Congratulations, Class of ‘18!

This school year, the Honors Program had 37 Honors Students graduate in multiple programs. After years of hard work in their disciplines and inside the Honors Program, these students have a bright future ahead of them as Edinboro Honors Program alumni.
Hannah Stull: Hannah Stull will be graduating with a degree in Bachelor of Science Speech and Hearing Sciences with a Spanish Language minor. After she graduates, she will begin attending Arizona State University to pursue her Doctorate of Audiology. During her time in the Honors Program, she enjoyed going to campus events that broadened her experience outside of her typical interests. When asked what she will miss most about Edinboro, she said, “Always seeing somebody I know in passing to say hello to.”

Jolene Choby: Jolene will be graduating with a degree in Bachelor of Science Speech and Hearing Sciences. After she graduates, she will attend Edinboro University’s graduate program to earn her Master’s Degree in Speech-Language Pathology. When asked about her experience in the Honors Program, she said, “I enjoyed being a part of the Honors mentoring program and committee. As a mentor, I was able to meet new students and guide them through the process of being a new Honors student. This leadership opportunity was a great learning experience!” As for advice for underclassmen, she suggests getting involved in events and activities to enrich your educational experience and to reach out to others.

Jenna DiGiammarino: Jenna will be earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences, an Associate of Arts degree in Human Services and Developmental Disabilities, and minors in Psychology and Deaf Studies. After graduation, she will be attending Edinboro University of Pennsylvania to complete the Master of Arts Program in Speech-Language Pathology. During her time in the Honors Program, Jenna cherished going on trips, and taking Honors courses. She will miss the learning opportunities on campus and the people she has met here. She advises underclassmen to take advantage of the activities, clubs, and organizations the university has to offer, and to get to know the faculty and staff.
Emily Widomski: Emily will be earning a Bachelor’s degree in Health and Physical Education. After she graduates, she will intern with UPMC Hamot Hospital in their Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Outpatient Unit. After that, she plans to become a Certified Exercise Physiologist, and will then go on to work in her field while pursuing a Master’s Degree in Exercise Physiology or Kinesiology. She will miss representing Edinboro University as an ATHENA Young Professional Award Nominee and all of the opportunities she was provided through that. Her advice to underclassmen is to take advantage of the opportunities to travel while in college.

Kaitlyn Hallock: Kaitlyn will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Music with a certificate in Music Education. After graduation, she plans to attend Edinboro University to attain a Master’s Degree in College and School Counseling. She advises underclassmen to not be timid about getting outside of their comfort zones and taking advantage of opportunities. She says that the Honors Program and the opportunities on campus impacted her college career and she would not be where she is today without them.

Lauren Sebusch: Lauren will be graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Sciences, an Associate of Arts in Human Services and Developmental Disabilities, and a Psychology Minor. After graduation, she will attend Kent State University’s graduate program to earn a Master’s Degree in Speech Language Pathology. During her time with the Honors Program, she valued meeting lifelong friends, and will miss Edinboro’s faculty and their dedication and encouragement. She advises underclassmen to take advantage of the opportunities the Honors Program provides for its students, to make the most out of what the campus offers, and to do your best to make campus culture the best it can be.
Erin Long: Erin will be earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Applied Media Arts with a concentration in Graphic and Interactive Design and a minor in Printmaking. After graduation, she plans to find a job or fellowship and would like to continue learning while working. She credits the Honors Program with giving her some of her closest friends, people she says are some of the most supportive and caring she has ever met. She will miss being surrounded by both peers and professors that care about her work and encourage her growth as an artist, and believes in the idea that what you give to your education, you get out of your education.

Shannon Conner: Shannon will be earning a Bachelor of Science in Geology and plans to attend Washington State University’s Graduate Program after graduation. She will miss the people she has met in her department and the Honors Program, and advises Honors students to get to know other students in the program, to take advantage of the travel opportunities through the program, and to attend campus events to make the most out of the college experience.

Dakota Palmer: Dakota will be graduating Edinboro with a Bachelor of Art in Journalism with a concentration in Public Relations and a minor in Communication Studies. After graduation, she will be attending Syracuse University in pursuit of a master’s degree in Magazine, Newspaper, and Online Journalism with an emphasis in Sports Communication. She has enjoyed meeting friends, making connections with professors, and going to the basketball games. She hopes to make her professors and friends proud in the future, and would like to thank all of the Honors Program directors and staff, namely, Dr. Jones, Dr. Sylvester, Dr. Wertz, Dr. Solberg, Dr. Hunter, and Melinda Bernosky over her four years for their assistance and hard work.
Kayla Bittner: Kayla will be earning a Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Sciences and plans to attend Kent State University in Kent, Ohio to earn a master’s degree in Speech Language Pathology. She will miss returning to campus in the fall and all of the friends she has made, and advises students to apply for scholarships, travel, and go to presentations as much as possible. She also says it is valuable to be involved on campus, to keep yourself busy, and to get to know your professors.

Hannah Fitzgerald: Hannah will be graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Developmental Psychology with a minor in Communication as well as Leadership studies. She will be attending Roberts Wesleyan in Rochester NY and will be earning her PsyD in Clinical and School Psychology. The advice she gives underclassmen is to enjoy your time on campus, get involved, and do not wish it away because it goes by too fast.

Letty Cawley: Letty will be earning a Bachelor of Science in Art Education with a Minor in Wood Studio Furniture Design, and plans to find a job as an elementary art teacher after graduation. During her time with the Honors Program, she considers traveling to new cities, presenting research at multiple NCHC conferences, and being inspired by her peers as highlights. When asked what she will miss most, she said: “my dear friends, the friendly staff, the beautifully excessive amount of tartan plaid and bagpipe music, and yes, the snow.” She advises underclassmen to contract courses, present research at conferences, and go to campus events.
Hannah Bronner: Hannah will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Science and plans to attend Towson University to pursue a Master’s of Science in Speech and Hearing Science. She will miss Edinboro’s campus and walking around outside when the weather is nice. Her advice for underclassmen is to take honors classes, as they allow professors to have higher expectations for you, push you harder, and treat you with respect. She also values involvement in on-campus clubs and recommends that underclassmen take advantage of them.

Savannah Anderton: Savannah will be earning a Bachelor of Science in Biology Secondary Education. After graduation, she would like to teach in a high school and then continue her schooling in a graduate and doctoral program, studying Educational Leadership or Pathophysiology. Her time with the Honors Program was enriched by meeting friends she considers her “best friends in the entire world,” living on the Honors Floor, and studying abroad in Spain. She will miss being surrounded by people she describes as “brilliant, motivated, interested, and interesting” and will miss being able to go to professors, administrators, staff members, and students to share with and get advice from. She advises underclassmen to go out of their way to find their niche and take advantage of leadership and experience opportunities.

Sarah Vinca: Sarah will be earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing with minors in Biology & Psychology. After she graduates, she will be working as a Registered Nurse at UPMC Cole near her hometown of Smethport, PA. She will miss her friends and classmates at Edinboro, but is excited for what the future holds. As advice to underclassmen, she says to take advantage of humbling volunteer opportunities, to make the most out of life on campus, travel, get out of your comfort zone, work hard, and call your parents frequently.
**Rachael Troutman:** Rachael will be graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Bachelor of Arts in English Literature. She will also be obtaining her teacher certification for Secondary Mathematics Education, and plans to add on a certification for Secondary English Education. After graduation, she plans to work as the lead tutor-counselor for Clarion University’s Upward Bound program, and plans to work as a substitute teacher to get more teaching experience. She hopes to attend graduate school and teach high school mathematics before eventually pursuing a PhD in mathematics. She will miss the sense of community at Edinboro, and advises underclassmen to get involved in the Honors Program and in your department.

**Seniors Unavailable to be Interviewed:**

Manon Bekkouche  
Eve Bruce  
Kayla Cratty  
Rebecca Donohue  
Katie Glunt  
Christiana Hoschar  
Shelby Kirk  
Becky Korff  
Jennifer Lane  
John MacDonald  
Hayley Roll
Contracts and Independent Studies

An honors contract enriches a non-honors class by establishing an intensive course of study for a deeper understanding of the class. An honors contract also encourages student creativity through application and alternative projects, and close consultation with the instructor.

**Introduction to Soc/Welfare Policy:**
Alize Cherry worked with Professor Natalie Montero Weber to learn more about the resources and assistance that Edinboro University provides students with specific and exceptional needs. She interviewed two employees of the Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) as well as the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) as well as surveyed a population of 30 students. Alize came to the conclusion that the current services are adequate, but can still improve. She suggests that the University should continue to spread the awareness of the assistance that can be offered to students of need.

**Typography 2:**
Jessica Hewlett worked with Professor Shelle Barron to research product placement, logos, font styles, and other aspects used to reach audiences. She began by performing research on typography used on packaging, and then put together a presentation to teach her classmates about her research and to enforce the importance of typography in package design. After this experience, Jessica concluded that the most important part of her research and presentation was the realization that package design and typography must work together to successfully convey a message about a product. She feels that her experience was successful and that she and her classmates were enriched by learning about the topic.

**Law and Legal Systems:**
Kyle Hurysz worked with Dr. James Fisher to examine the broad issues pertaining to the First Amendment of the Constitution. He investigated the subject through multiple perspectives, and thinks that his experience was successful in how he learned about free speech rights and their implications. Kyle thinks that his research was fulfilling and especially helpful in preparing him for law school.
Contracts and Independent Studies

An honors contract enriches a non-honors class by establishing an intensive course of study for a deeper understanding of the class. An honors contract also encourages student creativity through application and alternative projects, and close consultation with the instructor.

Health and Fitness Promotion:
Shelby Hutton worked with Professor Laura M. Miller to develop a fitness program that students will be able to utilize at their own worksites. Through this experience, she demonstrated that the implementation of a proper nutritional diet and exercise routine allows a workplace to thrive. She focused on what foods to eat and what foods to avoid and taught her class workout regimens during finals week.

Observing Our Cosmos:
Shannon Kearney worked with Dr. David Hurd to expand her knowledge on several winter constellations and their relationship to Greek mythology and other sky-lore. She researched the Earth’s rotational forces and its correlation to changing zodiac signs, specifically the Orion constellation. She presented her information to her class, traveled to Serpent Mound in Ohio, and wrote a paper reflecting on the experience and about how astrological signs change. She felt that her experience was fulfilling and built upon her knowledge, as she hoped it would.

Developmental Psychopathology
Emma Morgan worked with Dr. William Pithers to research a specific disorder and write a 20 page paper covering diagnostic assessments, treatments, etc. She chose to focus on Obsessive Compulsive Disorder in her research, specifically the evolution of the disorder across DSM versions, assessment procedures, and treatments for the disorder. She has enjoyed her research and feels that it enriched her knowledge about Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and has prepared her for future academic and job opportunities.
Looking at Bee Balm, Monarda, as a Potential Treatment for Tumor Angiogenesis
Blake Podger worked with Dr. Matthew Foradori to gain experience conducting research in the laboratory. He collected plants, homogenized their tissue and isolated the plant compounds via column chromatography. Blake tested the different fractions against endothelial cells, and concluded that the experience has given him the opportunity to experience things that he never would have without it, including several laboratory techniques that are not taught in the regular classroom, an experience with problems that can occur during experiments, and gave him an opportunity to present his work. He enjoyed, above all, working with Dr. Foradori and developing a friendship and gaining advice about what it is really like to be a researcher.

Adapted Physical Education
Morgyn Sharp worked with Professor Rebecca Wehler to explore exercise adaptations for those with disabilities. She conducted an analysis and lead group exercises for that specific population. She ran a weekly fitness night for OSD students that was very successful and eventually grew to be offered twice a week. Through this experience, she even began to offer stretch and strength training for the wheelchair basketball team. She found that this experience helped her gain perspective and experience in this field and realized that the program reached farther than fitness achievements for the clients; she witnessed a change in clients’ will to push themselves and develop a healthy sense of confidence. Morgyn thinks this experience will help her in her future career and will be something that she reflects on always.

Zoology
Kelsey Warner worked with Dr. Craig Steele to conduct research for two ten-page papers. The papers explain the advantages and disadvantages of placental versus marsupial placentation and compare and contrast various digestive systems seen in fish with different diets. Kelsey concluded in these papers that “eutherian gestation is better than marsupial gestation” because of the “diversity of eutherians and the advantage of more highly-developed young” and that “the digestive systems of fishes are very specialized to their diets.” She found that the experience was useful in learning about content not covered in class and that it was very interesting to become more knowledgeable about common animals.