Graduating Honors Senior Profiles

This spring, 28 seniors will graduate from the Edinboro University Honors Program. Congratulations to the class of 2017! We wish the best for you in all of your endeavors!

**Kathlyn Longtine** is graduating with a degree in English-Writing and is planning to pursue a career in the publishing industry or in marketing and communication studies. “Through contract courses and research conducted with my professors, I was able to work on my critical analysis skills beyond what was done in class, and I was allowed to analyze texts that I wanted to. The contracts I completed were an integral supplement to my education and challenged me to work and think beyond what was necessary for class.”

**Paul Keppel** will graduate with an Associate of Science in addition to his Honors diploma. He has already been accepted to the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic medicine where he will be pursuing his doctorate degree in pharmacy. Of his Honors experience, Paul says “The Honors Program influenced me to have a lot more interaction with my professors than I would have otherwise. I completed three contracts, which allowed me to work closely with my professors and look at the subject matter more in-depth.”

**Stephanie Stevenson** will be graduating with a BS in Early Childhood Education with a Spanish minor. She plans to become a classroom teacher and eventually pursue a master’s degree in Educational Leadership. In regard to her experience in Honors, Stevenson says “Being able to travel and see the world as an honor’s student has humbled me and brought my own life into perspective. Without the honor’s program I would have never had any of the opportunities that I had like hiking 190 miles across Spain.”
Raven Jones will graduate with her BA in English Writing. After graduation, she plans on traveling and possibly moving to New England to pursue a career in the professional writing field, possibly attending CUNY Brooklyn to pursue an MFA in poetry writing. Jones says of her Honors experience: "The Honors Program has taught me a lot about discipline and work ethic. My honors courses were some of the most challenging courses I took at Edinboro, but they were the most memorable and rewarding. I gained an entirely new outlook on life thanks to my Honors Program experience at Edinboro."

Ashley Stone will graduate with a degree in Photography and minors in Graphic and Interactive Design and Art History. She is unsure of what her next step will be after graduation, but has many opportunities and knows that she is “going to love every step of the way.” Of her Honors experience, Stone says: “The most influential thing that the Honors Program provided me was the spirit and motivation to work harder and do more for myself and my community. I’ve always cared about the work I produce, but being in the program gave me something extra to strive for.”

David Kiefer will graduate with BA of Fine Arts in Studio Arts with a concentration in Illustration and a minor in Printmaking. After graduation, he plans to attend graduate school at IUP to pursue an MFA in Drawing and Printmaking. Kiefer says of his Honors experience: “The Honors Program influenced my experience here in a number of ways. Firstly, it allowed me to live on the Honors Floor, where I have lived all four years. It is a great community to be a part of and a great setting to live in. Secondly, the Honors classes I was able to take as part of the Honors Program were a good benefit. The atmosphere and focus of those classes were advantageous to learning those topics. Thirdly, other aspects of the program, like a scholarship and priority scheduling, helped alleviate some of the stresses of attending college as a whole.”

Mackenzie Lancaster is graduating with a BFA in Applied Media Arts-Cinema (Traditional Animation) with a minor in Graphic Design. After graduation, she plans to work at a TV or feature film animation studio in either visual development or as a storyboard artist. Lancaster says of her Honors experience: “The Honors Program influenced my undergraduate experience by providing me with early-access scheduling and the opportunity to take Honors classes, where I was able to learn beyond the regular classroom setting and curriculum.”
**Matt Zewe** will graduate with a BS in Economics with minors in both Business Administration and History. He is in the process of enrolling in grad school for Economics and attending a five-year PhD program, although he is still waiting to hear back from several schools. Otherwise, he intends to get involved in the banking or insurance sector in Erie. Of his Honors experience, Zewe says “The Honors Program influenced my undergraduate experience by exposing me to different forms of classes. Some of my favorite classes included the electives I had to take for my Honors requirements. I met new people outside of my major that I still see today. Additionally, the Honors program motivated me to present at a national conference. In Spring 2016, I went to the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland and presented my Econometrics research on "Winning in the NFL." The enjoyment I had from creating my research and presenting it at the Federal Reserve Bank motivated me to want to attend Graduate school and perform more detailed research in the future.”

**Claire Pilewski** will graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences. She will be attending Edinboro University to pursue a Master's degree after undergraduate graduation. “The Honors Program gave me many opportunities to participate in my community and to meet wonderful people. I'm grateful to the program for pushing me to perform at my academic best and making me a better student.”

**Melina Harden** is graduating with a Bachelor’s degree in Social Work with minors in Spanish and Sociology. She has been hired at the Erie County Office of Children and Youth as a caseworker, where she will work directly after graduation. Of her Honors Experience, Harden says “The Honor's Program kept me challenged during my time at Edinboro because of the requirements to be in the program, but it also rewarded me. I loved being a mentor to the freshmen.”

**Logan Bell** has nearly earned his BS in Secondary Social Studies/Special Education. After graduation, he plans to move to Erie with his girlfriend and be a substitute teacher until he can find a permanent teaching job in either Erie or Pittsburgh. “The Honors program allowed me to excel. It gave me priority scheduling which allowed me to get the classes I need to graduate on time. I learned about some professors and my peers through service events and enrichment meetings. Being a mentor and being mentored by someone else allowed me to pass on my knowledge to others.”
Jen Davis is graduating with a BA in Biology/Pre Physician Assistant. After graduation, she plans to take a year to focus on her son, Nathan, and prepare for PA school. She then plans to start a PA Master’s at Mercyhurst University, eventually working as a PA for the Regional Cancer Center. Beyond that, Davis would like to complete a bridge program into LECOM and become a DO. Davis explains her Honors experience as such “The Honors program encouraged me to work harder. I went through a bone marrow transplant about eight months before returning to school. My first semester back, I struggled in a big way. In fact, I nearly died. The pressure of keeping a minimum GPA to remain in Honors forced me into working hard, no matter what. I especially loved taking Honors courses. Most professors set up Honors classes with the mindset that Honors students will work very hard. We don’t always need explicit directions, or constant reminders, to complete assignments. This realization fosters a classroom that promotes learning, rather than just completion. I appreciate that, as well as the small class sizes! The requirements of the program encouraged me to participate in events on campus that I might have missed otherwise. Our volunteer requirement got me into the community and gave me an opportunity to help. It’s a great feeling when you can give back to people who have helped you through difficult situations. I will always be grateful for the friendships that I have gained through the Honors program. These are lifelong friendships that I will cherish forever. I breathe a sigh of relief every time I converse with a particular Honors friend. It is wonderful to have a friend that is as big of an overachiever as I am! She gets me! I can’t wait to proudly display my honors cords at graduation!”

Maggie Myers is graduating with a BA of Fine Arts in Studio Arts with a concentration in Painting and a minor in Psychology. She plans to complete an internship for exhibition development at the Erie Art Museum after graduation. Of her Honors experience, Myers says “The Honors Program kept me busy through involvement in community and campus events, ultimately enriching my overall college experience. Being involved in this organization has taught me how to manage many tasks, improving my time-management skills. Through the program, I have been shaped to overachieve and to set high goals for myself, which is an important quality that I will value in the years following the end of my college career.”

Sydney Black, Allyson Crowley-Duncan, Paul DeFazio, Deanna Edwards, Natasha Ferrara, Justin Huffman, Barbara Israelson, Christopher Karcher, Lauren Kimball, Aidan McCracken, Emily Mills, Lauren Pierson, Emma Sullivan, Sadie Wilson, and Amanda Zbinovec will also be graduating but were unavailable for comment.

Congratulations!