



The Aggregate

The UWM Honors College Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 1 | Fall 2022

5th Anniversary Issue



Liberty Ansgore
Biological Sciences



Ashley Hale
Film Studies and English

Table of Contents

- 1-2 Anniversary Issue
- 2 Director's Note
- 3 Center Fellows
- 4 Foreign Correspondence
- 5 Vanessa Andrew
- 6-9 The Regret
- 10 Starting Out
- 11 Study Abroad
- 12 Moving Forward
- 13 Lara Spanic
- 13 Equity Team
- 14 Looking Back
- 15 UWM Honors Programs
- 16 Drama Club
- 16 Honors Apparel
- 17 Active Minds
- 17 For People and Planet
- 18 Course Highlights
- 19 Familiar Faces
- 20 Editorial



This year commemorates the five-year anniversary of the UWM Honors College Newsletter, *The Aggregate*.

Over ten issues, *The Aggregate* has chronicled the evolution of the Honors College through a student lens. Initiated by Honors College Professor Benjamin Schneider, the newsletter serves as a written display of the Honors College activities and community.

When Professor Schneider joined the Honors College in 2017, he was instantly impressed with the number of amazing activities and talented students.

"I wanted to tell as many people as I could about our students, and a newsletter seemed the most effective way," he shares.

Professor Schneider knew that for the newsletter to be authentic, it needed to be from students' perspectives, so he asked a few from his classes who he thought might be interested.

"I'm quite proud of my nose for newsletter talent," he shares with a smile. "The initial group ran with the idea and three issues later we were winning national awards."

This recognition, from the National Collegiate Honors Council ([NCHC](#)), was awarded to *The Aggregate* in 2019. Twelve students, some of whom had been around since the newsletter's initiation, earned 2nd place in the national student newsletter competition.

Madeline (Ninmann) Juve ('18, Architecture) was part of the first-ever Aggregate team, "before it even had a name," she says.

She joined because she "loved writing and was eager to apply some page-layout skills she was developing in architecture to another medium."

Both of those abilities helped Maddie to succeed in authoring several articles and to originate the layout still used today.



Photo courtesy of the Honors College.

"Being part of *The Aggregate* gave me an opportunity to enhance the writing skills I wasn't exercising much in architecture," Maddie explains.

"It also provided a 'proof of concept' that inspired me to start a student architectural journal with some amazing friends in the UWM School of Architecture."

Writers of *The Aggregate* often look back at their experience and see ways in which it impacts them now.

Samantha Brusky ('20, Architecture), a pilot team member, is finishing her Master's in Architecture at the University of Oregon. She attributes her proficiency as a graduate teaching fellow to the time she spent interviewing people for the newsletter.

Sammy also remembers the time with her fellow writers fondly. "Some of my favorite memories are from the article naming nights at the end of the semester," she says.

Rachel Radomski ('19, English), another pilot-group writer, feels similarly. The final editing meeting "was a unique type of chaos: we ate pizza to feed our exam-fried minds and we protested over the lighting and our appearance for the group photo," she remembers.

Rachel feels *The Aggregate* also influenced her time in college. "Our meetings, permeated with that commiserate sense

continued on page 2



Anniversary Issue (continued)

of camaraderie that comes with unending study dates and impending deadlines,” she says, “which gave me a sense of what a career could resemble.”

Oftentimes, those who join the newsletter have opportunities to practice techniques that relate to their future endeavors.

Haich Kress’ (’21, Biomedical Sciences) versatility allowed them to contribute to both the writing and the editing process for the early issues of the newsletter. Their current job requires careful attention to detail, fact-checking, and multitasking.

“That’s not so different from carefully pouring over nearly identical iterations of the almost-finished newsletter, looking for the littlest things out of place or misaligned,” they explain.

The impact is still seen in current writers, like current contributor Rachel Oelsner (Urban Studies, Geography).

“Writing for *The Aggregate* has given me a chance to try out a different writing style

in a low-pressure and supportive environment,” she shares.

Honors College Director Peter Sands is proud to have the newsletter as a document of the many student achievements.

“The newsletter is a terrific way of telling the campus community what we’re doing,” he explains. “I send *The Aggregate* to all the Deans across campus because it reminds everyone on campus about the good things that are happening in the Honors College.”

For Professor Schneider, the newsletter has always been for and about celebrating students. “It exists so that students can see their community, see how many interesting and talented people are here,” he shares.

“I am honored and proud every day to be able to work closely with amazing students who inspire me and help me learn and who give their time and energy every semester to create this document of our time together in the Honors College.”

Director’s Note

Five years!

When Honors College Professor Benjamin Schneider approached me about starting an internal newsletter, I could not have been happier.

We’d tried to reboot prior newsletters in my time as Director, but the effort was sporadic and always seemed to be pushed to the bottom of the list by more pressing matters.

The newsletter needed a person who took it on as a project, and Ben is that person, putting in more time and effort than I expected, recruiting a stellar team of writers and editors, hunting down stories, and making sure the final product was a marker of excellence for the Honors College.

In 2019, when he took the stage to accept an award for *The Aggregate* at the National Collegiate Honors Council meeting in New Orleans, I truly felt proud to work

in the Honors College with such outstanding staff and students.

Ben has been the driver, but the students who produce *The Aggregate* have every issue shown themselves to be talented and interested and interesting; they are the real showcase for us.

In this issue, you’ll see our standing features, such as profiles of faculty, staff, students, and alumni, as well as a surpris(ing) zine in the center of the issue.

And you’ll see the breadth of travel, experience, and thoughtfulness that has made *The Aggregate* an award winner, and a resource to the Honors College that helps us tell our stories to the rest of the UWM campus and community.

I’m thankful for these five years, and I know that Ben and his team will be producing and improving the newsletter for the next five, and the next, and . . .



Dr. Peter Sands
Honors College Director



Marshall Hoff
History and Philosophy

Center Fellows Tell Milwaukee's Stories

UWM's [Center for 21st Century Studies](#) has started an exciting new program seeking to engage students in partnerships with Milwaukee-based organizations.

As part of the Story Experience Program, students participate in experiential learning projects with community partners and facilitate story sharing.

Students in the program gain valuable skills and experiences with broad application in both their work and life, while the community partners have an opportunity to build valuable relationships with students and share stories about the organizations.

As Center Director, Professor Anne Basting hopes UWM participants will gain knowledge that is sometimes unavailable in the classroom and can help them as they move beyond college.

“Students learn how to navigate community relationships with both humility and confidence, to deeply observe an organization and its people, to design a project and to facilitate storying - both truth and imagination-based,” shares Professor Basting.

“These communication skills are invaluable to any situation, work or life, the students find themselves in.”

Currently there are three Honors College students enrolled in the program, Jake Clements (Architecture), Lejla Ganija (Education), and Morgan Klug (Education).

Jake is paired with the [Milwaukee Parks Foundation](#), a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds to help support the underfunded Milwaukee Parks System.

Currently, Jake is interviewing the Parks' staff and will start interviewing community members next semester.

Lejla is partnering with [Islands of Brilliance](#), a community organization that works with neurodivergent children to use technology and creativity to tell their stories and provide a space to express themselves.

Morgan is with [The Gathering](#), a volunteer-based organization whose purpose is to provide hot meals to those in need.

“Because need looks different to everybody, they provide meals on a no-questions-asked basis to their guests,” Morgan shares.



Photo courtesy of Center for 21st Century Studies.

Each of the students work collaboratively with their community partners toward a project meant to share each organization's story and purpose.

Morgan has been discussing the project with her mentor, Lin. “I want my project to center around something that is both promotional and story based, and also around the idea of volunteer retention and gaining volunteers,” she says.

Jake wants to “collect stories to celebrate Milwaukee Parks while showcasing their value and diversity and unlocking people's imaginations of what parks can be.”

“All of us in the program are working towards some final product, whether that be a presentation, podcast, mural, event, or something else altogether,” he says, “but without actually knowing what form it will take yet, and that is truly exciting.”

Professor Basting is excited about one surprising benefit of the program that she describes as its “collective impact.”

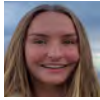
“When students collaborating with a range of community organizations come together, they discover connections or potential partnerships between those organizations that might never have been realized otherwise,” she shares.

Lejla is seeing how the project encourages the participants to build strong leadership skills.

“We've been leaders [before], but I feel like this is a whole other level of leadership, because in the end we get to come up with something on our own,” Lejla says. “Importantly, while we are leaders, we still need to remember there are people around us who have valuable knowledge to share.”



Foreign Correspondence



Lizzie Adams
Criminal Justice



Photo courtesy of Lizzie Adams.



Photo courtesy of Lizzie Adams..



Photo courtesy of Lizzie Adams..

Young Lizzie Adams would not begin to fathom all the adrenaline rushing, beautifully spectacular, and breathtaking places that I would describe to her. Studying abroad in Spain is the perfect moment to be able to say “yeah, I did that.”

Before arriving in Seville, I made a list of expectations and itinerary details to complete before my time here would conclude, including visiting castles, taking stunning hiking routes, and so much more.

However, the one task that I find myself concentrating on the most is to rediscover who Lizzie is. And there’s no better time to do this than when you are more than 4,000 miles away from your loved ones, in a country that is not familiar with your native tongue and surrounded by people you have only just met weeks ago. When I describe stepping out of my comfort zone, this experience exemplifies it.

Being away from my friends and loved ones is hard. People would always tell me “it’s not the destination, it’s who is in the destination with you.”

Before studying abroad, I never quite understood what this meant, but one week-end my study abroad program took my peers and I to Granada, Spain and I understood better.

When I say the views are breathtaking, I am not exaggerating. Also, because “granada” means pomegranate in Spanish, there were all these cute accents of pomegranates integrated throughout the city; it is adorable.

This visit was a perfect moment that I would have loved to share with my friends and family, but I wasn’t with them. This is my first act of growth.

Something that is glorified in other study abroad reflections is the language barrier and the discomfort that is associated with being an American.

Several times I have spoken Spanish in a restaurant or when ordering food and am



Photo courtesy of Lizzie Adams.

immediately met with English responses or impatient stares.

While I have been told I am a few dozen vocabulary words short of fluency in Spanish, I continue to be met with these unwanted reactions.

Some have told that the Spanish people just want me to feel comfortable, and others have told me this is because of the “Americanness” that I portray and the disbelief of my ability to speak the language.

Nevertheless, I believe that if I persist in responding in Spanish, I can exceed their expectations. Another moment of growth.

Honestly, being abroad is simply tough. While some focus on all of the exciting moments, fun times, and spectacular views, I choose to focus on the times where I grow as an individual and am transformed by the uncomfortableness.

Small victories such as ordering food, taking a walk by myself in an unfamiliar city, learning to enjoy time alone, not having the immediate comfort of my loved ones, and thriving in classes in a language not native to my own, are the reasons why I believe everyone should consider a study abroad experience.

I have pushed myself out of the comfortable bubble I grew back at home. I have traveled to six different countries, explored twenty cities, and lived in a place that uses a different language from the one I was raised with. I grew so much and will continue to grow more. So yeah, I did that.



Rachel Oelsner
Geography and
Urban Studies

Stitching Together Art and Activism

As a local entrepreneur, Vanessa Andrew ('05, Painting & Drawing) is dedicated to bettering her community. She re-purposes donated and recycled fabrics to create new clothing items and sells them at her store, [Madam Chino](#).

Each year millions of clothing items are tossed in the trash, and Vanessa hopes to combat this problem by offering a more environmentally friendly option for her customers.

There is more motivating Vanessa than just keeping fabric out of landfills, however. "It's about social justice as well as environmental issues," she says.

Vanessa knows that many clothing companies pay their workers low wages and operate with unsafe working conditions. Madam Chino offers an alternative.

In addition to operating her storefront and doing clothing alterations for customers, Vanessa offers classes to teach sewing techniques to anyone who wants to learn.

Her classes are just one of the ways that Vanessa distinguishes herself from large clothing companies and corporations.

"I'm not trying to push my product on people," she says. "Empowering people is my hope."

Vanessa's outlook is that fashion, business, and art can all be connected.

"To me, storefronts are kind of like installation art," she says, and many of the skills that she uses to run her business are ones she refined during her time in the Honors College.

"I still do a lot of writing," Vanessa shares. "I create all the zines and literature that I put out for my classes."

While in the Honors College, Vanessa completed an independent study non-seminar option.

"The project was a children's book," she remembers. "My interest was in educational comics because I liked the picture and word relationships."



Photo courtesy of Vanessa Andrew.

The independent study gave her a chance to explore new artistic skills and ideas, and Vanessa has drawn on her experience by using writing and drawing to help Madam Chino prosper.

"You have to find your language," she shares. "You have to decide what works best for you, and my experiences through doing that work [in the Honors College] helped refine that for myself."

Vanessa's connection to UWM did not end after she graduated. "For 10 years, I taught sewing in the Craft Centre on campus," she recalls. "And every year I had this awesome opportunity to showcase in the Union for Earth Day."

In addition, Vanessa has been invited back to UWM on several occasions to speak to students about her business.

Vanessa believes that owning a store is mainly about having something to provide to the community and adopting an attitude of service.

"The only reason that I feel like my business is successful is because I have an in-demand service," she says. "I love having something to offer people that's helpful and useful to them."

In the future, she hopes that Madam Chino will be able to continue providing a wide variety of services and products to her community.

Meanwhile, Vanessa will keep using her artistic vision to empower consumers to make sustainable fashion choices.



WELCOME



TO

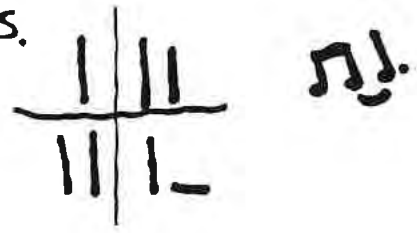


THE REGRET

THE REGRET IS A MINI ZINE WITHIN THE AGGREGATE. IT'S MEANT TO GIVE STUDENTS THE SPACE TO SHARE THEIR OPINIONS, ANGER, SECRETS, CREATIVE-SIDE, AND WHATEVER ELSE THEY WANT IN AN INFORMAL WAY. HOPEFULLY YOU AS A READER WILL BE ABLE TO RELATE AND LAUGH AT SOME OF THE PIECES OF THIS PROJECT, BUT IF YOU DONT... WE DONT CARE! IT WAS FUN



TO MAKE AND THAT'S WHAT MATTERS. PEACE AND LOVE AND ALL THAT, -THE COOLEST KIDS ON CAMPUS



P.S. IF YOU DONT KNOW WHAT A ZINE IS, LOOK IT UP.

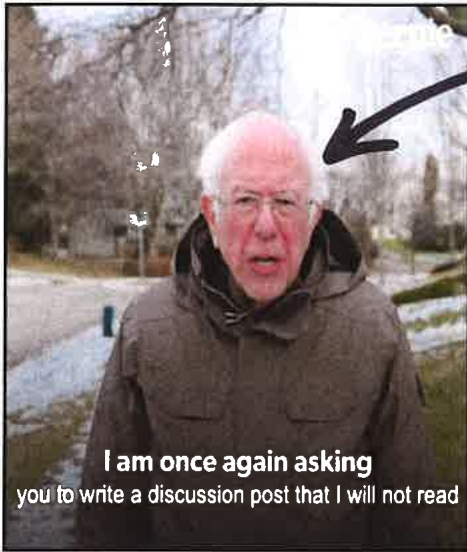


xoxOXox



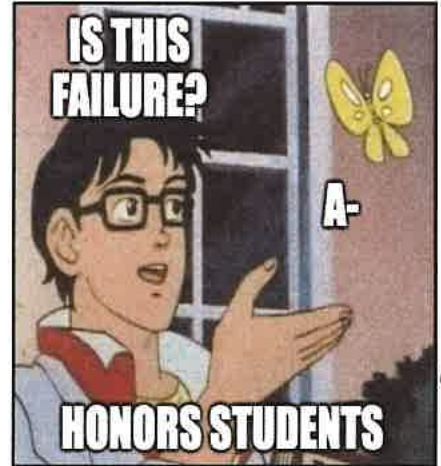
EMPTY SPACE BORTING

The REGRET

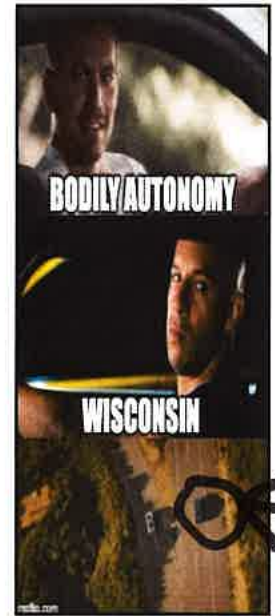
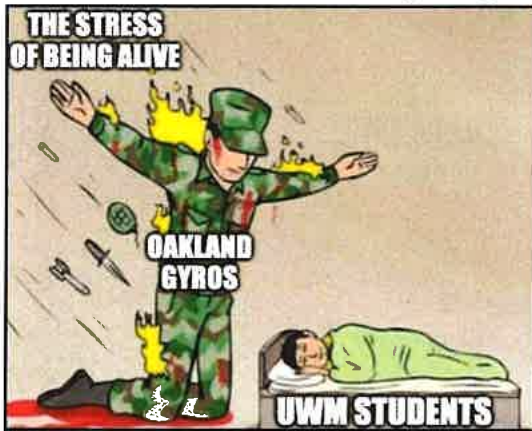


I am once again asking you to write a discussion post that I will not read

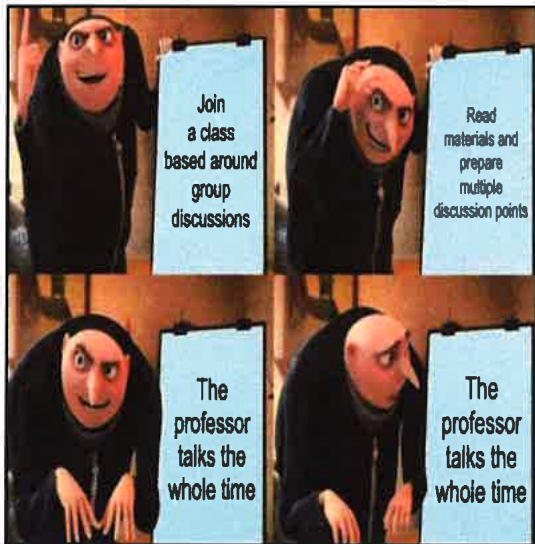
HONORS PROFESSORS



A little better

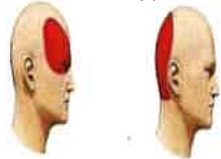


Me going to Chicago for healthcare



Types of Headaches

Migraine Hypertension



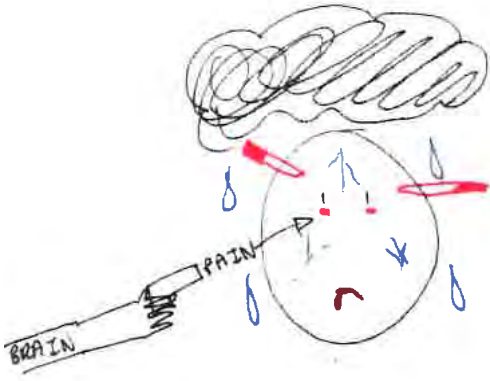
Stress honors priority registration



THE REGRET



i can't win this fight. I'm just one person, one single autistic ADHD-ass fibromyalgia-having, kidney-damage-having, bowel-disorder-having hard-of-hearing 21-year-old loser whose favourite band is MCR and who likes to write barely-censored werewolf smut to turn in to HARPY for the beastly conference. I have no mental or physical energy left in my reserve at the end of the day. No muscular strength to physically beat the message into the administration's heads (plus I have a lot of goals for my future that would be severely be impinged were I to spend my life in jail for a moment of rage as a young adult, and I don't think expressing my frustration in that manner would be particularly persuasive to anyone anyway, or so I tell myself when licking my wounds at the end of the day and wondering why I haven't devoted my life to being a vigilante assassin). I have no authority on this campus, not even over my own lived experiences. No place to make my voice heard, as I'm soft-spoken with social anxiety disorder and agoraphobia and it's hard enough just getting out of bed in the morning, much less saying "fuck you" to an Adult™'s face. All I have is a migraine, a few spare hours, rage, and a computer.



but you look fine!!?

I BELONG HERE TOO



FODDAM- MIT ALL



Problem:
my immune system hates me

Solution:
go through hell

Problem:
marled ulcers maul my duodenum painting its plush pink walls with globs of maroon



Solution:
pound prednisone until you get moon face and anger issues

Problem:
dilapidated intestines reek of rotten food never to be digested

Solution:
chug laxatives until your butthole burns from pooping water

Problem:
laxatives = nausea
nausea = the devil

Solution:
devour anti-nausea medication until your insides are numb

Problem:
heart skips a beat when sleeping i haven't slept in 6 months

Solution:
plaster patches of sticky rubber to your chest rip them off when doctor tells you nothing's wrong

Problem:
heartrate skyrockets to 160 bpm when standing, the rate of a sprinter

Solution:
swallow blood pressure medication even though you just started high school

Problem:
eyes adore turning off their peripherals brain joins in on the fun and screams until tunnel vision passes

Solution:
endure the pain sleep like you have zero obligations

Problem:
friends don't invite me anymore, i'll just say no anyway

Solution:
build an isolation station in bedroom and stay there

Problem:
i don't trust my body; it has betrayed me

Solution:
it's not your body that's the problem it's your anxiety

Problem:
people propose anxiety as the source of my body's misery

Solution:
flip them off and commence healing

THE REGRET



COOL LOCAL BANDS

- ! SCAM LIKELY
- ! DIET LITE
- ! SUPERGLUE
- ! WASHROOM
- ! SHOOBIE
- ! SPOY
- ! BATHHOUSE KILLSQUAD
- ! SUMMER BIRTH



ASK GOD

Q- GOD, WHAT IS THE BEST SONG EVER WRITTEN?

A- THE BEST SONG EVER WRITTEN HASN'T BEEN WRITTEN YET. SPOILER ALERT: YOU WRITE IT. GET GOIN'.

Q- GOD, WILL ONE DIRECTION EVER GET BACK TOGETHER?

A- YES, MY CHILD, IN TIME.

Q- GOD, HOW IS THE BAND "THE STRANGLERS" DOING?

A- I DON'T KNOW, THEY AREN'T UP HERE

Q- GOD, WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE?

A- THEY DON'T. CHECK YOURSELF



Ya Like Gazy?

WANT TO START A BAND?

1. BE COOL

2. ACQUIRE AN INSTRUMENT

- Facebook Marketplace (cheap!)
- Steal One (cheaper!)



Caleb Pacheco
Biochemistry

Starting Out: Alesa Buckley

Alesa Buckley (Film), from Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, is a first-year student who is optimistic about her future at UWM.

With Alesa's interest in film, directing, and sound, UWM is a great fit for her.

"UWM's attractive Film Department, with its excellent resources for students to take advantage of, made it a clear choice for me," she says.

Although this is just Alesa's first semester, she has already utilized the 24/7 rental access to cameras, sound equipment, and recording rooms in Mitchell Hall.

Alesa appreciates having complete access to equipment because it has allowed her to work when it is most convenient for her. Alesa says she is "enjoying her film courses and eventually hopes to find a career in film after graduating."

Another factor that helped Alesa solidify her decision to come to UWM is the Honors College.

"Priority registration and student-led seminar-style courses were the main components that intrigued me about the Honors College," she says.

This semester, Alesa is enrolled in Honors College Professor Benjamin Schneider's "Growing Up." Alesa has already seen improvement in her own work and attributes her success to the help and guidance of Professor Schneider.

After being a part of the Honors College for a few months, Alesa is also enjoying the environment and culture.

"I like that I get to interact with my classmates and instructor, and I feel like my opinions are valued," she adds.

Alesa said that the course has allowed her to "learn in new ways," something she does not experience in her other courses.



Photo courtesy of Alesa Buckley.

Alesa has enjoyed her time in the Honors College so far, and she wants others to consider joining and shares some advice.

"Attend office hours as much as you can and make a plan to stay on top of deadlines" she says.

Outside of her studies, Alesa has played basketball for most of her life and wants to continue playing at a competitive level. She is strongly considering joining the UWM women's club basketball team.

The team practices twice each week and travels for games during most of the academic year. Alesa also wants to check out more organizations and become more involved on campus.

As a resident of one of the off-campus dorms, Alesa appreciates the layout of the campus and the reliable transportation system. Being able to take the university shuttle bus to campus and having all her classes close to each other makes her travel experience hassle-free.

Although Alesa is still in her first semester at UWM, she is looking forward to her future here and is enjoying the college experience.



Vai Triggiano
Psychology

"Royals and Rebels" Returns

During the summer of 2022, fifteen honors students embarked on a two-week study abroad journey to the U.K. Honors College Professors Alan Singer and David Southward lead the six-credit course, "Royals & Rebels."

Each day, the students visited different monuments, parks, museums, and churches to learn about both the royalty of England and its rebellions. Then, after the excitement of touring these landmarks, the class sat down for a discussion about the day.

Along with engagement during outings and participation during class, students kept a photo journal, read passages, and submitted an extensive photographic essay on a subject of interest that dealt with the royals and rebels that they learned about.

Along with visiting historic sites, students attended a Shakespeare play at the Globe Theater and engaged in walking tours led by local tour guides.

Amanda Holzer (Conservation and Environmental Science) enjoyed the variety of experiences. "My favorite thing we did was probably the street art tour," she shares. "It showed me how culturally different street art is in London compared to the street art we have here in Milwaukee. It also ended up playing a bigger role in my final paper than I anticipated, which was a bonus."

For Professor Southward, the theater outing is top of his list. "My favorite activity to share with students is Shakespeare at the Globe Theater" he says.

"Since many of them have never seen live Shakespeare, or even live theater in some cases, it's exciting to see their reactions. Virtually everyone loves it more than they imagined they would. It's inevitably one of the happiest nights of the trip."

The students not only enjoyed the features of London but also traveled to locations outside the city center, including Hampton Court, Bath, Stonehenge, and Salisbury. Maggie Dobbs (Chinese) appreciated being able to experience more than just



Photo courtesy of Honors College.

London. "Hampton Court was so interesting," she says. "We were able to explore the entire palace as it was under three different monarchs, unlike Windsor Castle because it's currently a functioning residence."

Ronan Carpenter (French and Psychology) will remember Bath as his favorite part of the trip. "I appreciated the opportunity to get a flavor of a smaller, less urban part of England than London," he says. "After all, big cities have a very different flavor than smaller towns regardless of what continent you're on."

The class not only consists of these touring adventures, however.

"The readings give the students both context to the places they are visiting, and they breathe life into all of the locations by learning about specific things that happened there," Professor Singer reports. "We share our opinions and think critically about all that we are experiencing."

Professor Southward agrees. "All of the course readings give voice to the past in ways that the sites can't do on their own" he says. "Texts give students something to think about while they're roaming a castle or church: a human presence that fills the space like a speaking ghost."

For prospective study abroad students, Professor Southward's message to future travelers is to be prepared for "amazing art and history and friendships that will last. It is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will only become more precious with time."



Clara Broeker
Mechanical Engineering

Moving Forward: Sal Gauthier

Since graduating, Sal Gauthier ('22, Mathematics, Mathematics Education) has put his degrees to use in teaching at Hamilton High School, the largest high school in the Milwaukee Public School system. There, he has stayed busy teaching six sections of geometry.

In this new and challenging role, Sal has drawn from his experience from his time in the Honors College to guide him.

“As an actual educator now, I have brought with me an attitude about learning which is particularly present in the Honors College,” Sal reflects, “that emphasizes learning instead of just performance.”

While he also recognizes that he works in a system that relies heavily on predetermined standards, he does his best to promote this philosophy in his classroom.

“I try to focus much more on actual exploration and spending time with ideas instead of exclusively trying to achieve performance goals,” Sal describes.

Besides taking his experience from the Honors College into his career, Sal also acknowledges its impact on his college experience. During his time at UWM, he was involved in many Honors College endeavors.

One of these was the [Alternative Spring Break](#) trip to New Orleans. After going on the inaugural trip in 2018, and the second in 2019, Sal committed to keeping the trip accessible for future students.

“Searching for funding and trying to find ways to make the trip sustainable and ongoing was a big focus of mine,” he says.

Along with several other students, he helped form the Honors College Alternative Spring Break Club, an official UWM student organization that can apply for Student Association grants.

Sal was also involved with the Honors College’s outreach to several Milwaukee Public Schools. Their efforts focused on encouraging high school students to understand the value of college.



Photo courtesy of Sal Gauthier.

“It was an attempt to get students from different schools to see the Honors College as an opportunity, UWM as an opportunity, and just generally see college as an achievable opportunity,” Sal adds.

In addition to participating in different activities himself, Sal also made efforts to be a part of the Honors College community and support his classmates.

“Generally, I liked to be involved with the stuff that was going on,” he recalls. “I would try to be there to support the things that were happening in the Honors College, like the plays every semester or Midweek.”

For Sal, this feeling of community enhanced his academic experience. One of the classes he took that he remembers as particularly impactful was Honors College Professor David Southward’s “A Poetry Workshop,” due to the connection that he experienced with other students.

“I enjoyed getting to write and analyze poetry and workshop with each other for a semester,” Sal reflects. “It was an interesting group doing cool, fun things and learning.”

Sal recognizes that the Honors environment of community and the tight-knit relationships that he gained through it made college much more than a degree.

“I honestly don’t know how much I would’ve enjoyed college without the Honors College. I think I would’ve seen it much more of a thing to do, get done with, and move on from, rather than a genuinely enjoyable experience.”



Ashley Hale
Film Studies and English

Aiming for Excellence

In April '22, college students from across the country gathered in Fort Wayne, Indiana to compete in the [American Small-bore Shooting Association](#) Intercollegiate Club National Championship.

After a weekend of competing, Lara Spanic (English) won the individual small-bore category and was named ASSA overall champion.

Lara earned gold in smallbore shooting, silver in airborne shooting, and the overall aggregate win. She has been shooting rifles since she was twelve years old and has been involved in smallbore shooting since she was nineteen.

She uses shooting to escape from the stresses of her life: "I'm always stressed out about school or whatever but when I shoot it's like I'm just shooting- that's all that exists," she says.

Along with giving her a place to relax, shooting has also made Lara more disciplined, taught her to persevere, challenged

her to adapt, and allowed her to meet incredible people from all over the country.

Lara is grateful that her involvement with shooting has helped give her structure.

"I have a goal to pursue," she says, "which I was kind of lacking before, so I appreciate that it's given me that."

However, for Lara, shooting does come with challenges. When she shoots, she works hard to push through the pain that comes from standing in uncomfortable positions. She deals with setbacks by reminding herself that "progress isn't linear, and it never will be."

Currently, Lara is working towards her ambitious future goals. "I want to make the national team," she says, "and I would love to go to World Cup and shoot in Olympics someday."

For now, Lara will continue training and shooting in regional and national competitions as she works hard to make her goals a reality.



Photo courtesy of Lara Spanic.

Race, Justice, Power

As many student organizations begin to get back to work post-COVID restrictions, the [Equity Team](#) looks to continue providing students an opportunity to make a difference in their communities.

The Equity Team was founded in 2020 to provide a safe community of support and care that is mindful of the challenges that minority students face.

Additionally, the Equity Team hopes to make the Honors College student body more reflective of the demographics of UWM and of Milwaukee. To create this environment, the Equity Team promotes anti-racism activities throughout the semester.

The Equity team is led by graduate advisor Mia Heredia and overseen by Honors College Professors Jill Budny and Lindsay Daigle. With their guidance, the Equity Team has the support and backing of faculty to put together events and inspire change.

The Equity Team coordinates a Milwaukee public high school partnership pro-

gram. In it, undergraduate Honors College students are paired with local high schoolers from historically underrepresented backgrounds.

By providing high schoolers with a peer mentor, they are encouraged to explore higher education and are given advice to be prepared for college, with a goal to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in higher education.

Equity Team mentor Jo Fox (Women and Gender Studies) has been with the group since its beginning and appreciates its student-centered leadership.

"The Equity Team is driven by its members," he says, "and focuses on what the group decides is most important."

The team meets weekly to discuss relevant issues, ideas, and plans to further their goal of creating a more diverse student body through recruiting efforts aimed at incoming students. Anyone in the Honors College is eligible and is encouraged to join.



Caleb Pacheco
Biochemistry



Photo courtesy of Honors College.



Looking Back: Christopher August



Sophia Shaw
Psychology

Thirteen years ago, Christopher August ('09, Philosophy) left Milwaukee to pursue his ambition of social justice within the legal system.

During that time, he attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Law School, interned in Philadelphia, opened his own law firm, and became a Wisconsin State Public Defender in the Milwaukee appellate division.

At first, and while an undergraduate at UWM, Chris found a way to express his passion for law by working as a volunteer paralegal at the [University Legal Clinic's](#) information center.

As a student employee, he conducted intake interviews and completed follow-up paperwork for clients. He recalls that it was a salient experience and a positive opportunity provided by the university that strengthened his desire to study law.

After graduating, Chris found that the academic support from his law school professors was different than what he was used to at UWM and the Honors College.

In his first year of law school, he felt discouraged about his academic writing. However, the voice of Honors College Professor David Southward echoed in the back of his mind, telling him that he was a strong writer whose words mattered and who deserved to be heard.

Chris showed his resilience by continuing to follow his passion and remaining headstrong during stressful academic times.

The Honors College cultivated "writing with confidence, intellectual curiosity, and trust," he remembers. His professors all encouraged reading complicated texts for the purpose of forming an opinion.

His trust in his personal ideas and thoughts grew through the aid of the Honors College.

"The foundation provided by this form of education is directly supportive of and related to the work that I do now in the legal system," he says.



Photo courtesy of Chris August.

Chris finished his time in the Honors College by completing the independent thesis option [Research in Honors], and he encourages students to look into it as well.

"Designing a project, recruiting assistance from faculty, and generating scholarly work provides beneficial skills," Chris shares, "especially for careers heavily dependent on intellectual writing, research, and critical thinking."

He also recommends making use of the social haven that the Honors College offers.

"Finishing undergrad while preparing to apply for law school was tough," he remembers, "but I was fortunate to have the Honors College as a place to hang out and study. It provided an intellectual space where I could read a cool book or just talk with a smart peer who helped stimulate expounding on our own opinions and thoughts."

As Chris reflected on his experience at UWM, he shared some final advice for all Honors College students.

"Don't forget the Honors College wants you to push yourself academically," he says.

"After you leave, people might want to put you back in the box but remember what you learned in the Honors College and stay outside of the box. Be unique and grow your intellectual opinions."



Olive Justman
Psychology

Connecting Campus Honors Programs

The Honors College is not just a community for students at the main campus of UW-Milwaukee; the UWM at Waukesha and Washington County campuses have thriving [Honors Programs](#) as well.

This semester, there are currently fifteen students at Waukesha and ten at Washington County enrolled in the Honors Program. On these campuses, students are offered one Honors Program seminar option per semester, resembling the small class size and in-depth look at a particular topic that the Milwaukee campus students are familiar with.

In addition to this, Honors Program students at the branch campuses of UWM can receive credits in their traditional classes by conducting mini-independent projects with the approval of their course professor and the Honors Program Director, Professor Lisa Hagar.

“These students are receiving a more advanced approach at preparing for the four-year university,” Professor Hagar states.

Students enrolled in the Honors Program are invited based on their high school GPAs and ACT scores. Returning students must maintain a 3.5 or higher GPA to remain in the Honors Program.

“They get a more individual connection with their Honors Program professors and one-on-one research mentors as they advance research in their fields,” Professor Hagar says.

Professor Hagar had their own experience as part of the Honors College while they were a student at the University of Georgia. There, Professor Hagar found a sense of familiarity and community on campus.

“I can see it when the students are together, they can make important connections,” they state.

The Honors Program in the College of General Studies at UWM at Waukesha and Washington County is a great way for higher achieving students to dive deeper into the



Photo courtesy of UWM.

classes they are enrolled in and allows for a more personalized research approach. The students also get to present their research at the UWM Undergraduate Research Symposium as well as the Posters in the Rotunda at the state capital.

Students enrolled in the Honors Program at UWM at Waukesha and Washington County can directly transfer to UWM’s central campus Honors College. These campuses also have transfer agreements with other colleges such as UW-Whitewater and Carroll University, ensuring that their Honors credits are accepted.

In order to complete their Associates Degree with Honors, students must complete at least four Honors Program credits. They also get to participate in the Honors College graduation at the Milwaukee campus in the spring.

The Honors Program sets students up for success in furthering their education. It also supports admission into competitive majors at the four-year campus.

Professor Hagar is in their first year of directing the Honors program at the branch campuses but already has high hopes for increased connections between the Milwaukee campus and the branch campuses.

For example, a mentor program between the campuses will allow for the main campus students to give perspective on the benefits of continuing in the Honors Program. If students at UWM at Waukesha and Washington County are looking for an advanced and personalized education, the Honors College is for them.



Clara Broeker
Mechanical Engineering

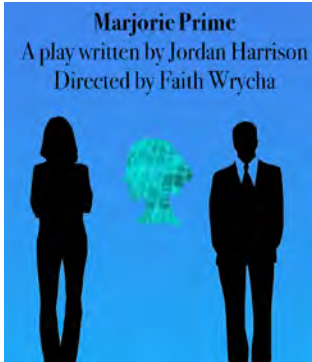


Photo courtesy of Faith Wrycha.

Drama Club Presents... *Marjorie Prime*

When she was asked to direct this semester's student run play, Faith Wrycha (Film) found difficulty in deciding on a play.

Ultimately, she relied upon her high school drama experience when she settled on Jordan Harrison's dystopian drama, *Marjorie Prime*.

"I acted out just one scene from this show my senior year of high school, and it stuck with me," Faith reflects. "So, I bought it and read it and loved it."

A 90-minute production in two acts, Faith and the members of the Drama Club have discovered how *Marjorie Prime* explores the complicated boundaries between humans and technology.

The play identifies the complexities in the relationship between the individuality of humans and the technology that surrounds us, an increasingly relevant topic in a world that is rapidly becoming more and more technologically dependent.

As always, the process of preparing for the show during the semester is a challenge.

"We rehearse Monday and Friday nights, run through the show, incorporate costumes and props," Faith adds. "Just practice, practice, practice, so that we can put on a good show."

Faith has found directing extremely rewarding. Specifically, she highlights her excitement in getting to see the diverse talents of other Honors College students.

"Yeah, we're all smart in the Honors College, but some people can act. Some people are great at figuring out costumes," Faith says. "I think it's a great opportunity to see classmates shine in other ways."

Club members include Zoey Bannenberg (English), Larissa Beckman (Theatre), May Heili (Art), Antonis Ybarra (Education), Maeve Condon (History), Benjamin Freyer (Film), Rachel Reichard (Art History), and Annalese Wenthur (Undecided).

Honors College Apparel Store Opens



Liberty Ansgore
Biological Sciences

Starting this December, the Honors College will offer branded apparel for students and staff through [Abacus Marketing](#).

Honors College Associate Director Laura Blaska is thrilled that students will be able to proudly represent their Honors College home. "I am so excited that we can all show off the Honors College visually when we are around campus or in the community," Laura says.

New Honors College Recruiter Quincy Lagrant feels similarly, and he has already ordered his apparel.

"I believe it is important for recruiting that we show our community visually whenever we are talking with students about coming to UWM and the Honors College," Quincy says.

Students who missed out on ordering at the end of the semester will be able to purchase clothing items and mugs starting in January.

The Honors College intends to run bulk orders each semester and will also make the apparel available to order for incoming stu-



Photo courtesy of the Honors College.

dents during New Student Orientation and Fall Convocation.

Honors College Professor Schneider is looking forward to being able to advertise his affiliation with the Honors College and hopes that students will too.

"All over campus we see students and staff representing their units," Professor Schneider says. "Athletics, The Lubar College of Business, Architecture, School of Education -- they all have student apparel, so I'm happy that we'll be able to show our colors too."



Jake Clements
Architecture and Film



Photo courtesy of Active Minds.

Active Minds Rethinks Mental Health

UWM's [Active Minds](#) club is aiming to change the conversation regarding mental health on campus.

Vice President Vai Triggiano (Psychology) is in her third year at UWM. Previously, she was the club's Student Outreach Officer and has been a member since her first year.

"Our goal is to inspire students to feel comfortable openly talking about mental health," Vai says, "and to provide them with the resources they can use on campus."

Active Minds hosts five events a semester, including two discussions and two guest speakers. Their largest event is a stress-relief activity night which this semester will be a Bob Ross painting night. Additionally, the club also holds quiet study sessions every Friday night.

The club also hopes to inspire students to not only get the help they need, but to inform their peers about the multitude of resources available to them.

Vai feels reassured in the work that has been done by the club and has received specific feedback from students.

"A student came up to our table at the involvement fair and thanked us for being such a great resource on campus," Vai says. "They said the resources and discussions that we provided helped them to feel comfortable reaching out for help."

Club President William Miles (Psychology) hopes that anyone interested in getting involved takes the opportunity.

"Everyone can learn to understand how mental health is not something that should have any stigma around it whatsoever, but rather it should be de-stigmatized altogether," William says.

He also loves working with "the amazing team of officers that have kept the organization strong," and believes that the space they have collectively created is mindful, efficient, and fun for all.

For People and Planet

Student organization [For People and Planet](#) has spread its roots this semester.

Formally called "The Flood," the name was changed to reflect a new focus on social justice as well as environmental activism.

Lead officer Rachel Blank (Biological Sciences) hopes the club can inspire others "to take initiative and get involved directly with issues that they care about."

"We strive to find ways to meaningfully impact the world around us through action rather than just words," Rachel says.

Meetings are once a week and involve discussing topics students are passionate about in addition to leaving the classroom and being active, such as a yearly trip to clean up a park in Milwaukee, hosting speakers, or partnering with the Conservation Club to hold a clothing drive.

The club also works towards educating on different topics, such as composting, through hands-on experience. For com-

posting, the club was able to take a trip to the Sandburg Garden Hoop House to learn more about how the process works on campus. Officer Ashley Hale (Film Studies, English) helps with planning events and running the club's social media.

"As a freshman, I was all virtual. I remember getting the Honors College weekly email that listed all the clubs, and thinking, 'I hope I can be in-person one day and be involved,'" Ashley recalls.

Now, Ashley encourages anybody wanting to get involved with environmental and societal justice to come to a meeting and check out the club.

"I think a lot of times when it comes to activism people feel they are a single person and can't do anything, but when you join a group like this you can meet other people who are also passionate about these subjects," Ashley says. "It may not be changing the world but at least it's a step."



Jake Clements
Architecture and Film



Course Highlights



Sophia Shaw
Psychology



Photo courtesy of the internet.

“The Third ‘W’: Ideas of Place and Space”

Honors College Professor Lindsay Daigle’s “The Third ‘W’: Ideas of Place & Space” inspires students to question the interaction between individuals and their environment. (The third “W” is “where,” fyi.)

Professor Daigle says that the course aims to help students address questions that include: “What do we observe about how we orient ourselves in a space and how others might and why might it matter?”

Her desire to expound on the topic of “the mutual relationship between one’s environment and self” grew during her first years in the Honors College and she first introduced the seminar during the Spring semester of 2018.

Professor Daigle strives to foster a setting that prompts her students to gain a better understanding of themselves and others who are different from them. She encourages students to think outside of themselves.

Current student Josh Skarda (Journalism) thinks the “weekly readings are super intriguing” and that Professor Daigle “weaves other identities into the discussion, which is refreshing because it allows us to visualize other perspectives.”

“I appreciate how the class has become a community. It is the most interactive class I have taken where my peers are all open-minded, civil, and kind,” Josh says. “I always leave the classroom feeling more knowledgeable about the world, and it has been a great experience so far.”

Professor Daigle’s passion for the topic of the third “W” is expressed through the language she utilizes to describe her course.

“We all orient ourselves differently,” she says, “but realizing why we do so allows us to be better listeners and to better understand, which creates empathy through knowledge.”

“*Hamlet* and Friends”

“To be, or not to be” is one question Honors College Professor Benjamin Schneider will be asking students who take his course, “*Hamlet* and Friends.”

New for Spring ‘23, the course will offer students a chance to study the Shakespearean classic and some of its many influences.

While traveling this past summer, Professor Schneider attended a production of James Ijames’ *Fat Ham* at NYC’s [Public Theater](#).

Fat Ham’s fresh, clever take on *Hamlet* inspired Professor Schneider, who says it is “one of the most amazing live theater experiences of my life.”

He wanted to share Ijames’ beautiful play and immediately started to plan on how to get it to his students. Flash-forward a few months and “*Hamlet* and Friends” is now offered to Honors College students.

During the first half of the semester, students will slow-read *Hamlet*. The second half will engage with art that has been influenced by the play, including *Fat Ham*,

HBO’s *Station Eleven*, Tom Stoppard’s *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, and more.

Professor Schneider says this centuries-long connection is crucial. “*Hamlet*’s enduring impact helps us learn how texts influence all different sorts of other texts, as if in a conversation over time” he shares.

Professor Schneider hopes students will be able to explore if and how *Hamlet* is still speaking to us 400 years later.

This connection from past to present is something Samuel Bensemann (Architecture) is excited to explore.

“Something about the title ‘*Hamlet* and Friends’ seems incredibly energetic and silly, yet deeply engaging,” he shares. “Studying these texts is a journey that might make me smile or surprise me along the way.”

Professor Schneider is excited too: “as always, I am extremely excited to see where our very bright students take this fascinating material. I am always challenged by *Hamlet*, and I look forward to learning alongside the members of the class.”



Liberty Ansgore
Biological Science



Photo courtesy of the internet.



Rachel Oelsner
Geography and
Urban Studies

Familiar Faces

Dr. Alan Singer

After nearly eighteen years of teaching for the Honors College, Professor Alan Singer is still using his unwavering love of history to inspire students.

Before completing his graduate studies at the University of Missouri, Alan attended Northern Illinois University where he met Dr. Marvin Rosen, a History Professor who inspired him to teach.

“He was jumping up on desks and doing all this role-playing with the students,” Alan recalls. He wanted to follow in Dr. Rosen’s footsteps by sharing his passion with students in a way that would be both meaningful and memorable.

In his courses, one of Alan’s goals is to weave topics of social justice into his teaching of history.

“Honors College courses aren’t all about teaching the content,” he says. “Ultimately, it’s about how to think and communicate.”

He wants to show his students that everyone experiences life differently and that

looking at things from different perspectives can be a useful tool for understanding historic events.

In addition to teaching during the school year, Alan co-runs a study abroad trip with Honors College Professor David Southward. Every other summer, the colleagues take a group of fifteen students to England to learn about history and literature experientially.

Outside of work hours, Alan fills his time with family and hobbies. In addition to teaching his fifteen-year-old twins how to drive, he spends a lot of time cycling outdoors and making music.

“No matter how busy I get in life, I manage to find some time almost every day to play some guitar,” he shares.

Alan is a spectacular resource for students and an asset to the campus. To new Honors College students, his advice is to “explore what’s available and just try to learn for the sake of learning.”



Photo courtesy of the Honors College.

Kathryn Stupar

This year, UWM’s Honors College welcomed Kathryn Stupar as its newest Academic Advisor.

Kathryn has been a Wisconsin resident for most of her life, attending St. Cloud University where she majored in Community Psychology and Communication Studies.

Kathryn then furthered her education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she ultimately decided on her career in academic counseling.

Being an Academic Advisor in the Honors College is Kathryn’s first job out of college, but she also was an academic advisor for athletes on the Madison campus as well as supervisor for resident assistants through university housing.

Kathryn’s focus when advising is making sure students know they are supported. “I love helping people achieve their academic goals” Kathryn states.

Kathryn finds the Honors College appealing because of the wide variety of classes that are offered. Looking back, she wishes she would have taken advantage of the Honors Program at Madison while she was a student.

Kathryn was drawn to the idea of working for the Honors College specifically because of the “close-knit community.”

As a dedicated Academic Advisor, she believes that she “can better understand students’ goals and be an active support system by spending more time and engaging in meaningful conversations.”

When Kathryn isn’t on campus, she is often outside biking and hiking, or swimming in Lake Michigan. She also just recently got engaged!

Kathryn keeps an open-door approach, so if you pass her office, say hello. We’re happy to have you on campus, Kathryn.



Olive Justman
Psychology



Photo courtesy of the Honors College.



The Aggregate:

Lizzie Adams
 Liberty Ansgore
 Clara Broecker
 Jake Clements
 Jo Fox
 Ashley Hale
 Marshall Hoff
 Olive Justman
 Rachel Oelsner
 Caleb Pacheco
 Sophia Shaw
 Vai Triggiano

The Aggregate's Voice

In this issue of *The Aggregate*, we recognize an important milestone for our newsletter. Over the past five years, we have reported on the people and the happenings of the Honors College.

During that time, we have won national recognition, and we are proud to have published two issues amid COVID lockdown.

From the start, we have believed that community is at the core of the Honors College, and that our collective successes and continued prosperity reflect that reality. Moreover, we have tried to highlight this community in every issue of *The Aggregate* and this year's is no different.

You'll see how we strive for a little extra. Whether through hands-on community connections in Milwaukee or experiences abroad, the Honors College students and staff find ways to make a difference.

Moving forward, we hope *The Aggregate* acts as a record for those who want to look back to see what we have accomplished.

As writers of *The Aggregate*, we joined this team to learn about our peers and share our experiences. Now as some of us gradu-

ate and move forward, we look back at our history with pride.

The Honors College has housed so many amazing individuals and talented who have undoubtedly found the support they were looking for embedded in our walls. The Honors College is not just a credential, it is a home.

We do, however, recognize that this home has not always been open to all. Thus, we continue to work towards making it a more inclusive space; it is our responsibility to uphold the equity we promote.

We also believe in growth and honesty and have included the zine takeover to urge others to discuss, share, and express the Honors College's varied voices.

After two years of COVID pressure and many years of injustice, *The Regret* represents a burst of creativity and a release.

The Aggregate encourages you to find your release too. We are told to express ourselves, to call out injustice, and to stand up for ourselves. We deserve to be heard, and we hope this newsletter continues to be a forum where we can celebrate our voices.



From left to right: (Front row) Caleb Pacheco, Liberty Ansgore, Ashley Hale, Sophia Shaw, Vai Triggiano, Jo Fox, (Back row) Jake Clements, Clara Broecker. Not pictured: Lizzie Adams, Marshall Hoff, Olive Justman, Rachel Oelsner.