Alpha Phi Sigma - Criminal Justice Honor Society
- Women's Roundtable Organization

Bio: Kayla Beam comes from Frederick, Maryland, and is earning her degree in Psychology and Criminal Justice. After graduation, Kayla will be earning her master's in Forensic Psychology at Arizona State University. What she appreciated about the Honors College was the ample networking opportunities, which led to numerous fruitful connections. During her time at Towson University, Kayla was a member of Psi Chi, Alpha Phi Sigma, the Women's Roundtable Organization, and the Social Media Chair of the Undergraduate Research Club. In addition to her club involvement, and thanks to connections made through the Honors College, Kayla also completed independent research through the Anthropology Department under Dr. Dana Kollmann. During the summer of her junior year, Kayla was a Judicial Intern at the Anne Arundel Circuit Court in Annapolis, MD, under the honorable Judge Mark Crooks. She would like to thank her friends and family, as well as her supportive professors, for helping her complete her undergraduate journey.

Julia Berkeley

Major: Mass Communication

Graduation: December 2024

Accomplishments:

- **Study Abroad Experiences:**
 - Faculty-led study abroad programs:
 - Introductory Biology in the Caribbean
 - Mass Communication in the UK
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Fusion Dance Team: Community Service Chair
 - Alpha Gamma Delta: Chapter President and Vice President of Member Experience
 - Order of Omega

Bio: Julia Berkeley, from Laurel, Maryland, will be graduating with a degree in Mass Communication with dual tracks in Strategic Public Relations and Advertising. After graduation, Julia is excited to join the workforce and pursue a job in sports media. What she appreciated about the Honors College was the immense number of opportunities it allowed her to pursue. During her time at Towson, she was able to go on two separate faculty-led study abroad trips, one to Puerto Rico and the other to London, England. She was also President of her sorority, Alpha Gamma Delta, and was the Chair and Vice Chair of Community Service for Fusion Dance Team.

Emma Besett

Major: Psychology

Minor: Business, Communication, & the Liberal Arts

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Internships:**
 - Worked at The Harbour School
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Psi Chi - International Honor Society of Psychology
 - Allstar Cheer Club - President

Bio: Emma Besett hails from Finksburg, Maryland, and will graduate with a degree in Psychology. After graduation, Emma plans to attend the University of Delaware for an Ed.S. in School Psychology. Emma was a member of Psi Chi and president of the Allstar Cheer Club. She would like to thank all of the staff at the Honors College, her professors, and her family for helping her throughout her college career.

Abigail Billovits-Hayes

Major: Psychology

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - LBPS 601 Research Proposal
- **Leadership Roles:**
 - Orientation Leader
 - Honors College Student Director
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Presented at CSL in both semesters and won awards in their categories

Bio: Abigail Billovits-Hayes is from Severna Park, MD, and will graduate magna cum laude, earning a degree in Psychology. After graduation, they will be returning to Towson to pursue their Master's Degree in Professional Studies on the Higher Education track. They appreciated the community of the Honors College and the many opportunities it presented them with. Abigail has had many campus employment opportunities, including being an orientation leader, student technical support desk manager, and honors student director of programming. In both semesters they presented at CSL, they won awards in their categories. Abigail would like to thank all of the staff at the Honors College, their partner, family, and Borbus the African bullfrog for getting them through college.

Autumn Blackwell

Major: Biology

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - Independent Study: "Genetic Variation and Predisposition for Angina Pectoris"
 - Independent Study: "Genetic Analysis of C-Reactive Protein & Coronary Arteriosclerosis"
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Presented "Genetic Variation and Predisposition for Angina Pectoris" at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (Spring 2024)
- **Awards:**
 - Undergraduate Research Award
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Omicron Delta Kappa

Bio: Autumn Blackwell, born and raised in Baltimore County, MD, will be earning a Bachelor of Science in Biology. Autumn developed an early interest in science, which later grew into a love for medicine. Autumn plans to attend medical school to pursue a career in cardiothoracic surgery. During her journey at Towson, she has conducted research on "Genetic Variation and Predisposition for Angina Pectoris," which she had the opportunity to present and represent Towson at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Long Beach, California, in spring 2024. She is currently conducting research as an MD HIRES Fellow in the McDougal Lab on "Genetic Analysis of C-Reactive Protein & Coronary Arteriosclerosis." Autumn is also a member of Omicron Delta Kappa and a recipient of an Undergraduate Research Award. Autumn extends her deepest gratitude to her amazing support system of family, friends, and loved ones, Dr. McDougal, and the entire Honors College for their support throughout her college journey.

Wesley Bonner

Major: Economics

Minor: Geography

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - Independent Study

Bio: Wesley Bonner, from Royersford, Pennsylvania, will graduate this spring, earning a degree in Economics. After graduation, Wesley plans to go on to a graduate school program.

Melissa Brown

Major: Nursing

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - Independent Study on "Burnout prevalence and prevention in NICU nurses"
- **Practicum:**
 - Labor and Delivery Unit at Holy Cross Germantown Hospital
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - "From Womb to World Too Soon: The Research Behind Maternal Stress and Preterm Birth Risk" (Celebration of Scholarship and Learning, Spring 2025)
 - "Holistic Therapies as an Antidote: Prevention and Treatment of Burnout in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Nurses" (Celebration of Scholarship and Learning, Fall 2024)
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Founder and Vice President of Becoming Siblings in Nursing
- **Honors College Roles:**
 - Orientation Mentor (Fall 2022)

Bio: Melissa Brown, from Clarksburg, Maryland, will graduate earning a BS in Nursing. After graduation, Melissa plans to work as a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Nurse. What she appreciated most about being in The Honors College were the opportunities for independent research, where she studied the prevalence and prevention of burnout in NICU nurses, gaining valuable insights into the challenges of neonatal nursing and strategies to foster resilience. Melissa also served as the Founder and Vice President of Becoming Siblings in Nursing, a peer-support organization for nursing students, and worked as the Community Center Manager of Harris Hall. She extends her heartfelt thanks to her friends, family, and advisors for their unwavering support throughout her academic journey.

Jasiel Brown

Major: Exercise Science

Graduation: December 2025

Accomplishments:

- Internship at Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School with the Athletic Trainer

Bio: Jasiel Brown is from Newcastle and Newark, Delaware, and will be graduating with a degree in Exercise Science. Following her graduation, she will be pursuing a master's degree in Athletic Training at West Chester University. Throughout her academic journey, Jasiel greatly appreciated the support of the Honors College, particularly the guidance from the wonderful advisors. She extends her gratitude to both the Honors College and her family for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout her college experience.

Jay Calkins

Majors: Mathematics and Psychology

Minor: Women's & Gender Studies

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - Mathematics Undergraduate Honors Thesis: Pre- and Post-COVID Relationships Between Crime and Travel Patterns in Baltimore City (Mentor: Dr. Michael O'Leary)
 - Summer Research Grant (Psychology) (Mentor: Dr. Elyssa Klann)
- **Honors Thesis:**
 - Minority Stress, Gender Dysphoria, and Social Anxiety Among Transgender and Nonbinary Individuals (Mentors: Dr. Elyssa Klann and Dr. Maria Fracasso)
- **Research Programs:**
 - University of Maryland Math REU (2022) (Mentor: Dr. Maria Cameron)
 - Towson University Math REU (2024) (Mentors: Dr. Angel Kumchev and Dr. Nathan McNew)
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Presented at Mathematical Association of America MD-DC-VA Section (2025)
 - Joint Mathematics Meetings (Seattle, WA, 2025)
 - 2024 National Conference on Undergraduate Research (Long Beach, CA)
 - Towson University Summer Research Conference (2023)
 - Towson University Celebration of Scholarship and Learning (2022)
 - Maryland Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference (2022)
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - President of Math Club
 - Secretary of Undergraduate Research Club
- **Honors College Roles:**
 - Orientation Mentor

Bio: Jay Calkins will graduate with a double major in Mathematics and Psychology, and a minor in Women's & Gender Studies. They are completing two Undergraduate Honors Theses, one in Psychology focusing on minority stress, gender dysphoria, and social anxiety among transgender and nonbinary individuals, and the other in Mathematics analyzing crime and human travel patterns before and after the COVID-19 pandemic. They have participated in National Science Foundation-funded summer research programs at both the University of Maryland and Towson University. Jay has made a significant impact on the Towson community by reinstating the Math Club after the pandemic, serving as its president for two years, and working as the secretary of the Undergraduate Research Club. Additionally, Jay has tutored numerous students in the Spence Mathematics Lab for three years, earning the rare distinction of being a certified level 3 tutor by the College Reading and Learning Association. Jay would like to thank their mentors, Dr. Alexei Kolesnikov, Dr. Allison McCartney, and their family and friends for their unwavering support.

Sienna Carey

Major: Business Administration

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Honors Thesis:**
 - *Project Management Strategies for Resilient Supply Chains*, Advisor: Yao Dong-Qing
- **Internships:**
 - Field Marketing Intern at Beazer Homes
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Presented research at the Maryland Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference (2020–2021)
 - Presented Independent Study on Supply Chain Resilience at Towson University
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Member of Towson’s Club Field Hockey Team

Bio: Sienna Carey is from Frederick, Maryland, and will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Project Management. Before transferring to Towson, she earned her Associate’s degree with High Honors from Frederick Community College, where she presented research at the Maryland Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference. At Towson, Sienna conducted an independent study on supply chain resilience and completed a Field Marketing Internship with Beazer Homes. Sienna also participated in community service initiatives as a member of Towson’s Club Field Hockey Team. After graduation, Sienna plans to pursue a career in project management within the commercial construction industry. She is deeply grateful to the Honors College staff, her mentor Dr. Yao, and her family for their unwavering support.

Nicole Carnero

Major: Sociology and Anthropology

Minor: Human Rights and History

Graduation: December 2024

Accomplishments:

- **Internships:**
 - Intern for the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services
 - Undergraduate Intern at Fair Chance Higher Education Initiative
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Co-Chair of CLA Dean’s Student Advisory Council
 - Tiger Stripes Coordinator for Criminal Justice Student Association
 - Vice President, Secretary, and Events Coordinator for Pasion Latin Dance Team (2021–2023)
 - Member of ALPFA, LASO, and Honorables of Color
- **Honors College Roles:**
 - Recruitment Officer
 - Orientation Mentor

Bio: Nicole Carnero is a first-generation graduate who earned her degree in Sociology and Anthropology with a concentration in Criminal Justice. After graduation, Nicole plans to advance her legal career by working in a local law firm in the DMV as she prepares to begin her law school journey. Nicole appreciated the Honors College community and its immense support, which motivated her throughout her academic career. She extends her heartfelt thanks to her advisors and her family for helping her succeed in college and beyond.

Brendan Casey

Majors: Business Administration

Graduation: December 2024

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - "Unemployment's Rhythm: Analyzing Billboard Hot 100 Data in Response to Economic Trends" (Towson College of Business and Economics Summer Research Grant, 2024)
- **Internships:**
 - Student Trainee (Financial Management) for the U.S. Army
 - Employee Benefits Business Analyst at Allegeant LLC
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Presented at Towson Summer Research Conference (2024)
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Student Ambassador to the College of Business and Economics (2023–2025)
 - Towson College of Business and Economics Student Representative (Spring 2024/2025)
 - Towson First Year Experience Advisor (2023)

Bio: Brendan Casey, of Leesburg, Virginia, graduated cum laude with a degree in Business Administration and Economics in Fall 2024. He is continuing his education at Towson University, pursuing a master's degree in Economic Analytics with an expected graduation in Fall 2025. Brendan works as a financial analyst for the U.S. Army, a position he first obtained through an undergraduate internship. He has been an inaugural student ambassador for the College of Business and Economics and has enjoyed representing the college and meeting prospective students. Brendan conducted summer research on how popular music changes in response to varying unemployment rates, and he presented his findings at Towson's Summer Research Conference. He is deeply grateful to his professors, friends, and family for their support and guidance throughout his academic journey.

Sydney Chandler

Major: Information Technology

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Study Abroad Experiences:**
 - TU Faculty-Led Program: Finding the Good Life: An Exploration of the Happiest Place on Earth (Denmark)
- **Awards:**
 - Wendy and Larry Letow Endowed Scholarship
 - Dean's List (multiple semesters)
 - Employee of the Month, Campus Recreation (February 2025)
 - Accepted into Upsilon Pi Epsilon (Computing Disciplines Honors Society)
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Member of VSA, FCAT, and WiCyS

Bio: Sydney Chandler, raised in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, will graduate from the Fisher College of Science and Mathematics, earning a degree in Information Technology. She plans to obtain relevant certifications and hopes to one day become a network engineer. Sydney enjoyed her Honors College courses, which she found more personable and interactive than typical classes. During her time at Towson, she studied abroad in Denmark, participated in clubs such as FCAT, and was the recipient of the Wendy and Larry Letow Endowed Scholarship. Sydney worked at Towson University's Campus Recreation for two years, earning Employee of the Month in February 2025. She consistently made the Dean's List and was inducted into Upsilon Pi Epsilon, the computing disciplines honors society. Sydney would like to thank the Honors College faculty and staff, especially her honors advisor Dr. Michael Elliot, and her study abroad professor Dr. Christa Schmidt. She also extends gratitude to her friends and Honors College student directors Stephanie Duque and Julian Joglar for making her time at Towson unforgettable, and finally her family and friends for their unwavering support throughout her college career.

Daniel Christ

Major: Business Administration

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - Independent Study: Benefits of Public-Public Defense Partnerships (as part of his internship at Salas O'Brien)
- **Internships:**
 - Sales & Marketing Intern at RMS Omega Technologies
 - Partnerships & Strategic Consulting Intern at Salas O'Brien
- **Awards:**
 - Two-time recipient of the Dr. Richard Vatz Outstanding Debater of the Year Award
 - Three-time Academic All-American
 - Two-time National Debate Scholar
 - Top Debater at the UTSA Earthseed Invitational
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Towson Debate Team (Team Captain)
 - National Prison Debate League Participant
- **Honors College Roles:**
 - Orientation Mentor (2022)

Bio: Daniel Christ, a Baltimore native, is graduating cum laude with a degree in Business Administration. Daniel came to Towson to continue his debate career, which started at Calvert Hall. He led the Towson Debate Team to qualify for the National Debate Tournament national championship all three years he competed—an accomplishment the team had not achieved since 2017. Daniel received numerous awards, including the Dr. Richard Vatz Outstanding Debater of the Year Award (twice), Academic All-American (three times), and National Debate Scholar (twice). He was also recognized as the top debater at the first annual UTSA Earthseed Invitational. After graduating, Daniel will work at Salas O'Brien, helping the Army find cost efficiencies through community partnerships. He extends his gratitude to his debate mentor, Professor Harrington, and the Honors College staff for shaping him into who he is today.

Téa Costello

Major: Dance Performance and Choreography

Minor: Computer Information Systems

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - Capstone Project: Classical to Contemporary Ballet: Essential Elements and Influential Pioneers
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Presented Capstone Project at the Celebration of Scholarship and Learning and Honors College Forum
- **Awards:**
 - Research Impact Award for Creative Inquiry Project
 - 2nd Place in Research Category at the Celebration of Scholarship and Learning
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - President of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts at Towson

Bio: Téa Costello, from Bethesda, Maryland, is earning a degree in Dance Performance and Choreography with a minor in Computer Information Systems. After graduation, Téa plans to attend a choreographic intensive in Italy during the summer, then continue her training at Moveius Contemporary Ballet, a DC-based ballet company. She completed her Honors Capstone project researching the pioneers of contemporary ballet and the essential elements they contributed to the genre, under the guidance of Catherine Horta-Hayden. Téa earned the Research Impact Award for her Creative Inquiry Project and placed second in the Research Category at the Celebration of Scholarship and Learning. As the President of Towson's National Honor Society for Dance Arts, Téa made a significant impact on her community. She extends heartfelt thanks to the Honors College staff, her mentor Catherine Horta-Hayden, and her family for supporting her academic journey.

Josh Cronin

Major: Psychology

Graduation: May 2025

Bio: Josh Cronin will graduate with a degree in Psychology in May 2025.

Abigail Cwiek**Major:** Nursing**Graduation:** May 2025**Accomplishments:**

- **Honors Thesis:**
 - "An Empowering End: The Role of Hospice in Providing Autonomy for Terminal Cancer Patients" under Dr. Melanie Horning
- **Practicum:**
 - Nursing immersion at the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Center in a hospice/oncology unit
- **Student Leadership:**
 - Treasurer - Undergraduate Research Club
 - Treasurer - Healthcare Leadership Academy
 - Event Coordinator - Becoming Siblings in Nursing
 - Team Lead - College Readiness Outreach Program
 - Mediation Assistant - Housing & Residence Life
 - Community Service Chair - Honors College Leadership Council

Bio: Abigail Cwiek comes from Finksburg, Maryland, and will graduate with a degree in nursing. Following graduation, she plans to pursue a career as a registered nurse specializing in oncology and end-of-life care. Throughout her time at TU and within the Honors College, Abigail found her community and the confidence to take on meaningful roles across campus. She served as the treasurer of two student organizations, a team lead for the College Readiness Outreach Program, event coordinator for a new nursing organization, and a previous community service chair for the Honors College Leadership Council. Abigail is especially grateful to the Honors College and her family for providing her the support and space to grow as an individual - both personally and professionally - in ways she had not thought were previously possible.

Katie De Leon**Major:** Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology**Graduation:** May 2025**Accomplishments:**

- **Internship**
 - Blue Jellyfish Speech and Language
- **Involvement**
 - National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA)
 - American Sign Language Club
 - Honorables of Color

Bio: Katie De Leon, from Howard County, MD, will be earning her degree in Speech-Language Pathology. After graduation, Katie is excited to continue her education at Towson University, where she will pursue a master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology over the next two years. Reflecting on her time at Towson, Katie shares that the most meaningful part of being in The Honors College was the opportunity to take unique seminar classes and meet new people outside of her major. She was an active member of Honorables of Color, the American Sign Language Club, and the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Katie is incredibly grateful for the unwavering support of her professors, mentors, and classmates throughout her academic journey. She dedicates this degree to her immigrant parents, who didn't have the chance to pursue a college education themselves, and whose sacrifices have been a constant inspiration. Katie's achievements are a testament to their hard work and the incredible community she's had the privilege to be part of at Towson.

Cydney Delaney

Major: Biology

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Research**
 - "Assessing Seed Bank Viability Within Legacy Sediment" – Independent study advised by Dr. Vanessa Beauchamp, awarded the Jess and Mildred Fischer College of Science and Mathematics Undergraduate Research Grant.
 - "The Significance of Structure and Routine in Autistic Individuals" – Independent study advised by Professor Derek Piggot, won 3rd place in the Service-Learning category at Towson University's Celebration of Scholarship and Learning.
- **Student Involvement**
 - Social Media Chair - Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society
 - Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society (Social Media Chair)
 - Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society (member)
 - TU Pre-Dental Club (member)
 - Pre-Med Club (member)
 - MAPS (member)
 - Towson BSU (member)

Bio: Cydney Delaney is from Waldorf, Maryland, and is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a concentration in Cellular, Molecular, and Organismal Physiology. After graduation, she will attend the Harvard Bridge to Dental School Program in preparation for dental school, while also working and shadowing at a general dental office. What she valued most about being in the Honors College was the opportunity to take courses that expanded her understanding of the world beyond her biology background. She conducted ecological research with Dr. Vanessa Beauchamp and autism-focused research through the Hussman Center for Adults with Autism. She would like to thank the Honors College, her research advisor Dr. Beauchamp, her peers, and her family for their continued support throughout her college journey.

Anthony Delle Donne Jr.

Major: Social Sciences

Graduation: August 2025

Accomplishments:

- Towson University Football Team Member

Bio: From Lineboro, Maryland, Anthony Delle Donne Jr. is a student-athlete who earned his bachelor's degree in social sciences while being a member of the Towson University football team. Committed to both his education and athletic career, he will continue his journey at West Chester University, where he plans to play football and pursue a master's degree in education. After his schooling, Anthony looks forward to a future as a teacher and coach, hoping to inspire the next generation both in the classroom and on the field. Without the support of his family, none of this would be possible. He would like to give a special shout-out to Dr. Cooney for all of his help and support along the way.

Cierra DiSabato

Major: Forensic Chemistry

Minors: Biology, Chemistry, Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, and Bioinformatics

Graduation: December 2024

Accomplishments:

- **Internships:**
 - Public Safety Aide at Ocean City Police Department
 - Crime Scene Unit Intern at New Jersey State Police
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Division 1 Women's Soccer
 - Towson's Golden Tiger Chapter of The National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH)
 - Omicron Delta Kappa

Bio: Cierra DiSabato hails from Manalapan, New Jersey, and is graduating from Towson University with a Bachelor's degree in Forensic Chemistry and minors in Biology, Chemistry, and Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, and Bioinformatics. A student-athlete, Cierra played Division 1 Women's Soccer for four seasons. After graduation, she plans to pursue a master's degree in Forensic Medicine. One of her most memorable experiences within the Honors College was participating in the Celebration of Scholarship and Learning. Cierra would like to thank the Honors College staff and her family for their support throughout her college career.

Kerri Donohue

Major: Sociology and Anthropology

Concentration: Criminal Justice

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**

- Research Assistant at Towson University, contributing to a U.S. Department of Homeland Security project on the proliferation of drones and their potential threats to critical infrastructure (Mentor: Dr. Suat Cubukcu)

- **Internships:**

- Frederick County Sheriff's Office (Summer 2023)
- Maryland General Assembly Legislative Intern Program (2025 Session)

- **Clubs and Organizations:**

- Women's Club Soccer

Bio: Kerri Donohue, a native of Frederick, Maryland, is graduating with a degree in Sociology and Anthropology, with a concentration in Criminal Justice. After graduation, she plans to pursue a Master of Science at Towson University. Reflecting on her time in the Honors College, Kerri especially appreciated the small, engaging class sizes and the meaningful connections she built with her professors. She extends her gratitude to the Honors College staff for their unwavering support, guidance, and mentorship throughout her academic journey.

Lindsey Donovan

Major: Sociology and Anthropology

Graduation: December 2024

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - "Analyzing Taphonomic Effects on the Ultraviolet Fluorescence of Bone"
 - "Dead Men Do Tell Tales: Forensic Anthropology in Ireland"
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Presented at the Fall 2024 Conference of Scholarship & Learning
- **Study Abroad Experiences:**
 - Forensic Anthropology in Ireland
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Treasurer and Secretary of the Forensic Science Student Organization

Bio: Lindsey Donovan hails from Havre de Grace, Maryland, and will graduate magna cum laude with a degree in Sociology and Anthropology, with a special interest in Forensic Anthropology. During her time at Towson, she studied abroad in Ireland, conducted undergraduate research, and served as the treasurer and secretary of the Forensic Science Student Organization. Lindsey cherished the community and experiential learning opportunities fostered by the Honors College. After graduation, she plans to pursue a doctoral degree in Forensic Anthropology or Osteology.

Shae Downes

Major: Biology

Minor: Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, and Bioinformatics

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - Independent Study: Manipulating TLR4 Surface Expression to Investigate its Influence on UV-Induced Cell Death (Mentor: Dr. Harberts)
 - CURE Course: Genetic Analysis in Medicine, focusing on genomic analysis of uterine leiomyoma gene frequencies
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Presented at CSL and MAMPM (2024–2025)
 - Presented at AAI Conference (Spring 2025)
- **Awards:**
 - FCSM Undergraduate Research Grant (2024–2025)
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - HCLC (2021–2022)
 - Community Service Chair of Pre-Med Club (2021–2023)
 - Tri-Beta Honor Society (2023–2025)
- **Honors College Roles:**
 - Orientation Mentor (2021–2022)

Bio: Shae Downes will graduate with a degree in Biology and a minor in Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, and Bioinformatics. After graduation, Shae plans to work in a research lab and begin graduate school applications in the fall. Shae spent 2.5 years in an independent lab at Towson, presenting her research at conferences in Virginia and Hawaii. She was also the recipient of the FCSM Undergraduate Research Grant. Shae thanks her friends, family, fellow researchers, and mentor Dr. Harberts for their unwavering support.

Sandra Famadeji

Major: Information Technology

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Internships:**
 - Data Analyst Intern at Dee Tech Consulting
 - Technical Analyst Intern at CCBC
- **Awards:**
 - Dean's List
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Marketing Assistance Committee Member at HCLC
 - Former Member of Phi Sigma Pi

Bio: Sandra Famadeji, a dedicated Information Technology student, earning a degree in Information Technology. After graduation, she plans to start her new job at CCBC, while pursuing her master's at Western Governor University.

What she appreciated most about being in The Honors College were the events, activities, priority registration and the supportive advisors. She was honored to intern twice; first at Dee Tech Consulting as a data analyst where she gained valuable insight into data and visualization and later at CCBC as a technical analyst, where she explored IT tools, techniques and strategies for effective IT support solutions. She also made the Dean's List last semester, a testament to her dedication and academic excellence.

The Honors College exposed her to numerous opportunities, shaping her life academically and personally. This growth has helped her define her goals and aspirations. Sandra would like to extend her sincere gratitude to all the staff at The Honors College, her advisor Dr. Elliott for his constant support, and Dr. Dehlinger for his unwavering guidance throughout her college journey and career.

"Never give up. Take every experience as an opportunity to define your goals and dreams. With God, all things are possible."

Laura Gaffney

Major: Biology

Minors: Molecular Biology, Biochemistry & Bioinformatics; Public Health

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - Honors Internship in Biology in Dublin, Ireland (Disability Support Program Intern)
 - Intern Research Assistant & Study Program Coordinator at Noble Life Sciences in Sykesville, MD
- **Study Abroad Experiences:**
 - Dublin, Ireland (Summer 2023)
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Presented at the Honors College Celebration of Scholarship & Learning (Fall 2023)
- **Awards:**
 - Carl Henrikson Memorial Award for Academic Achievement (Biology Department)
 - Towson Swim & Dive Student-Athlete of the Year (2022–2023 Season)
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Towson University Swim & Dive Team
 - Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
 - Own Your Roar Club
 - Women in Science Club

Bio: Laura Gaffney is from Yorktown, VA, and will graduate summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and minors in Public Health and Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, & Bioinformatics. Following graduation, Laura plans to start a clinical role in the healthcare field while applying to medical schools. During her time at Towson, Laura studied abroad in Dublin, Ireland, interned at Noble Life Sciences, and participated in clubs such as the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and Women in Science Club. She received the Carl Henrikson Memorial Award for Academic Achievement and was awarded Towson Swim & Dive Student-Athlete of the Year. Laura would like to thank the Honors College faculty, her teammates and coaches, and her family for their continued support.

Nikki Golemboski

Major: International Studies

Minors: Political Science, Spanish

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - "Uncovering Longitudinal Outcomes of K-20 Civic Engagement Partnerships" (Co-presented at APSA 2024)
 - Independent Studies: Migration and Civic Engagement Topics
- **Honors Thesis:**
 - *The Protection of Local Migrant Rights and Well-Being: Comparing Successes, Challenges, and Recommendations from Baltimore and Philadelphia's Government and Nonprofit Sectors* (Advisor: Dr. Alison Rios Millett McCartney)
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Presented at APSA, NCHC, NRHC, and other major conferences
- **Awards:**
 - Two Research Impact Grants
 - College of Liberal Arts Undergraduate Research Award
 - Numerous TU Honors College and OURCI Travel Grants
 - Patricia Knapp McLucas Memorial Scholarship Award
 - Cynthia R. Kalodner Scholarship for Service-Learning
 - Northeast Regional Honors Council Student of the Year Award
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - TU-BCPS Model UN Program Manager
 - Editor-in-Chief, Towson Journal of International Affairs
 - Writing and Pedagogy Fellow
 - Civic Renewal Fellow
 - Admissions Student Ambassador
 - Undergraduate Research Club Member

Bio: Nikki Golemboski (Mount Airy, MD) is graduating with her B.A. in International Studies with minors in Political Science and Spanish. During her time at TU, Nikki was honored to have served as the program manager for TU-BCPS Model UN, Editor-In-Chief of the Towson Journal of International Affairs, a Writing and Pedagogy Fellow, a Civic Renewal Fellow, a Teaching Assistant, an Honors Orientation Mentor, and an Admissions Student Ambassador. Nikki conducted various research projects relating to civic engagement/education and local migration governance, and is grateful to have travelled to present them at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference, National Collegiate

Honors Council Conference, Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference, and Maryland Collegiate Honors Council Conference. This scholarly work has earned her two Research Impact Grants, the College of Liberal Arts Undergraduate Research Award, many TU Honors College and TU OURCI Travel Grants, the Patricia Knapp McLucas Memorial Scholarship Award, the Cynthia R. Kalodner Scholarship for Service-Learning, the Northeast Regional Honors Council Student of the Year Award, and other recognitions and funding for which she is further grateful. She also enjoyed participating in the Undergraduate Research Club and the Dr. Nancy Grasmick Leadership Institute. In the fall, she will begin pursuing her Master of Public Policy at the University of Maryland. She thanks her family, friends, partner, and professors for their support and encouragement throughout her undergraduate career and for making this chapter one of joy and growth!

Jaden Green

Major: Business Administration

Minor: Economics

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - Survey Methods and the Economics of Coffee in Peru (Study Abroad Project)
- **Internships:**
 - Financial Planning Intern at Ameriprise Financial
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Treasurer and Fundraising Chair of Honorables of Color
- **Honors College Roles:**
 - Marketing Student Director

Bio: Jaden Green, born in Washington, DC, and raised in Prince George's County, is graduating with a degree in Business Administration, concentrating in Finance, and a minor in Economics. During his last year at TU, Jaden served as an Honors College Student Director, engaging with the Honors College community and organizing events. He studied abroad in Peru, focusing on the economics of coffee, and held leadership roles such as Treasurer for Honorables of Color. After graduation, Jaden will work full-time at Tristate Financial Advisors.

Lukas Hamann

Major: Physics

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - "The Search for Superconductivity in FeCuB" (PI: Dr. Vera Smolyaninova)
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Presented at the American Physical Society March Meeting
- **Awards:**
 - Barry Goldwater Scholarship
 - Undergraduate Research Awards
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Sigma Pi Sigma
 - Society of Physics Students

Bio: Lukas Hamann expects to graduate summa cum laude with a B.S. in Physics. Lukas conducted advanced research on novel superconductors and served as the lead student researcher in his lab. He received multiple undergraduate research awards and is the first physics major in TU's history to win the Barry Goldwater Scholarship. Lukas appreciated the challenging coursework and academic community fostered by the Honors College. After graduation, Lukas plans to pursue a Ph.D. in materials physics and conduct impactful research.

Madisyn Howard

Major: Economics

Graduation: December 2024

Accomplishments:

- **Honors Thesis**
 - Impact of Winning on Funding: An Analysis of NCAA Division I Women's Field Hockey (Advisor: Dr. Melissa Groves)
- **Internships:**
 - Merrill Lynch (2022)
 - Greenspring Advisors (2023)
 - J.P. Morgan Private Bank (2024)
- **Student Involvement:**
 - Towson University Women's Varsity Field Hockey
 - Honorary Captain's Club at Towson University - Board Member
 - The Lambda chapter of Omicron Delta Epsilon
 - L.E.a.D Tiger Program

Bio: Madisyn Lynn Howard, a native of Columbia, Maryland, will graduate with Honors Distinction, earning a degree in Economics with minors in Finance and Business Administration. Following graduation, she will begin her career as an analyst at J.P. Morgan Private Bank and aspires to pursue an MBA in the future.

Madisyn is deeply grateful for the countless opportunities provided by The Honors College, which enriched her collegiate experience. During her time at Towson University, she excelled as a Division I student-athlete on the field hockey team, studied abroad in Florence, Italy, served as a board member of the Honorary Captain's Club, and earned an Undergraduate Research Award.

She extends her heartfelt thanks to the Honors College and athletics staff, her mentor Dr. Groves, her field hockey coaches, and her family for their unwavering support throughout her journey.

Brianna Hughes

Major: Middle School Education

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - Honors Capstone: Differentiated Instruction for Sixth Grade Multilingual Learners (Advisor: Dr. Blake)
 - "Climate Fiction in the Classroom" (Research with Dr. Jacobs and Mrs. McClure)
- **Student Leadership:**
 - A-List Intern for Events and Outreach at Albert S. Cook Library
 - Writing Center Tutor
 - Student Teacher at Holabird Middle School
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Presented at Honors College Celebration of Scholarship & Learning, URCI Forum, College of Education Capstone Showcase, and Climate Teach-In
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Towson Honors College Leadership Council
 - Towson Honors College Book Club
 - Towson Rock Climbing Club
- **Honors College Roles:**
 - Orientation Mentor (2021–2022)

Bio: Brianna Hughes, from Glenwood, Maryland, is graduating with a degree in Middle School Education. After graduation, she plans to teach in Maryland. Brianna valued living in Douglass House and engaging in Honors College activities. She conducted research on Climate Fiction and Differentiated Instruction for Multilingual Learners, held roles such as Writing Center Tutor and A-List Intern, and presented her work at multiple conferences. Brianna thanks her mentors, Honors College staff, family, and friends for supporting her college journey.

Halla Ismail

Major: Healthcare Management

Minor: Business Administration

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Internships:**
 - Volunteer Services Intern at Gilchrist
 - Computer System Application Operations Management Intern at Gilchrist
- **Awards:**
 - Dean's List (Fall 2021, Spring 2023, Fall 2024)
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Vice President of Society of Arab Students (SAS)

Bio: Halla Ismail is originally from Egypt and will graduate with a degree in Healthcare Management and a minor in Business Administration. At Towson University, she served as Vice President of the Society of Arab Students, leading community initiatives and organizing cultural programming, such as the annual Arabian Night. She interned at Gilchrist, focusing on improving hospice volunteer engagement and care coordination. Halla also participated in the International Youth Foundation's UP for Change Leadership Program, co-managing \$600,000 in community grant funding. After graduation, she plans to pursue a master's degree in Information Systems and continue exploring ways to enhance elder care and health access through equitable, people-centered solutions. Halla thanks her professors, mentors, and family for their unwavering support.

Dalila Ives

Major: Political Science

Minor: Sociology

Graduation: May 2025

Bio: Dalila Ives will be graduating in the Spring of 2025 with a degree in political science and a minor in sociology.

Aria Jaye

Major: Psychology

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - Independent Study: "The Role of Psychological Flexibility in Psychedelic Effect on Depressive Symptoms: A Systematic Review" (Mentor: Dr. Jaime Elizabeth Blackmon)
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Presented at the Association for Contextual Behavioral Science (ACBS) World Conference 2024 in Buenos Aires, Argentina; recipient of the ACBS Junior Investigator Poster Award
- **Internships:**
 - Interned at True North Therapy and Training in Bethesda, MD
- **Leadership Roles:**
 - Board Member, ACBS Psychedelic and Non-Ordinary States of Consciousness Special Interest Group

Bio: Aria Jaye is from Baltimore, Maryland, and will graduate summa cum laude with her B.Sc. in Psychology. During her time at Towson, Aria conducted research on psychological flexibility and its role in psychedelic effects on depressive symptoms, presenting this work at the ACBS World Conference, where it earned a Junior Investigator Poster Award. Aria interned with True North Therapy and Training, where she will continue working post-graduation. This fall, she will begin her graduate studies in clinical social work at the University of Chicago's Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice. Aria thanks her family, friends, colleagues, and Professor Blackmon for their support and guidance.

Shaila Johnson

Major: Early Childhood and Special Education

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Awards:**
 - ELEVATE Grant Scholarship Recipient
- **Internships:**
 - PBIP Internship: Enforcing Positive Behaviors in Classrooms
 - EdTPA Internship: Supporting Students' Individual Education Goals
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Member of Leadership Honors Society
 - Member of Education Honors Society

Bio: Shaila Johnson, from Rockville, Maryland, will graduate with a dual degree in Early Childhood and Special Education. She hopes to begin her career in a special education placement, supporting students outside of general education classrooms to meet their learning goals. Shaila valued how the Honors College connected academic coursework to the real world, sharpening her critical thinking and analytical skills. She participated in the ELEVATE Grant program and honor societies. Shaila is grateful to her honors advisor, Dr. Fewster, her professors, and her family for their unwavering support.

Leonard Johnson

Major: Mathematics

Minor: Computer Science

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Internships:**

- Summer Intern at Transamerica (2023)
- Summer Intern at the Office of Personnel Management (2024)

- **Clubs and Organizations:**

- President of Catholic Campus Ministry
- Treasurer of Math Club
- Community Service Coordinator for Actuarial Science Club
- Member of Honors College Leadership Council and Honors Helping Hands

Bio: Leonard Johnson is from Calvert County, MD, and will graduate earning a B.S. in Actuarial Science & Risk Management. After graduation, Leonard plans to work as a Catholic missionary for FOCUS and later pursue a career in the actuarial field, either in government or private sector. Leonard appreciated the welcoming community of the Honors College, particularly the events in Douglass House. He held leadership roles in Catholic Campus Ministry, the Math Club, and the Actuarial Science Club. Leonard thanks the Honors College staff and his family for their support throughout his academic journey.

Nicole Kahler

Major: Molecular Biology, Biochemistry & Bioinformatics

Graduation: December 2024

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - Research in Organic Chemistry at Susquehanna University
 - Molecular Biology Research at Towson University
- Honors Thesis:
 - Utilization of Diverse Methods to Identify Small Proteins in *Escherichia coli* (Advisor: Dr. Matthew Hemm)
- **Internships:**
 - Bacteriology Intern at AstraZeneca
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Kahler N., Shire K., Hemm M., Goodall E. (2024, October). Identification of new genes in *Escherichia coli* annotated through genome-wide reporter-transposon mutagenesis. Towson University Honors College Celebration of Scholarship and Learning. Towson, Maryland.
 - Kahler N., Doyle M., Smith A., Babich J., Tkaczyk C., DiGiandomenico A. (2024, August). Broad recognition of diverse *Klebsiella pneumoniae* isolated is afforded by monoclonal and bi-specific antibodies against the lipopolysaccharide O-antigen. Early Vaccines and Immune Therapies Intern Poster Session. Gaithersburg, Maryland.
 - Kahler N., Hemm M. (2024, April). Identifying New Small Proteins in a Molecular Biology CURE Class. National Conference for Undergraduate Research. Long Beach, California.
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Towson University Treble Voices Choir
- **Honors College Involvement**
 - Orientation Mentor (2023)

Bio: Nicole Kahler is a transfer student who graduated cum laude in December with a Bachelor's degree in Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, and Bioinformatics. She currently works at the Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research, evaluating immune responses to HPV and supporting a clinical trial aimed at increasing access to cervical cancer screening. Nicole conducted three years of research, including an Undergraduate Thesis on small proteins in *E. coli* and earned Departmental Honors in Biology. She interned in AstraZeneca's Early Vaccine and Immune Therapies unit and presented her findings at multiple conferences. Nicole would like to thank the Honors College, Towson Treble Voices, Dr. Hemm, Dr. Warren, and her family and friends for their support. Go Tigers!

Breanna Kekesi

Major: Nursing

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - Research on Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)
 - Research on Medication Errors in Pediatric Emergency Departments
- **Internships:**
 - Student Nurse Externship in Labor and Delivery at Calvert Health
 - Practicum Placement at GBMC Pediatric Emergency Department
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Member of Sigma Theta Tau (Nursing Honor Society)
 - Member of TUSNA
 - Peer Educator for SAPE

Bio: Bree Kekesi is from Huntingtown, Maryland, and will earn a degree in Nursing. After graduation, she plans to pass the NCLEX and begin working as an RN, with aspirations of becoming a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner. Bree valued the opportunities for undergraduate research, studying Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and Medication Errors in Pediatric Emergency Departments. She thanks the Honors College staff, especially Dr. Elliot, her nursing professors, friends, and family for supporting her throughout nursing school and the honors program.

Paige Kostick

Major: Psychology

Minor: Biology

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Clubs and Organizations:**

- Member of Pre-PA Club
- Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Representative for Softball
- Own Your Roar Representative for Softball
- Marketing Role in Honors College Leadership Council (Freshman Year)

Bio: Paige Kostick, from Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, will graduate magna cum laude with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Biology. After graduation, she plans to take a gap year to work as a medical assistant before attending a physician assistant program. Paige was a member of Towson University's softball team, serving as her team's Own Your Roar and Student-Athlete Advisory Committee representative. She also participated in the Pre-PA Club and the Honors College Leadership Council. Paige thanks the Honors College staff, family, friends, teammates, and coaches for their support throughout her journey.

Rachel Kramer

Majors: Chemistry and Molecular Biology, Biochemistry & Bioinformatics

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - Independent Study in Immunology/Sepsis Pathology
 - REU in Physical Chemistry at UMBC
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - American Association for Immunology (Honolulu, HI)
 - Northeast Regional Honors Conference (Harrisburg, PA)
 - National Conference on Undergraduate Research (Long Beach, CA)
- **Awards:**
 - Undergraduate Research Impact Award
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - President of Women in Science Club
 - Vice-President of Undergraduate Research Club

Bio: Rachel Kramer is from Westminster, Maryland, and will graduate with a degree in Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, and Bioinformatics and Chemistry. After graduation, she plans to attend the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, to pursue a PhD in Chemistry. Rachel conducted research in immunology and physical chemistry, presenting her findings at national and regional conferences. She served as President of the Women in Science Club and Vice-President of the Undergraduate Research Club. Rachel is grateful for the opportunities and mentorship she received during her academic journey.

Mira Levin-Antila

Major: History

Minor: Women's & Gender Studies

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - Archival Independent Study on Towson University Women's Studies Archives
 - Historical Research Study on the Roles of Women during World War II
- **Study Abroad Experiences:**
 - Florence, Italy (Fall 2023)
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Vice President of Korean Pop Club
 - Former Secretary of Korean Culture Club

Bio: Mira Levin-Antila, born and raised in Chevy Chase, Maryland, will graduate with a degree in History and a minor in Women's & Gender Studies. Mira studied abroad in Florence, Italy, completed archival and historical research studies, and held leadership roles, including Vice President of the Korean Pop Club. She appreciated the events and unique courses offered by the Honors College and enjoyed presenting her research at the Celebration of Scholarship and Learning. Mira thanks her family for their support throughout her Towson experience.

Nataly Loza

Major: Psychology

Minor: Foreign Languages (Spanish)

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Honors Thesis:**
 - *Road Map of Culture: Bilingualism and Cultural Identity*, Thesis Advisors: Sora Rosen, M.A., Psy S. and Dr. Maria Fracasso
- **Study Abroad Experiences:**
 - Spain (Summer 2023)
 - The Bahamas (Summer 2024)
- **Internships:**
 - Youth Case Management Intern, International Rescue Committee (Fall 2023)
 - Behavior Technician Intern, Amigo Care (Spring 2024)
 - Child and Family Therapy Clinic Intern, Kennedy Krieger Institute (Fall 2024)
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Eastern Psychological Association Conference (2025)
 - Association for Psychological Science Conference (2025)
 - College of Liberal Arts Student Scholarship and Inquiry Conference (2025)
 - Student Research and Creative Inquiry Forum (2025)
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Latin American Student Organization (Co-Fundraiser & Public Relations)
 - Psychology Club (Secretary)
 - Towson Women's Leadership Collective (Student Member)
- **Honors College Roles:**
 - Recruitment Officer
 - Orientation Mentor
 - Student Office Assistant
 - Honorables of Color, Historian
 - Queer Honors, Secretary

Bio: Nataly Loza (she/her) will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Language (Spanish). Within the Honors College, she was an Orientation Mentor, Recruitment Officer, and held executive positions in Honorables of Color and Queer Honors. She also contributed to the Latin American Student Organization and Psychology Club. Nataly studied abroad in Spain and The Bahamas, held internships in prominent organizations, and presented research at several conferences. Her thesis, *Road Map of Culture: Bilingualism and Cultural Identity*, reflects her dedication to exploring cultural identity. Nataly plans to attend graduate school to obtain a master's degree in counseling psychology and become a therapist.

Ciana Lyle

Major: Computer Science

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Academic Recognition:** Dean's List (All Semesters)
- **Clubs and Organizations:** President of the World Religions Club

Bio: Ciana Lyle, from Columbia, Maryland, will graduate magna cum laude with a degree in Computer Science. She excelled academically, consistently earning Dean's List recognition, and served as President of the World Religions Club. After graduation, Ciana will join General Dynamics Information Technology, where she will develop software and improve existing systems. She is grateful to the Honors College community and her family for their encouragement.

Nia Marneris

Major: Psychology

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Scholarships:** Honors College Scholarship, TU Foundation Scholarship, Transfer Achievement Award
- **Formal Research Undertaken:** Contributions to *PSYC Insight Bulletin*
- **Internships:** Transformation Healthcare – Substance Use Clinic Intern (Fall 2024)
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Psychology Club (Advocate)
 - Staff Writer for *PSYC Insight Bulletin*

Bio: Nia Marneris, from White Marsh, Maryland, will graduate with honors, earning a degree in Psychology. She was awarded multiple scholarships and actively participated in the *PSYC Insight Bulletin* as a staff writer. Nia’s internship at a substance use clinic deepened her understanding of mental health therapy. After graduation, she will pursue a Master of Science in Clinical Professional Counseling at Loyola University. Nia is thankful to her professors and family for their support.

Sienna Martinez

Major: Psychology

Accomplishments:

- **Teaching and Research Experience:** Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant
- **Clubs and Organizations:** Women's Club Volleyball Team (Secretary)

Bio: Sienna Martinez, from Montclair, New Jersey, will graduate with a degree in Psychology. During her time at Towson, she contributed as a teaching assistant, research assistant, and secretary of the Women's Club Volleyball Team. She valued her experiences in Honors seminars and the support of her professors. After graduation, Sienna plans to pursue a master's degree in clinical and counseling psychology in New Jersey.

Jaelyn McCracken

Major: Computer Science

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - *Taking a look into the cookie jar: A comprehensive study towards the security of web cookies* (Published work)
 - Machine learning algorithm for cattle behavioral data through analyzing raw data and programming models
- **Study Abroad Experiences:**
 - New Mexico State University REU (Summer 2022)
 - Texas State University REU (Summer 2023)
- **Internships:**
 - Cybersecurity Intern, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (Summer 2024)
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Sister Scripters (Treasurer)
 - Women in Cybersecurity (Member)
 - Hill Lopes Scholarship Program Scholar
- **Honors College Roles:** SFS Cybercorps Scholar

Bio: Jaelyn McCracken, from Long Island, New York, will graduate with a degree in Computer Science on a cyber operations track. Jaelyn has participated in impactful research experiences at New Mexico State University and Texas State University, earning a publication for her work. She completed internships focusing on cybersecurity, including an experiential learning program with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. A dedicated member of organizations such as Women in Cybersecurity and Sister Scripters, she also contributed as a Hill Lopes Program Scholar. Jaelyn plans to work for the government in cybersecurity to fulfill her role as an SFS Cybercorps scholar. She would like to thank the Honors College staff, her advisor Dr. McDougal, and professor Dr. Elliot, as well as her family for their unwavering support.

Cora McDaniel

Major: Nursing

Minor: English

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Internships:** Special Collections and University Archives
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - SAPE (Sexual Assault Prevention Educators)
 - TU Wind Ensemble

Bio: Cora McDaniel, from Towson University, will graduate with a Nursing degree and an English minor. She valued the critical thinking and compassion fostered through her minor coursework. During her studies, Cora interned with the Special Collections and University Archives and was actively involved in SAPE and the TU Wind Ensemble. After graduating and passing the NCLEX, Cora will join Johns Hopkins Pediatric Emergency Department. She is grateful to her professors and family for their support throughout her journey.

Danielle McNerney

Major: Political Science

Minor: Human Rights and History, Mass Communication

Graduation: December 2024

- **Honors Thesis:**
 - Do Girls Really Run the World? Understanding Barriers to Female Representation in Government. (Advisor: Dr. Alison McCartney)
- **Internships:**
 - The White House Internship Program, Intern: Office of Communications September-December 2023
- **Student Involvement:**
 - Undergraduate Research Club President
 - Towson University Student Foundation Representative
 - Towson University Resident Assistant
 - Towson University College Democrats Marketing Director
 - Towson University History Department Student Researcher
 - Dr. Nancy Grasmick Leadership Institute, TU Presidential Scholar Office
 - Teaching Assistant, Political Science Dept., Under Dr. Alison McCartney
 - Georgetown University Political Science Predoctoral Summer Institute
- **Honors College Involvement:**
 - Honors College Leadership Council
 - Orientation Mentor

Bio: Danielle McNerney is from Frederick, Maryland, and will graduate Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor's in political science and minors in human rights and history and mass communication. After graduation, Danielle hopes to work on social justice issues in the non-profit or think tank space. Danielle enjoyed the research opportunities that the Honors College gave her, specifically, the ability to travel to numerous conferences around the country. Danielle was a 2x recipient of the \$5000 Undergraduate Research Summer Grant, the Dan Jones Writing Prize in Social Sciences, the Undergraduate Research Impact Award, and the Vice President of Student Affairs Award. She was also the co-president of the Undergraduate Research Club. She would like to thank the entire Honors College staff for their support, especially Dean Alison McCartney, who mentored and supported her from day 1 of freshman year, her parents for being her biggest supporters, and her sister, Kaitlyn, for being her best friend and greatest cheerleader.

Alexandra Meadows

Major: Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - Independent Research in DiNo Communication Lab, analyzing intra-topic silent pauses in autistic narratives
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Summer Undergraduate Research Institute (SURI), Summer 2024
 - Celebration of Scholarship and Learning, 2025
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (Community Service Chair)

Bio: Alexandra Meadows, from Laurel, Maryland, will graduate cum laude, earning a degree in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Alexandra conducted research analyzing communication variations across genders and neurotypes, presenting her findings at multiple conferences. She also co-led monthly Stroke Support Group meetings and organized outreach as part of NSSLHA. Alexandra appreciates the supportive advisors and engaging seminars provided by the Honors College. After graduation, she plans to pursue a master's degree at Towson University's Speech-Language Pathology program.

Marshall Merritt

Major: Business Administration

Minor: Business Analytics

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Internships:** Human Resources Information Systems Intern, Voith US Inc.
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - National Student Data Corps (Member)
 - Beta Gamma Sigma (Member)
 - Society for Human Resource Management (Member)

Bio: Marshall Merritt, from Maryland, will graduate with a degree in Business Administration and a minor in Business Analytics. He pursued his studies despite challenges related to Autism and Major Depressive Disorder, joining the Honors College and excelling academically. Marshall appreciates the resilience and identity-building opportunities provided by his HONR courses and acknowledges mentors like Professor Andrew Reiner, Dr. Terry Cooney, and Dr. Jacob Hovind for their support. He also credits his family's enduring encouragement. Marshall looks forward to crafting a meaningful career in Human Resources.

Delaney Mezan

Major: Environmental Science and Studies

Minor: English

Graduation: December 2024

Accomplishments:

- **Internship:**
 - Seasonal Park Ranger at Cromwell Valley Park (Summer 2023)
- **Presentations/Posters:**
 - Mezan, D. and A. Besterman. Sept 2024 “How salt marshes respond: measuring the impact of degradation and restoration”. Towson University Summer Student Research Conference. Towson, MD (oral)
 - Mezan, D. and A. Besterman. Oct 2024, “Restoring salt marshes: the impact of runnels on vegetation and soil properties”. Towson University Honor’s College Learning Celebration. Towson, MD. (poster)
 - Mezan, D. and A. Besterman. March 2024, “Response of vegetation and soil properties to runnels as a salt marsh restoration strategy”. Atlantic Estuarine Research Society. Gloucester Point, VA.

Bio: Delaney Mezan from Perryman, Maryland, will graduate cum laude with a degree in Environmental Science and minor in English. Delaney, a member of the accelerated master’s degree program, will officially begin her master’s degree in Environment Science here at Towson in Spring 2025. The Honor’s College pushed Delaney to participate in experiential learning such as an internship as a park ranger at Cromwell Valley Park and research conducted on salt marsh restoration. For her research, Delaney was awarded the Advanced Summer Research Grant and plans to continue her research endeavors through a master’s thesis. She would like to thank the staff at the Honors College and Biology Department as well as family and friends for helping her make the best out of her college career.

Cynthia Moregbuniwe

Major: Nursing

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - *Evidence-Based Interventions to Enhance Quality of Life and Recovery for Patients Experiencing Post-ICU Syndrome* (HONRS 397)
 - *Evidence-Based Interventions To Prevent Delirium in Hospitalized Adult Patients: A Literature Review* (HONRS 493)
- **Internships**
 - Nursing Practicum at Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC)
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - HONRS 397 and HONRS 493 projects
- **Honors College Roles:**
 - Student Director, Honors College Leadership Council (2023–2024)
 - Student Office Assistant, Honors College (2022–2024)
 - Honors College Leadership Council

Bio: Cynthia Uchechukwu Moregbuniwe is a dedicated Nursing student at Towson University. She served as Student Director for the Honors College and worked as a Student Office Assistant, earning first place in the Honors College Internship competition. Cynthia also took on leadership roles in the New Students and Family Programs (NSFP) and supported academic growth as a Supplemental Instruction Leader for the Nursing Department. Cynthia’s academic rigor, leadership, and service have made a lasting impact across multiple departments at Towson University.

Daniah Moultrie

Major: Biology (Cell and Molecular Concentration)

Minor: Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, and Bioinformatics

Graduation: August 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - Research on lipopolysaccharide (LPS) interactions with TLR4-knockout mice and its effects on blood clotting
- **Study Abroad Experiences:** Faculty-Led Trip to Aix-en-Provence, France (Summer 2025)
- **Internships and Fellowships:**
 - Minorities in Medicine Program (2022)
 - Summer Health Professions Education Program (2023)
 - Traveler's Summer Research Fellowship Program (2024)
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Mid-Atlantic Microbial Pathogenesis Meeting (2025)
 - Celebration of Scholarship and Learning (2025)
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - President of Towson Melodies
 - Internal Audit Chair, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated
 - Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society (Inductee)
 - Member of the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students and TU Pre-Med Club

Bio: Daniah Moultrie, from Laurel, Maryland, will graduate with a degree in Biology and a minor in Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, and Bioinformatics. She has conducted independent research in Dr. Harberts' lab, exploring the role of LPS in blood clotting. During her time at Towson, Daniah held leadership positions in numerous organizations and completed fellowships in prestigious programs. After graduation, she plans to take two gap years working as a Research Technician or Medical Assistant while preparing for medical school. Daniah extends her gratitude to Dr. Harberts, Dr. Ehrlich, and her family for their unwavering support.

Hannah Murphy

Major: English: Secondary Education

Graduation: December 2024

Accomplishments:

- Honors Capstone
 - How experienced teachers navigate a pilot curriculum - Honors Capstone
- Student Leadership
 - Cosplay Club - President
- Part-time student teaching at Franklin Middle School
- Full-time student teaching at Lansdowne High School

Bio: Hannah Murphy is graduating cum laude with a degree in English and Secondary Education. During her time at Towson University, she wrote and self-published her first book, was president of the Cosplay Club, and earned her teaching certifications. She would like to specifically thank Dr. Blake for his assistance in her final year at Towson, and Professor Warner for teaching her favorite college course. Hannah's future plans involve teaching English and Science at the high school level and continuing her work as an author.

Victoria Nguyen

Major: Mathematics

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Study Abroad Experiences**
 - University of Kent, Canterbury, England (2023–2024)

Bio: Victoria Nguyen, from Reisterstown, Maryland, will graduate with a degree in Mathematics. She studied abroad at the University of Kent in England and is passionate about musicals, with a special admiration for West End and Broadway productions. After graduation, Victoria plans to continue her education at Towson University to earn her Master of Arts in Teaching. She expresses heartfelt thanks to Mitch and Adam for their steadfast encouragement.

Lillian Norbeck

Major: History

Minor: Ancient Mediterranean Studies

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - *The Nemi Ships: How Two Wrecked Pleasure Boats Expose the True Identity of Caligula*
 - *The History of LGBTQ Studies at Towson University*
 - *When in Rome: Culture, Philosophy, and History in the Eternal City*
 - *Gender in the Roman Empire: Norms, Perceptions, and Exceptionalities of a Binary System*
- **Study Abroad Experiences:** Rome, Italy (2024)
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Maryland Collegiate Honors Council Research Conference, February 2023
 - Summer Research Conference, September 2024
 - Celebration of Service and Learning, Fall 2024 (First place in study abroad category)
 - Northeast Regional Honors Conference, March 2025
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Undergraduate Research Club (Vice President and President)
 - Phi Sigma Pi (National Honor Fraternity, Recruitment Advisor)

Bio: Lillian Norbeck, from Carroll County, Maryland, will graduate with a degree in History and minor in Ancient Mediterranean Studies. During her time at Towson, Lillian studied abroad in Rome, Italy, completed impactful research, and presented her work at multiple conferences. She held leadership roles in the Undergraduate Research Club and Phi Sigma Pi. After graduation, Lillian plans to pursue graduate studies in Classics. She is thankful to her parents, grandparents, the TU Honors College, and the History Department faculty for their support throughout her academic journey.

Patience Odeh

Major: Biology

Concentration: Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**

- *Indicating Indicators: Exploring the Use of Environmental DNA to Enhance Brook Trout Conservation in Maryland*
- *Evaluating the Impact of Brown and Rainbow Trout Presence on Brook Trout Distribution Using Environmental DNA*
- *Unpacking Ecological Indicators: The Influence of Deer, Earthworms and Salamanders on Forest Ecosystems*

- **Research or Conference Presentations:**

- Summer Student Research Conference, September 2024
- Honors Celebration of Scholarship and Learning, October 2024 (Second place)
- Student Research Symposium, December 2024

- **Clubs and Organizations:**

- TOPS Program
- Hill-Lopes Program
- TIGURS and TUREP Programs
- Secretary, Modelz of Distinction

Bio: Patience Odeh, an honors student from Baltimore, Maryland, will graduate with a degree in Biology and a concentration in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation. Patience conducted environmental research, earning recognition at multiple conferences and awards like the Hackerman Scholarship and Provost Award. She actively participated in various programs and organizations, including serving as Secretary for Modelz of Distinction. Patience would like to thank her lab advisors Dr. Salice and Krista Kraskura, Hill-Lopes program director Kristin Pinkowski, her family, and colleagues for their support throughout her college experience.

Ekene Onyemeziem

Major: Nursing

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - *Arrhythmias: A Comprehensive Overview of Causes, Symptoms, and Advances in Care*
- **Honors Thesis:**
 - *Assessing the Quality of Care in Psychiatric Facilities: Challenges and Opportunities, Advisor: Michelle Ness*
- **Internships:**
 - Behavioral Health Unit, MedStar Franklin Square
 - Intermediate Care Unit, MedStar Union Memorial
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Celebration of Scholarship and Learning (Spring and Fall 2025)
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - President, Modelz of Distinction
 - Member, Towson African Diaspora Club

Bio: Ekene Onyemeziem, from Baltimore, Maryland, will graduate cum laude with a degree in Nursing. Ekene conducted research on psychiatric facilities and cardiovascular care while interning at MedStar Franklin Square and Union Memorial. With a passion for mental health, Ekene plans to become a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner and launch a telehealth business. He served as President of Modelz of Distinction and participated in the African Diaspora Club. Ekene thanks the Honors College, nursing community, friends, and family for their constant encouragement.

Ashley Payton

Major: Information Systems

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Scholarships:** Applied Information Science Scholarship Endowment

Bio: Ashley Payton, a Towson senior from Baltimore, Maryland, will graduate summa cum laude with a degree in Information Systems Management. A recipient of the Applied Information Science Scholarship Endowment, Ashley developed skills in data and analytics, shaping her goal to become a data analyst or business analyst. As a first-generation college student, she overcame challenges with resilience and commitment to academic excellence. Ashley hopes to inspire other first-generation students and create meaningful change through data-driven decisions.

Alexandria Post

Major: Business Administration

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Study Abroad Experiences:** Edinburgh Napier University

Bio: Allie Post, from Bel Air, Maryland, will graduate with a degree in Business Administration. During her time at Towson, Allie studied abroad at Edinburgh Napier University, expanding her global perspective. After graduation, she plans to begin her career at Lipman, Frizzell, and Mitchell.

Aaron Prem

Major: History

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Awards:** Disabled American Veteran's Commencement Prize

Bio: Aaron Prem, from Towson, Maryland, will graduate with honors, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in History. Since Fall 2022, Aaron has focused his studies on history and philosophy, earning several merit- and essay-based awards, including the Disabled American Veteran's Commencement Prize. After graduation, Aaron will begin an apprenticeship with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 24 in Baltimore. Aaron thanks the Honors College for enriching his education and character through unique academic experiences.

Samantha Pyle

Major: Chemistry

Graduation: May 2025

Bio: Samantha Pyle is a Spring 2025 graduate of Towson University with a degree in chemistry.

Ana Rodriguez

Major: Early Childhood Education

Minor: Spanish

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Honors Thesis:**
 - *Teaching Phonics Fun-damentals: Utilizing Play-Based Learning to Strengthen Decoding Skills*, Mentor: Dr. Robert Blake
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Celebration of Scholarship and Learning (Second Place)
 - Research and Creative Inquiry Forum
 - College of Education Honors Capstone Showcase

Bio: Ana Rodriguez, from Forest Hill, Maryland, will graduate with a degree in Early Childhood Education and a minor in Spanish. Ana completed an action research project investigating how play-based learning strengthens first graders' reading skills, earning second place at the Celebration of Scholarship and Learning. She appreciates the opportunities provided by the Honors College and thanks her family and Early Childhood Education professors for guiding her career path. After graduation, Ana plans to pursue a Master's in Social Work at Rutgers University.

Alexandra Saffell

Major: Electronic Media and Film

Minor: Theatre Arts

Concentration: Costume Design

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Work:**
 - Costume Designer, *Becoming Wendy* (Directed by Alana Kiewe)
 - Director and Producer, *Scrapbook Self* (Documentary)
- **Study Abroad Experiences:** TU Harmony of Tradition and Modernity in South Korea
- **Awards and Honors:** Dean's List (Every Semester)

Bio: Alexandra "Ali" Saffell will graduate with a major in Electronic Media and Film and a minor in Theatre Arts, specializing in Costume Design. A Dean's List scholar, Ali studied abroad in South Korea and showcased her creative talents as a costume designer and documentary producer. She thanks her family for their endless support throughout her academic journey.

Samantha Santoro

Major: English: Secondary Education

Graduation: December 2024

Accomplishments:

- **Teaching Experience:**
 - Teaching Internship, Pine Grove Middle School
 - Student Teaching, Parkville High School
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Maryland Collegiate Honors Council (Student Member of the Board)
 - Catholic Campus Ministries (Service Chair)
 - Undergraduate Research Club (Executive Board Member)
- **Honors College Roles:** Student Director

Bio: Samantha Santoro, from Montgomery County, Maryland, graduated in December 2024 with a degree in English: Secondary Education. Samantha was hired as a middle school English teacher for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Her Honors experience included serving as a Student Director, as well as leadership roles in Catholic Campus Ministries and the Undergraduate Research Club. Samantha is grateful to her family, Honors College staff, and Newman Center staff for their support throughout her academic career.

Sofia Scaffidi**Major:** Electronic Media and Film**Graduation:** May 2025**Accomplishments:**

- **Clubs and Organizations:** Towson Movie Club

Bio: Sofia Scaffidi, from Dover, Delaware, will graduate with a degree in Electronic Media and Film. She utilized her skills in sound, lighting, and editing to assist with student film productions. Sofia loved the smaller class sizes and community activities offered by the Honors College. She is thankful to her EMF professors, Honors College staff, and family for their encouragement. After graduation, Sofia plans to pursue a career in the television and film industry.

Molly Shanklin

Majors: Biology, Forensic Chemistry

Minor: Chemistry

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - Independent Research: *Recovery of Trace Fiber Evidence from Within Bone*
 - CURE Research Projects with Dr. Soto and Dr. Hemm
 - MD-HIRES Research: *Early Protein Degradation in E. coli*
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - *Recovery of Trace Fiber Evidence from Within Bone*, Honors CSL Conference, March 2025
 - *The Role of Sharp-Force Trauma on Decomposition Rates*, Honors CSL Conference, October 2024
 - *Characterizing a Mutation of M. tuberculosis B12 Riboswitch*, Student Research Symposium, May 2024
 - *Early Protein Degradation in E. coli*, Biology Symposium, December 2024
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Pre-Med Club
 - Women in Science Club
 - Forensics Club

Bio: Molly Shanklin, born in Fairbanks, Alaska, will graduate with dual degrees in Forensic Chemistry and Biology, as well as a minor in Chemistry. A member of the inaugural MD-HIRES program, Molly conducted extensive research projects and presented her findings at several conferences. She also enjoyed scuba diving around the world during her free time. After graduation, Molly will pursue a Forensic Medicine master's program at the University of Maryland – Baltimore while applying for medical school. She extends her gratitude to Dr. Kollmann, the Honors College staff, and her family for their unwavering support.

Amelia (Claire) Smith

Major: Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Pediatric Speech Therapy Internship Experience, Honors CSL Event (First Place)
 - Hussman Center for Adults with Autism Service-Learning Project
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA)

Bio: Claire Smith will graduate with a degree in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. A determined transfer student, Claire maintained a 3.83 GPA while commuting and working at a private practice helping children with developmental disorders. Her work earned her first place at the Honors CSL event. Claire also volunteered at the Hussman Center for Adults with Autism and served as a member of NSSLHA. After graduation, she will return to Towson to pursue her master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology. Claire thanks the Honors College staff for their support throughout her journey.

Sarah Smith

Major: Middle School Education

Concentrations: Math and English

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:** Capstone Project on Authentic Mathematics Tasks in a 6th Grade Classroom
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Celebration of Scholarship and Learning
 - Towson University Research and Creative Inquiry Forum
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Club Field Hockey
 - Dead Poet Society (President)
 - Actors Anonymous (Music and Pit Director)
 - Original Blend A Cappella (Music Director)

Bio: Sarah Smith, from Lothian, Maryland, will graduate with a bachelor's degree in Middle School Education, with concentrations in Math and English. During her time at Towson, Sarah completed a capstone project on teaching authentic mathematics tasks and presented her work at university forums. She also served as Music Director for Towson's Original Blend A Cappella group. After graduation, Sarah plans to teach in Anne Arundel County. She thanks the Honors College staff, her student teaching mentors, and her family and friends for their support.

Patience Soares

Major: Psychology

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Internship:**
 - Cool Kids Campaign
- **Student Leadership:**
 - Community Center Assistant at Douglass House

Bio: Patience Soares is from Silver Spring, Maryland, and will graduate with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Family Science. After graduation, she plans to pursue a Master of Social Work at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, with a Clinical Concentration. Patience is passionate about mental health and family dynamics and aims to become a licensed clinical social worker serving underserved communities. She also plans to gain hands-on experience through part-time clinical roles, including continuing her work at a behavioral health organization. What she appreciated most about being in the Honors College was the supportive advisors who guided her every step of the way, and the opportunity to register early for classes, which allowed her to plan her semesters strategically. Throughout her undergraduate journey, Patience was actively engaged in service and leadership. She worked as a Community Center Assistant in Douglass House, the hub of the Honors College, and volunteered with the Cool Kids Campaign, where she helped support children with cancer and their families. She would like to thank her family, professors, and Honors College staff for their unwavering encouragement and belief in her journey.

Sena Sogut

Major: Psychology

Graduation: May 2025

Bio: Sena Sogut will be graduating in May of 2025 with a degree in Psychology.

Olivia Solis

Major: Psychology

Minor: Electronic Media and Film

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - *An Everchanging Landscape: A Look at Whiteness, Class, and Sexuality within the Club Scene in Amsterdam* (Second Place, Fall 2024 Honors CSL Event)
- **Study Abroad Experiences:** Amsterdam, Netherlands
- **Internships:** Bright Horizons (Early Childhood Development Intern)
- **Clubs and Organizations:** Vice President, Towson Women's Club Lacrosse

Bio: Olivia Grace Solis is an aspiring mental health professional and will graduate with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Electronic Media and Film. Olivia's research earned her recognition at the Honors CSL event, and her study abroad experience in Amsterdam deepened her understanding of cross-cultural identities. As Vice President of Towson Women's Club Lacrosse, she helped lead the team to a top-10 national ranking. Olivia also interned at Bright Horizons, working with preschool-aged children. She thanks the Honors College for providing invaluable resources and looks forward to beginning her Master's in Counseling Psychology at the University of Baltimore in Fall 2025.

Brett Tedesco

Major: Business Administration

Minor: Marketing

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Internships:**

- Member Marketing Intern, Independence Blue Cross (June 2024 – August 2024)
- Digital Marketing Intern, College of Business and Economics (August 2024 – May 2025)

- **Clubs and Organizations:**

- Towson Club Swim (Treasurer, January 2023 – December 2024; Member, Fall 2021 – Spring 2025)
- Towson American Marketing Association (Community Service Chair, February 2024 – November 2024; Member, Spring 2023 – Spring 2025)

- **Awards:** Aramark Facility Services Working Scholars Endowment Fund

Bio: Brett Tedesco, from Cherry Hill, New Jersey, will graduate as an outstanding graduate of Towson University's College of Business and Economics with a degree in Marketing. During his time at Towson, Brett held leadership positions in the Swim Club and the American Marketing Association, actively participating in volunteer efforts. He also completed internships that expanded his knowledge of marketing and earned the Aramark Facility Services Working Scholars Endowment Fund. Brett cherishes the friendships and experiences provided by the Honors College. After graduation, he plans to begin a career in marketing while continuing his education.

Lauren Terrell

Major: Psychology

Minor: Public Health

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Honors Thesis:**
 - *The Relationship between Task Switching and Emotion*
- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - Research Assistant in the CRAB Lab
- **Awards:** Summer Research Scholarship

Bio: Lauren Terrell will graduate with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Public Health. A recipient of the Summer Research Scholarship, Lauren conducted research on task switching and emotion in the CRAB Lab and presented her findings through the Honors Thesis Program. She appreciates the mentorship of Dr. McGinley and Dr. Wielder, as well as the support of her friends and family. After graduation, Lauren will continue her education in social work at the University of Pittsburgh.

Bridget Thomas

Major: Exercise Science

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Women's Swimming and Diving Team (Junior and Senior Captain)
 - Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC, Executive Board Member and Team Representative)
- **Awards:** Trach H. Nguyen Memorial Award Endowment

Bio: Bridget Thomas, from North Plainfield, New Jersey, will graduate with a degree in Exercise Science. During her time at Towson, Bridget captained the Women's Swimming and Diving Team and served as an Executive Board Member for SAAC. She appreciates the Honors College for introducing her to new learning perspectives. After graduation, Bridget will pursue a Master of Science in Dietetics at Hood College while coaching its swim team as a graduate assistant.

Tyler Tran

Major: Business Administration

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Internships:** Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC, June 2024 – Present)

Bio: Tyler Tran will graduate with a degree in Business Administration. Since the summer of 2024, Tyler has gained professional experience working for the federal government at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. After graduation, he plans to continue building his career in the finance field. Tyler looks forward to the next chapter of his career and the opportunities ahead.

Angel Ugalde

Major: Political Science

Minors: International Studies, Spanish

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Clubs and Organizations:** Towson University Journal of International Affairs
- **Awards:** Dean's List

Bio: Angel Ugalde, from Harford County, Maryland, will graduate with a degree in Political Science and minors in International Studies and Spanish. After completing the International Baccalaureate program, Angel finished his degree in just three years while excelling academically and serving the community. He contributed to the Towson University Journal of International Affairs and participated actively in class discussions. Angel expresses gratitude to his friends, family, and professors for their support and looks forward to building his career.

Adam Usi

Major: Accounting

Minor: Economics

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - *Survey Design and the Economics of Coffee in Peru*
 - *Distance to Care and Measles Vaccinations in the Philippines* (CURE Presentation)
- **Study Abroad Experiences:** Peru
- **Internships:**
 - Ellin & Tucker
 - Ernst & Young
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Beta Alpha Psi (President)
 - College of Business and Economics Student Ambassador
- **Awards:**
 - SC&H Excellence in Accounting Endowment
 - Sylvia Bernstein Prize for Excellence in Accounting

Bio: Adam Usi, from Eldersburg, Maryland, will graduate Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Accounting and a minor in Economics. Adam served as President of Beta Alpha Psi and a student ambassador, while also completing internships with Ellin & Tucker and Ernst & Young. He conducted research and studied abroad in Peru, earning prestigious awards for his academic achievements. Adam will proudly carry the Honors College Banner at the College of Business and Economics Commencement Ceremony. He thanks the Honors College staff, his friends, and his family for their endless support.

Thomas Westendorf

Major: Biology

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Student Involvement:**
 - Marching Band (leadership)
 - Towson Dodgeball
 - Towson Pokémon Go
 - Towson Esports

Bio: Thomas Westendorf hails from Bel Air, Maryland, and will graduate with a degree in Biology. After graduation, Thomas will be marching for the summer with the Bluecoats drum and bugle corps. What he appreciated most about being in the Honors College was the sense of community. Thomas was in the dodgeball, esports, and Pokémon Go clubs, and was a part of Marching band leadership, receiving the best marcher award his senior year. He would like to thank his family for helping him throughout his college career.

Kalli Williams**Majors:** Biology, Chemistry**Minor:** Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, and Bioinformatics (MBBB)**Graduation:** May 2025**Accomplishments:**

- **Clubs and Organizations:**

- Women's Soccer Team (Goalkeeper)
- Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (Team Representative)

Bio: Kalli Williams, from Port Republic, Maryland, will graduate with dual degrees in Biology and Chemistry, and a minor in MBBB. Kalli balanced Division I athletics as a goalkeeper for the Women's Soccer Team while excelling academically. She served as a representative on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. After graduation, Kalli plans to attend medical school to pursue a career as a pediatric surgeon. She is thankful to the faculty, coaches, and support staff who supported her success on and off the field.

Charna Williams

Major: Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Clubs and Organizations:**

- Rhythm Step Team (Outreach Committee Member)
- Honors Writing Group (Certificate Recipient)

Bio: Charna Williams, from Baltimore, Maryland, will graduate cum laude with a degree in Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice. Charna actively participated in campus life through the Rhythm Step Team and Honors Writing Group. After graduation, she plans to attend law school to pursue a Juris Doctor degree. Charna appreciates the unique courses provided by the Honors College and thanks the staff and her family for their support throughout her academic career.

Peyton Wilson

Major: Electronic Media and Film

Graduation: May 2025

Accomplishments:

- **Awards and Honors:** Magna Cum Laude

Bio: Peyton Wilson, from Berlin, Maryland, will graduate magna cum laude with a degree in Electronic Media and Film. Peyton plans to independently write and direct films, with a long-term goal of earning a master's degree in film. He appreciates the benefits of priority registration through the Honors College. Peyton expresses gratitude to his Lord and Savior, his family, and the Honors College staff for their support throughout his college journey.

Liliana Wolf

Major: Communication Studies

Minor: Music Industry

Graduation: December 2024

Accomplishments:

- **Research Experience:**

- Independent study researching the training and pedagogy practices of ULAs within a COMMs
- Research Project: *Developing Active Learning and Pedagogy through the Role of ULA*
 - Won 3rd place at Celebration of Scholarship and Learning (CSL)

- **Student Leadership:**

- Delight Ministries – Team Leader/President
- Young Life – Volunteer Leader

Bio: Liliana Wolf graduated in December 2024 with a bachelor's degree in Communication Studies and a minor in Music Industry. She works for a local non-profit back home in Reisterstown, Maryland as a community engagement coordinator, connecting with community partners and hosting community service and outreach events. Her highlights of her time in the Honors College were her Honors Seminar classes, as well as her independent study. She conducted research on the training and pedagogy practices of undergraduate learning assistants (ULAs) in COMMs classrooms under the oversight of Professor Morris. Outside of class, she lead Delight Ministries as the president starting at the end of Freshman year. She would like to thank God, her family and friends, Delight Ministries, Professor Morris, and the Honors College for their support and their contribution to an incredible college career.

Melanie Young

Major: Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Graduation: December 2024

Accomplishments:

- **Formal Research Undertaken:**
 - Independent Study on Emergent Literacy and Language in Preschool-Aged Children
- **Study Abroad Experiences:** Salzburg, Austria
- **Internships:**
 - Clinical Internship (SPPA 487)
 - Towson Inquiry Grants for Undergraduate Research (TIGURS)
- **Research or Conference Presentations:**
 - Research Assistant with Dr. Danika Pfeifer on Emergent Literacy and Language
 - Maryland Collegiate Honors College Conference
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
 - Food Recovery Network (Volunteer, Secretary, President)
 - Student Environmental Organization
 - TU Urban Farm
 - NSSLHA (National Student Speech Language Hearing Association)

Bio: Melanie Young, from Silver Spring, Maryland, graduated cum laude in December 2024 with a degree in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Melanie conducted research on emergent literacy, completed a clinical internship, and studied abroad in Austria. She also served as President of the Food Recovery Network, leading efforts to donate 10,000 meals during her tenure. Melanie looks forward to continuing her education in graduate school at Towson University. She thanks her family and friends for their unwavering support.