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**HONORS PROGRAM**  
**GRADUATION CEREMONY**  
SPRING 2022

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# HONORS PROGRAM CEREMONY

SPRING 2022

## **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

Dr. Donald P. Christian

*President*

Dr. Patricia A. Sullivan

*Director of the Honors Program*

## **PRESENTATION OF GRADUATION CERTIFICATES**

Dr. Patricia A. Sullivan

*Director of the Honors Program*



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**Sophia Acquisto**

Major: Early Childhood Education (B-6: History)

Minor: Deaf Studies

Sophia Acquisto is graduating with a major in Childhood Education and a concentration in history. In spring 2019, she studied abroad in Ireland at the University of Limerick. She was a student ambassador and received the President's Plassey-Bronze Award for her community service. Sophia's most notable accomplishment is creating My Hudson History, the first digital map of the Hudson Valley's most historic sites to make history more engaging for students. This project is the center of her thesis, entitled, "My Hudson History: An Educational App for Teaching Hudson Valley History." Her research led to a summer internship with the Library of Congress, the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence, and acceptances into Teachers College at Columbia University and Johns Hopkins University for graduate studies. After graduation, Sophia will attend Johns Hopkins University to earn a Master's in Digital Age Learning and Educational Technology.



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**Hanaa Ahmed**

Major: Biology

Minors: Chemistry & Disaster Studies

Hanaa Ahmed is a graduating senior in the Honors program and AC2 program. She is a pre-med Biology major with a double minor in Chemistry and Disaster Studies. Throughout her time in college, she has conducted a great deal of undergraduate research receiving both AYURE and SURE research grants. She has also been an active member of various clubs such as Take Back the Night, the pre-medical minority association, and Circle K International which she was president of 3 years. She has served as a chemistry study group peer mentor and as a member of the judicial committee panel. During this past year Hanaa has had her work published in the American Society for Microbiology and has enjoyed volunteered with the Dutchess County Medical Reserve Corps on their various community initiatives. She plans on working as a Research Coordinator for a year while applying to MD-Ph.D. programs. Her thesis is entitled "Characterization of Harvard Forest Bacterial Isolates: Drought and Copper Tolerance". She would like to thank her family, her thesis advisor Dr. Maureen Morrow, her program advisor Nancy Campos, and her past professors in the Biology and Chemistry departments for all their guidance, encouragement, and support.



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## Christina Ajello

Major: Early Childhood Education (B-6: Art History)

Minor: Deaf Studies

Christina is an Early Childhood/Childhood Education Major with a concentration in Art History and a minor in Deaf Studies. Christina enjoyed working with the Honors Program and loved being involved in informing students about the program at the Honors Open Houses. She also worked with the student run theater program, the Miami Theater Players in 2019 for their production of Legally Blonde. In her last semester as an Education major, she moved back home to Staten Island to student-teach at PS.39R. After graduation, Christina will be attending the CUNY College of Staten Island to receive her Master's degree in Special Education. She would like to thank her mom, dad, and sisters for their love and support throughout her college experience.



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## Alyssa Albano

Major: Adolescence Education (English)

Minor: Creative Writing

Alyssa Albano is a graduating senior in the Honors Program with a major in Adolescent English Education and a minor in Creative Writing. On campus, Alyssa is involved in the New Paltz Biology Club as a Public Relations Coordinator and Secretary, as well as an editor for The Teller Magazine. With a love for helping others, Alyssa works at the Center for Student Success as a Peer Writing Consultant and volunteers as an Honors Program Peer Mentor. Alyssa's passion for disability studies began when she took Dr. April Coughlin's course Differentiating Instruction in the Secondary School during her junior year. Since then, Alyssa spoke as a panelist for Dr. Coughlin's student-centered panel titled "Student Voices: The Impact of a Disability Studies Framework." Through her thesis "Everybody Belongs: Incorporating Disability Studies into the Classroom," Alyssa hopes to integrate a more inclusive and accessible curriculum into secondary education. After graduating from New Paltz, Alyssa aspires to pursue a Master's degree in Literacy Education and Special Education. Alyssa would like to thank Dr. Coughlin and all her past professors for their encouragement and guidance throughout her college career. She would also like to thank her parents, grandparents, and friends for their endless love and support.



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## Sydney Arus

Major: Biology

Minor: Journalism

Sydney Arus is a graduating senior in the Honors Program, obtaining a degree in Biology with a Journalism minor. Her thesis, "New York State's Fragmented Emergency Medical Services System," is a journalistic exposé of the flaws, consequences, and solutions in the

industry. Sydney has been an EMT for over a year. She is applying to Physician Assistant school in the next few months where she plans to continue her career in health care. She would like to thank Dr. Sullivan and her advisors for their guidance. She would also like to thank her family and friends for their unconditional love and support.



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## Sage Aviles

Major: Contract (Linguistics)

Minors: Spanish & Latin American Caribbean Studies

Sage is a 20-year-old Honors Program student graduating with a Bachelors in Linguistics, with double minors in Spanish and Latin American Caribbean Studies. They were a sustainability ambassador team lead, an RHSA representative for Ridgeview, and president of Bouton Hall government during their time here. Their thesis, "The Language of Now: An Exploration of Language Change During the COVID-19 Pandemic" was advised by Professor Madeleine Arseneault and Eric Chambers. After college, Sage plans to pursue their Master's and Doctoral degree but is waiting to know through which university. They would like to thank their mom Clarice, dad Angel, stepmom Danie, and brother Justus for all their support.



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## Sarah Bale-Crowder

Major: English

Minor: Political Sciences

Sarah is a graduating senior in the Honors Program with a major in English and minor in Political Science. Throughout her time at New Paltz, she worked as a peer advisor at the Center for Student Success on campus. In addition, she was an active member of the nationally and campus recognized sorority, Sigma Delta Tau, where she served as the chapter's Vice President for a year. Sarah also volunteered and interned for a grassroots organization in the Hudson Valley called For the Many. Through this time working closely with progressive, local campaigns, she was inspired to write her thesis on one of the organization's main platforms. Sarah's thesis is entitled "Good Cause Eviction and Affordable Housing in the United States." Through her writing, she hopes to bring awareness to a pressing issue that impacts many community members. Sarah would like to personally thank her thesis advisors, Dr. Daniel Lipson, and Dr. Anne Roschelle, for their help throughout this process. In addition, she would like to thank her family, friends, and professors for their inspiration and support. After graduation, Sarah will be moving to Madrid, Spain for a year to teach English in a local school. She is grateful for the fulfilling experience she had while at New Paltz and is looking forward to the year ahead.



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## Elizabeth Bell

Major: Political Science

Minors: Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies & Sociology

Libby Bell is a graduating senior receiving a degree in Political Science with a double minor in Sociology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her Honors Program thesis is titled: "The Conservative Legal Attack on Environmental Protections." Throughout Libby's college career she has worked closely with the Environmental Alliance club on campus and served as Vice President her junior year. Libby has also worked as a bookseller at Inquiring Minds Bookstore and has volunteered with the Dutchess County SPCA. After graduation Libby will be moving to Germany before returning to the U.S to continue her education in a graduate program. She would like to thank her professors and thesis advisor Professor Lipson for their help and guidance both in classes and with her thesis. Libby would also like to thank her family, her friends and her boyfriend for their continued support and encouragement.



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## Shannon Bernhardt

Major: Math 5 Year BS/MAT Program

Minor: Deaf Studies

Shannon Bernhardt is earning her Bachelor's degree in Mathematics with a minor in Deaf Studies and her Master's degree in Adolescent Education with a concentration in Mathematics. Every semester, Shannon earned a spot on the Dean's list. She has played on the SUNY New Paltz field hockey team for the past 4 years and has served as a captain since her sophomore year. Shannon is a 2-time SUNYAC champion. This Fall, she contributed to the most successful field hockey season in program history, with an undefeated conference record and 2 rounds of participation in the national tournament. Shannon has exhibited much leadership throughout her time at SUNY New Paltz, serving in several leadership academies including SAAC (Student-Athlete Advisory Committee), Hawks 101, Rising Hawks, and Veteran Hawks. She is currently a member of the student-athlete leadership council. Additionally, she made a brief appearance in the swing dance club. After graduation, Shannon plans to pursue a career in math education and coach high school field hockey. She also plans to manage her family's seasonal cabin rental business in Vermont.



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## Emily Bourbon

Major: Biology (Cellular)

Minors: Deaf Studies & Psychology

Emily is a Biology major with a Cellular concentration and has a double minor in Psychology and Deaf Studies. She has participated in a variety of campus opportunities, ranging from an active member of the biology club to three semesters of research under Dr. Lydia

Bright in the Biology department. Emily has worked in Bliss Hall as a Resident Assistant for her sophomore year and a Senior Resident Assistant for her junior and senior years, playing an important role in building community and creating a safe environment for residents. Her thesis is entitled "Determining the Molecular Basis of Holospora Infection on Closely Related Susceptible and Resistant Strains of Paramecia". After graduation, Emily intends to enter a laboratory to further expand her field work experience while preparing for graduate school to receive a Master's degree in Genetics and Genetic Counseling. Emily would like to thank Dr. Bright and Dr. Richardson for their help in creating her thesis and for investing in her future as a biologist. Emily would also like to thank her parents and siblings for all their love and support contributing to her successful college career.



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### **Samantha Caixeiro**

Major: Early Childhood Education (B-6: Spanish)

Minor: Mathematics

Samantha is an Early Childhood/Childhood major with a concentration in Spanish and a minor in Mathematics. Her thesis is entitled "COVID-19: Changing the Future of Elementary Education" where she explored the effects of the recent pandemic on elementary schooling. This thesis was advised by Professor Sue Books and Professor Cheryl Spada. Samantha has really enjoyed her teaching experience so far and hopes to receive a Master's degree in Special Education after graduating. Samantha was an active member of Dance Association for two years and was Vice President of the N'fusion Dance Band on campus as well. She would like to thank her advisors, along with her friends and family for all their help and encouragement throughout the thesis writing process.



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### **Zoey Calison**

Major: Photography

Zoey is a Senior double majoring with a BFA in photography and Visual Arts Education. Her thesis, "The Weaver," is a series of composite photographs exploring the interconnectedness of transformation in the natural world and within our souls. After graduation, Zoey wishes to pursue her career in art, with aspirations of becoming a visual arts educator. Zoey is currently a substitute teacher at an elementary school and enjoys inspiring the youth to be creative and follow their hearts wherever they may take them. Zoey would like to thank her mom, a BFA Photography alumnus of SUNY New Paltz, for serving as an inspiration to her every day. Her grandparents, whose love and support are a guiding light, and her fellow peers and faculty that have left a lasting impact on her journey here for the past four years.



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## Jessica Conklin

Major: Psychology (Psychobiology)

Jessica Conklin majored in Psychology with a concentration in Psychobiology. During Jessica's time at SUNY New Paltz, she worked as a Resident Assistant in Bouton Hall for 3 years. In addition to working in Residence Life, she experienced two research opportunities. One of these opportunities was in the field of Biology and Organic Chemistry, and the other was in the field of Cognitive Psychology. In the future, Jessica is hoping to attend medical school and become a doctor. While it is impossible to thank everyone that helped Jessica over the years to obtain these achievements, she would like to acknowledge a few people. A huge thank you to Dr. Dhar, Dr. Haselton, and Dr. Grossi for providing the opportunity to grow in both knowledge and as a person in the research field. Additionally, she would like to thank her Bouton Hall staff for always being a source of positivity and support. Finally, she would like to thank her family and friends for inspiring her, being supportive when she needed it most, and uplifting her to her highest potential.



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## Skylar Couch-Tellefsen

Major: English

Minor: Philosophy

Skylar is a graduating senior majoring in English with a minor in Philosophy. Her deep adoration for Angela Carter and women's literature inspired her Honors Program thesis entitled "Metamorphosing Subjectivities and Fairytale Conventions: How Angela Carter Reinvents Womanhood." Skylar is an unabashed feminist, always seeking to challenge patriarchal ideologies throughout her college career as she continues to pursue her Master's degree at SUNY New Paltz. Skylar is an active member of the International English Honors Society Sigma Tau Delta, as well as the Angela Carter Society. She is pleased to thank Professor Holland, her secondary advisor, who pushes her to become a better writer and encourages her to seek out contemporary women's literature. She is more than honored to thank Professor Woods, her primary advisor, who sparked a love for translations, adaptations, and literature written by women, especially Angela Carter. Professor Woods continues to inspire her as a woman, and a writer. And of course, Skylar would love to thank all the women who inspire her every day, especially her mother, Kristin.

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## Julietta Cozza-Cordero

Major: Adolescence Education (English)

Julietta is an English major and Adolescent Education minor. Throughout her college career she has been an active member of the New Paltz Women's Rugby Club taking on leadership roles such as Treasurer and Captain. Her thesis is entitled, "Movement and its Necessity in the Classroom". She would like to thank Dr. Sullivan, Professor Sawyer, and Alicia Ivan for all of their help, support, and



encouragement throughout the years she has been a student at SUNY New Paltz, as well as her family, friends, advisors, and past professors who have helped her get to where she is now.



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### **David DeTurris**

Major: Philosophy

Minor: Linguistics

David DeTurris is a major in philosophy and a minor in linguistics. His thesis is called "Carl Schmitt, the Black Panthers, and the JDL". After graduation, David will be taking a year off to wash dishes at Main Course and then going to graduate school. He would like to thank Professors Miller and Longtin for their support in writing this paper, his parents for their support in his attending college, and his friends for listening to him talk about his paper.



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### **Eli Dreilinger**

Major: Adolescence Education (English)

Minor: Deaf Studies

Eli is a senior majoring in Adolescent Education with a concentration in English and a minor in Deaf Studies. On-campus, he has worked in the Department of Residence Life, working as a Resident Assistant in Esopus for three semesters, and is currently the Senior Resident Assistant. He has also worked closely with the Orientation Program, working as an Orientation Leader in the summer of 2019, a Senior Virtual Orientation Leader in the summer of 2020, and a Senior Orientation Leader in the summer of 2021. Eli's interest in leadership led him to join the Emerging Leaders program his freshmen year and then became an Emerging Leaders Mentor the next year. He also participated in service heavily, starting with joining the Service-Learning Living/Learning community his freshman year, to working with the Alternative Spring Break program. Eli will be presenting his thesis, How Social Exclusion Impacts the Cognitive Development of Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, with thesis advisors Professor April Coughlin and Professor Susan Books. Eli plans on pursuing his graduate education at SUNY New Paltz in Special Education.



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### **Kelsey Drewniak**

Majors: International Relations & Latin America and Caribbean Studies

Minors: Spanish

Kelsey Drewniak is an International Relations major with minors in Political Science, Spanish, and Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Throughout her time at SUNY New Paltz she has studied immigration in the United States, and in Fall 2021 she participated in the SUNY Global Engagement program where she had the opportunity to work firsthand with immigrants and process applications with the

New York Legal Assistance Group. Many of the applications she filled out were for those seeking relief in the form of Temporary Protected Status. This prompted her to look into what factors are analyzed when considering a country for TPS, thus her thesis project, entitled "How Presidential Ideology Effects Temporary Protected Status" will discuss ideology as a determining factor in designation decisions. After graduation Kelsey plans to work as a paralegal and assist underprivileged populations navigate the legal system before deciding if she would like to go to law school. She would like to thank Professor Özler, Professor Pampinella, Professor Kassop, Professor Minkoff, Dr. Sullivan, Alicia Ivan, her friends and family, and the Immigrant Protection Unit attorneys and paralegals at NYLAG for their support and assistance throughout her thesis development.



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## **Alyssa Dudinyak**

Major: Painting

Minor: Communication

Alyssa Dudinyak will be graduating this May with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Painting and Drawing and a minor in Communication Studies with Honors. Throughout her four years at New Paltz, Alyssa has been heavily involved in anything and everything; she was a Graphic Design Intern at the Career Resource Center, the Honors Orientation Liaison, an Orientation Leader, a Resident Assistant, a Student Ambassador, an Admissions Assistant, and a Social Media/Marketing Intern at the Office of Communications and Marketing. Additionally, Alyssa is proudly the Vice President of Alpha Kappa Phi Agonian Sorority Incorporated on-campus and is the Art Director of Dream Space Studios off-campus. Alyssa has received several distinctions on-campus including membership in Gamma Sigma Alpha National Greek Honor Society and Delta Alpha Pi International Disability Honor Society. Most notably, Alyssa has been awarded the 2022 Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence, the highest honor awarded within the SUNY system. Upon graduation, she plans to move to New York City and pursue a Master of Professional Studies Degree in Branding and Integrated Communications at the City College of New York. Her thesis entitled, "In a State of Repair: How Fiber Artists Are Redefining Craft Mediums as Fine Art Forms" is the culmination of not only a year of research but also a year's worth of physical studio-practice. This project was advised by Professor Andrea Varga and Professor Kathy Goodell. Alyssa would like to profoundly thank her family for being a constant source of love, support, and strength through every late night, crazy idea, and near-mental breakdown. She wouldn't be here, having pursued every opportunity and accomplishing so much, without them standing behind her always.



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## Joshua Fleming

Major: English

Minor: Creative Writing

Joshua Fleming is an English major with a concentration in Creative Writing. This is his third year at SUNY New Paltz, and he will be enrolled as a graduate next year in pursuit of a Master's degree in Creative Writing. He's currently enrolled in the 4+1 BA/MA Creative Writing program at SUNY New Paltz, and after that he plans to have a published novel under his belt and travel the world. The title for his thesis, which he is working on with his advisor Meg Devlin, is Christianity and the African American Cultural Awakening. Joshua would like to thank his family and friends for all the support that they provided throughout his journey, as well as the kind, passionate professors that inspired him to aim for greater heights in academia and every area of life.



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## Sam Fleming

Major: English

Minor: Creative Writing

Sam Fleming is a graduating senior in the Honors program with a major in Adolescent Education: English. Over the course of his time at New Paltz, Sam enjoyed being part of the campus community through his work as a Night Host and Resident Assistant. Throughout the difficulties of the pandemic, Sam was grateful to receive the opportunity to work at the campus pool testing site and deliver food and supplies to students in quarantine. His hobbies include rock climbing, creative writing and hiking. After college, he hopes to substitute teach and prepare for any open positions in school districts surrounding his hometown of Yonkers, N.Y. With a passion for writing, he will also keep an eye out for any chances he can take to enter the world of publishing. Sam would like to thank his family, coworkers that have become best friends and previous professors who have pushed him to strive for greatness and always take a moment to breathe.



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## Samantha Florio

Major: Communication Disorders

Minor: Deaf Studies

Samantha Florio is a graduating senior with a major in Communication Disorders and minor in Deaf Studies. She has held various positions in the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) New Paltz Chapter, including Public Relations coordinator, Vice President, and most recently, President. After graduation, Samantha will be attending Emerson College in Boston to pursue her Master of Science in Communication Disorders and become a speech-language pathologist. This prior summer, Samantha interned at NYU Langone where she got her inspiration for her thesis entitled, "A Survey of Augmentative and Alternative Communication

(AAC) and the Graduate Student Educational Experience.” It is advised by Professor Jessica Welsh and Professor Andrea Abramovich. Samantha would like to thank Dr. Dana Arthur for her help during the survey building process and for all the hours spent in the Instrumentation Lab! She would also like to thank her mom, dad, and brother for all their support and encouragement throughout her academic career.



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## **Megan Fritche**

Major: Psychology

Minor: Communication

Megan Fritche is graduating with a major in Psychology and a minor in Communication. She has been an active member of the International Honor Society in Psychology as well as a member of the Evolutionary Psychology Lab, headed by Glenn Geher. In the lab, she will continue to lead the team in the publication process for research that discusses the relationship between personality traits and attractiveness. Ms. Fritche will also be working with professor Geher on a co-authorship of a textbook chapter where they will explore and review positive evolutionary psychology. After graduation, she will continue her education at St. John's University, where she will be getting her M.S. in library and information science with a specialization in archival and special libraries, and an advanced certification in management for information professionals. Megan would like to thank all the professors who have helped and inspired her throughout the way, but she would specifically like to thank professor Geher who has given her opportunities she would have never imagined feasible. She would also like to thank her mom and grandma, for always guiding and loving her no matter the circumstance. Her father for always being there when she needs a helping hand. Her three sisters, Sara, Emma, and Alyssa, for keeping her humble and lighthearted. Her friends for always being her loudest supporters. Finally, she'd like to thank her partner, Jason, and his mother, Kim. Her partner has been the light in her life, loving her unconditionally, and being the constant shoulder to lean on, and his mother has treated her like family, encouraging her endeavors and loving her endlessly since the beginning. She made note that she would not be where she is today without all the love and support, she has received throughout the years and acknowledges how no words of thanks will ever convey her gratitude and love.



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## **Benjamin Gitelson**

Major: Psychology

Minors: Digital Design & Fabrication

Ben Gitelson is so excited to share the culmination of their hard work. They would like to thank Bryan Czibesz, Althea Llewellyn, and Lauren Gitelson for the inspiration, advice, and motivation to see this project from start to finish.



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## Morgan Gunter

Majors: Sociology (Criminology) & Psychology  
Minors: Linguistics & Disaster Studies

Morgan Gunter is earning her Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Psychology with a concentration in Criminology and minors in Linguistics and Disaster Studies. Every semester, Morgan has earned a spot on the Dean's List. She has played on the SUNY New Paltz field hockey team for the past 4 years. Morgan is a 2-time SUNYAC champion. This fall, she contributed to the most successful field hockey season in program history, with an undefeated conference record and 2 rounds of participation in the national tournament. Morgan was also awarded the Fall 2021 SUNYAC Elite Award. After graduation, Morgan will pursue her Master's degree in Social Work and Criminal Justice at the State University of Albany. She hopes to use this degree to promote social justice.



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## Lindsay Honigman

Major: Early Childhood Education (B-6 History)

Lindsay Honigman is an Elementary Education Major with a concentration in History. While at New Paltz, Lindsay participated in a hip-hop dance club called Smacc and loved to showcase her artistic abilities through singing, dancing, and painting. Regarding her thesis, Lindsay has always been interested in learning about lives that were unlike her own. Through her college experience, she has realized that she has a passion for learning the history of people of color in America and thus chose to write about "The Representation of African American Girls and Women in Popular Culture Throughout the 20th Century" for her thesis. This presentation is unique because Lindsay decided to primarily use historical images to formulate her ideas and elaborate on her topic. Her advisors are Meg Devlin, who specializes in History & Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Susan Lewis, in the History Department at SUNY New Paltz. Lindsay wanted to give a special thank you to her sister who immensely helped her through this process.



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## Mikaela Jeffers

Major: Early Childhood Education (B-6 Mathematics)  
Minor: Deaf Studies

Mikaela is an Early Childhood Education (B-2) / Childhood Education (1-6) double major with a concentration in Mathematics and Minor in Deaf Studies. Throughout her college experience she has been an active member in Hall Government, and she later went on to work as a Resident Assistant. Mikaela looks forward to completing her Masters in Literacy Education at SUNY New Paltz. She would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support throughout her college experience.



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## **Rahul Joseph**

Major: Computer Science

Rahul Joseph is a Computer Science major and is the Vice President of the Association of Computing Machinery club on campus. After college he plans on working in the tech industry as a Software Engineer and aspires to start his own company one day. Rahul would like to thank God and also his Mom, Dad, and his two sisters for all of their guidance, help, and support along his journey through college and for their ongoing support in the years to come.



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## **Jonah Koen**

Major: Graphic Design

Minor: Digital Design and Fabrication

Jonah Koen is a graduating senior in the Honors Program, majoring in the Graphic Design BFA program, with a minor in Digital Design & Fabrication. Throughout his college career he has worked as a bike mechanic in town and has developed his passion for the outdoors. His work reflects themes of community, collaboration, and circularity this year, and his background in photography adds another meaningful aspect to the mix. Jonah's thesis is titled "Throw with Us: Stories from the New York Yoyo Community," advised by Amy Papaelias. He would also like to thank Josh Korenblat as well as the rest of the Graphic Design faculty, Aaron Nelson and other DDF professors, and his family and partner for all the support and encouragement throughout the years. After graduation, Jonah plans on staying in the area and continuing work at the bike shop while networking with other opportunities, and maintaining a lifestyle dedicated to being outdoors and climbing outside, a passion that developed as he came to New Paltz.



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## **Olivia Leduc**

Majors: Accounting, International Business, & French

Olivia Leduc is a triple major in Accounting, International Business and French. In addition to the Honors Program, Olivia is a member of the French Honor Society, Beta Gamma Sigma and was treasurer and vice president of the Relay for Life Club. Olivia was also a recipient of the Edward and Gina O'Brien Scholarship dedicated to students who have been accepted to a study abroad program. Her thesis project, entitled "Marlboro Safety Group Inc. (MSG) Goes to France, explored the hypothetical expansion of her personally owned company in France where she discussed her international strategy for entry into the French market, a comparison of accounting principles between the United States and France and explored the cultural dimensions to better understand French employees. Olivia gives an immense thank you to her thesis advisors Professor Kanan and Professor Vora for their incredible insight and continued support throughout her project. After graduation, Olivia plans to

obtain her MBA through the program here at SUNY New Paltz while simultaneously studying to earn her CPA certification; following her MBA studies, Olivia plans to attend law school in hopes of becoming an international tax attorney. Lastly, Olivia overwhelmingly thanks her family for their unconditional love and encouragement throughout her academic pursuits and for raising her to believe that she can accomplish anything she sets her mind to.



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### **Claire Liebowitz**

Major: Journalism

Minor: Spanish

Claire Liebowitz is a Journalism major and Spanish minor. While she is hoping to pursue a career in sustainability or environmental journalism, she chose to take her thesis in a different direction. Her thesis is about the future of the United States without national access to legal abortion, an issue that is very timely and personal to her. She would like to thank Lisa Phillips, who gave her continuous support even through the many curve balls life throws in the final stretch of undergraduate education.



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### **Joshua Lococo**

Major: Theatre Arts (Performance)

Minor: Sociology

Josh is a Theatre Arts major with a concentration in Performance, and a minor in Sociology. For his thesis, he wrote a play entitled "The Solitude of Kit Marlowe." It centers around Elizabethan playwright Christopher Marlowe, following his journey as he reviews his life, works, and battles some of his demons in his place in the great beyond. After graduating, he plans to take a year to work on developing his career as an actor before returning to school for his Master's degree in acting or Theatre Education. Over his time at New Paltz, Josh has been involved in many different student organizations. He has also served in student leadership positions such as the time he spent as a Resident Assistant, or as a Student Resilience Advocate with the Student Psychological Resilience Project. He would like to thank Dr. Sullivan and Alicia Ivan for their unwavering support for the last four years, and for making the Honors Program a central part of what made his SUNY New Paltz experience so enlightening. For his thesis, he would like to thank Professor Catherine Doherty and Dr. Matthieu Chapman for being his advisors, Dr. Martine Key Green-Rogers for guiding him through the beginning of the playwrighting process, and all the other students and faculty who helped an idea that lived in his head for three years come to life.

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## Sabrina Lodato

Major: Graphic Design

Minors: Business Administration & Digital Design & Fabrication

Sabrina Lodato is a BFA Graphic Design major with a minor in Business Administration. She is currently working for the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network on her third extension of her internship. She previously worked with the FABLE Consortium in branding the organization and is now working with the team on the World Happiness Report website. Sabrina is also one of the social media marketing interns for the Sojourner Truth Library at SUNY New Paltz. For her thesis project, Sabrina created a cannabis botanical guide called Cannabaceae. Due to recent legality changes in status amongst numerous states in the US, this guide was created to be a source of accurate introductory information and education on the Cannabis plant with the support of scientific illustrations, diagrams, and infographics as a means of reintroducing cannabis as a healthy medicinal alternative, without carrying over years of stigmatization, misinformation, and fear. While Sabrina's passions in graphic design consist of digital and print work, she is hoping to pursue a career in UI and UX design after graduation.



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## Roy Ludwig

Major: Geology 5year BA/MAT Program

Roy is a Geology and Earth Science Education major. His thesis is entitled Examining Microfiber Waste Through Laundry and Potential Mitigation Strategies with Professor Andrea Varga and Professor Alex Bartholomew as his advisors. Roy hopes his thesis work will inspire continued efforts of sustainable change here on campus. After graduation, Roy will stay at SUNY New Paltz to receive his MAT in Earth Science education. Roy has been the co-president of the Geology Club as well as the treasurer of SGE, the Earth Science Honor Society. Both organizations include community service, primarily local clean-ups in the Millbrook Preserve and along the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail. Roy would like to thank Andrea Varga and Alex Bartholomew for their help throughout his research process. He would also like to thank his Mom and Dad, as well as Katie, Gerald, Calvin, and Brenda for their love and support throughout his college experience and beyond.



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## Mya Martinez

Major: Psychology

Minor: Black Studies

Mya is a graduating senior with a major in Psychology and minor in Black Studies. Her thesis is titled "HBO's Euphoria: How Do You Understand Love and Identity Through Media?". During her time at New Paltz she was a Peer ALLI for the Education Opportunity Program and helped plan the 2022 Commencement. After graduation, Mya will be attending New York University to receive a



Masters in Social Work. She would like to thank Dr. Jessica Crowell and Dr. Tabitha Holmes for all the help on her Honors Program thesis as well as her EOP advisor Ashley. And would lastly, like to thank all her family and loved ones for the continued support.



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### **James Meisterich**

Major: Digital Media Production

Minor: Business Administration

James "Jimmy" Meisterich is a Digital Media Production major with a minor in Business Administration. He is also a dedicated member of the Men's Rugby Club here at SUNY New Paltz who has also dabbled in the art of Theatre, performing in various school and club productions. His thesis is entitled, "Production Amidst Covid-19: A Look Back on the Production of My Senior Capstone Project." Following the completion of his studies, Jimmy hopes to jump into the professional Media Production Industry and is excited to see where his journey takes him. He would like to first and foremost thank his amazing family, parents John and Catherine, siblings Jack and Lily, and of course cat Trixie for their endless support. He would also like to thank Nancy Heiz for her work in advising him through his project, and both Alicia Ivan and Patricia Sullivan for their crucial guidance throughout his past four years in the Honors Program.



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### **Seana Morgan**

Major: Early Childhood Education (B-6 Spanish)

Seana Morgan is graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood/Childhood Education with a concentration in Spanish. She plans to get her TEFL certification and work abroad before going to graduate school. She would like to thank her mother, Maureen, for her immense love and support throughout these past 4 years. She would also like to thank all her Spanish professors for their passion and assistance throughout her college career. Specifically, Luz Porras whose passion and service shines through everything she does.



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### **Marcus Mosenson**

Major: Graphic Design

Minor: Film & Video Studies

Marcus Mosenson is a senior graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design. Their thesis work focuses on educating other Graphic Design students in matters of Copyright and Intellectual Property. After graduating, Marcus will be attending law school, studying Intellectual Property Law and Labor & Employment Law to advocate for and represent independent Artists and Designers in the legal field. Once established, they will work towards the reformation and elucidation of legal and political publishing for the common person with their Graphic Design and Legal expertise. Marcus Mosenson was born, raised, and continues to work in the Hudson Valley, New York.



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## Ashley Murphy

Major: Psychology

Minors: Deaf Studies and Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies

Ashley Murphy is a Psychology major with minors in Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies and Deaf Studies. Their thesis is titled "Non-binary and Gender Non-Conforming Struggle and Change: Research and a Manifesto". Ashley is a very involved student on campus, currently dedicating their time to rehearsal and being the webmaster for Epic Glee. In addition, they work as a Dietary Aide at the New Paltz Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing. Formerly they were a Night Host for Ashokan Hall and a Player Representative & Safety Officer for the Gunx Ultimate Frisbee Team. After graduation, Ashley plans to continue living in New Paltz, while working full time, getting a head start on graduate classes, and being a staff member at OASIS/HAVEN. Ashley would like to thank Professor Karl Bryant for their help and guidance throughout the thesis process as their advisor. In addition, Ashley would like to thank their mom, Lynn, dad, Sean, brother, Ryan, and Grandma Marie for all their unconditional love and support throughout Ashley's life and college career.



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## Mia Paquin-Reed

Majors: English & Spanish

Minor: Creative Writing

Mia is double majoring in English and Spanish, with a concentration in Creative Writing. Throughout her college experience, she was a section editor for the campus lifestyle magazine "The Teller". Her Honors Program thesis is a collection of bilingual children's poetry, focusing on themes related to nature. After graduating from New Paltz, she will be attending Mount Saint Mary College to pursue her Master's degree in Childhood Education.



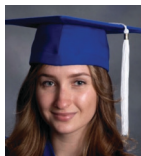
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## Kristina Pepaj

Major: Adolescence Education: English

Minors: French & Creative Writing

Kristina Pepaj is an Adolescence Education in English major with minors in French and Creative Writing. Her thesis, entitled "Malesore, Amerikane: Albanian-American Reflections," is advised by Professor Thomas Festa. Kristina was inducted into the International English Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta, in April 2021. Kristina is grateful to be the first in her family to receive a Bachelor's degree, and she looks forward to pursuing graduate studies and working as a high school English teacher in New York City. Kristina would like to thank her family for the life of opportunities they've given her. She is also grateful for the relationships she has created with professors and peers through New Paltz and the Honors Program.



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## Marie Pesch

Major: Political Science

Marie is a Political Science Major with a concentration in American Government. Her thesis is entitled "Why More Women Aren't Elected: The Gender Gap in US Politics." After graduation Marie will be taking a gap year to prepare for the LSAT and apply for Law School where she intends on studying constitutional law. Marie was an active member of the Political Science and International Relations Association and spent last semester in Washington DC where she participated in the SUNY Brockport Washington Internship Program. She would like to thank everyone at the Honors Program and her advisors for all their help throughout her time here at New Paltz.



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## Kirstin Phillips

Major: Graphic Design

Minor: Business Administration

Kirstin Phillips is a graduating Honors student, earning her BFA in Graphic Design as well as a minor in Business Administration. Through her time at New Paltz, she has been involved with the campus radio station, WFNP, the literary magazine, The Teller, and has worked as a greeter at the Welcome Center. Her thesis is a poster series titled 'Poetry Abound: A Celebration of Diverse Contemporary Voices'. It would not have been possible without support from the graphic design community and her advisor, Professor Amy Papaelias. After graduation, Kirstin is staying in New Paltz to continue working in the design field. She would like to send all her love and gratitude to her friends and family who have gotten her to this point.



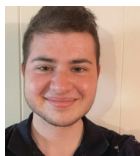
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## Clara Pierson

Major: Art History

Minors: Anthropology & Religious Studies

Clara Pierson is an Art History major with minors in Anthropology and Religious Studies. Her thesis is entitled "Beautiful Losers: Street Art and the Museum" and was completed with the help of her advisor, Professor Reva Wolf. While studying at SUNY New Paltz, Clara has served as the president of the Dorsky Museum Ambassadors and has also been the Owens Administrative Intern at the Dorsky Museum of Art for the past two years. She would like to thank Professor Wolf, the staff at the Dorsky, all the professors in the art history department, and her family for their continued support.



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## Jay Porcelli

Major: English (Creative Writing)

Minors: Philosophy & Computer Science

Jay Porcelli (they/them) is an English major with minors in Philosophy and Computer Science. Their hobbies include hiking, exercising, writing, and playing Dungeons and Dragons. The title of their thesis is "The Migration: A Novel." Jay would like to thank their thesis advisors Kris Jansma and Mary Holland for their help. They would also like to thank their peer editors Isaac, Aidan, and Maya. After graduation, Jay is backpacking the Appalachian Trail, a 2190-mile-long trail stretching from Maine to Georgia that will take about 3-5 months to complete.



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## Sarah Rabenstein-Bolufer

Major: Sociology (Human Services)

Minors: Spanish and Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies

Sarah is a Sociology major with a concentration in Human Services and a minor in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her thesis is titled "Understanding the Impacts of Human Rights Violations in Puerto Rico through the Analysis of Hurricane Maria". In 2019, Sarah traveled to Puerto Rico with SUNY New Paltz to volunteer under the New York Stands with Puerto Rico initiative. She worked alongside Puerto Rican residents to rebuild homes damaged by Hurricane Maria. Sarah has participated in three internship experiences throughout her Human Services education. She also worked as a Contact Tracer and Case Investigator with the New York State Department of Health for nearly two years. Sarah is excited to dedicate time to exploring her personal and career interests' post-graduation. She would like to thank Katherine Raynor for her advising throughout her thesis process, as well as Mette Christiansen and her Human Services peers. Sarah is especially thankful to her friends and family for their support throughout her education and in life.



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## Melissa Richard

Major: Biology (Cellular)

Melissa Richard is a graduating senior on track to earn her B.S. in Cellular Biology. Throughout her college career she has participated in the Honors Program, for which she worked as an Honors peer mentor to two mentees. Melissa has also been an active member of the AC<sup>2</sup>Program. Through AC<sup>2</sup>, she led regular Genetics, Precalculus and General Biology study groups. She has also worked in Esopus Hall as a Resident Assistant, helping foster community between mostly freshmen matriculants. Melissa has volunteered/ worked as a tour guide and campus spokesperson through AC<sup>2</sup> and Residence Life. She has also participated in research on Mohonk Lake with Dr. David Richardson during Summer 2020. Melissa has

several interests, including drawing, art, fitness, fashion and bird watching. Melissa aims to continue her studies at Physician Assistant school next fall. Her thesis, entitled "Fast Fashion: The Hole in Humanity that Must be Fixed," hones in on her hopes for embracing a more sustainably fashionable world. It is advised by Professor Andrea Varga. Melissa would like to thank her family, friends and advisors for their encouragement and support throughout her time at SUNY New Paltz.



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### **Leija Rothenberg**

Major: Digital Media Production

Minor: Asian Studies

Leija Rothenberg has a major in Digital Media Production and a minor in Asian Studies. Throughout her college career, Leija has found a passion for radio at the school station, WFNP. She has interned with Professor Megan Sperry and her production company, Little Light Pictures, as well as at Radio Woodstock. Her thesis is entitled "The Privilege to Age" and is advised by Professor Rachel Somerstein. She would like to thank all her professors who have provided the educational foundation which made this project possible. Originally from Westchester, Leija has discovered her love for New Paltz and the surrounding areas and plans to stay here after graduation and continue employment at Radio Woodstock.



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### **Allie Schadoff**

Majors: Management & Accounting

Allie Schadoff is an Accounting and Entrepreneurship double major in the Honors Program. Allie will be graduating Summa Cum Laude and is a hardworking and involved student part of the Beta Gamma Sigma International Business Honors Society. Throughout her college experience Allie was the President of the New Paltz Management Association, has studied abroad in Florence, Italy, was a member of the business school's Dean's Student Advisory Board, a Teacher's Assistant for the Entrepreneurship program, a Marketing & Events Intern at a non-profit, receiver of the Google Project Management Professional Certificate, Emerging Leaders Graduate, a Student Worker at Records & Registration, a New Paltz Virtual Event Coordinator, an Ultimate Frisbee Teammate, a Saturday's of Service Participant, a Peer Mentor to international business students and Honors Program students, has placed First at the Mid-Hudson Valley Business Plan Competition, and has received an Honorable Mention Award at the New York State Business Plan Competition. In addition to being an active student at New Paltz, she has been certified to become a wedding planner. To advance her career in wedding planning, Allie has interned as a Wedding Coordinator at Brooke Voris Weddings and is currently a Lead Wedding Planner at Unruffled Weddings & Events. Allie's plan is to launch her own entrepreneurial

wedding planning service called Supernova Weddings and her Honors Program thesis is titled "Supernova Weddings: My Plan On How To Approach the Future Wedding Boom". Her thesis was advised by Professor Christopher Napolitano. Allie would like to thank her family, advisors, boyfriend, and her School of Business faculty and peers for their support throughout her college career.



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## **Halle Shepard**

Major: Political Science

Halle Shepard is a graduating Political Science major. Her interest in politics, whether domestic or international, really manifested itself during her engagement in the 2018 SUNY Model European Union program. Inspired by this simulated experience as the Belgian Foreign Minister, she hopes to do foreign affairs government work after graduation. Her thesis focuses on norm contestation and rhetoric used by government actors in the international system. She would like to thank Professor Sullivan, Professor Pampinella, the Political Science department at large, and her family for their support during her college years.



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## **Carrie Smithing**

Major: Physics

Minors: Deaf Studies & Computer Science

Carrie Smithing is a Physics major with minors in Computer Science and Deaf Studies. During her time at New Paltz, she has been a part of many clubs and organizations including the RHSA, Society of Physics students (SPS), and Alpha Kappa Phi Agonian Sorority which she currently serves as President of. Her Honor Program thesis focuses on research she conducted on the attachment force of the bacteria known as *Bdellovibrio Bacteriovorus* and the effect of pili on the attachment. This research took place over two semesters and was supervised by Dr. Catherine Herne of the Physics and Astronomy Department with guidance from Dr. Megan Ferguson from the Chemistry Department. After she graduates, Carrie plans on taking a gap year between undergraduate and graduate school to get some practical job experience before applying for the following Fall semester. Carrie has expressed the deepest gratitude for the help she had been provided by her professors in the physics department, namely Dr. Herne for being a mentor for her in her final year at SUNY New Paltz. She would also like to thank the Director and Administrative Assistant of the Honors Program, Alicia Ivan and Dr. Pat Sullivan for all of the support they have given her since she first came to SUNY New Paltz. Finally, she wanted to thank her parents for being her biggest supporters throughout her college career.



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## Robert Speckenbach

Major: Philosophy

Minors: Film and Video Studies & Asian Studies

Bobby Speckenbach is a student of Philosophy, Asian Studies, and Film and Video Studies. His thesis, *Transcending Identity Through the Language of Music*, is inspired by his passion for writing, philosophy, and music. Dr. Rebecca Longtin has aided him as an advisor and mentor in the process of writing the thesis, lending her expertise and experience. After graduating, Bobby plans on pursuing a career in literature and publishing or music. Special thanks to New Paltz faculty, including Rebecca Longtin, Nathen Clerici, Kate McCoy, Daniel Werner, Larry Carr, Patricia Sullivan, Alicia Ivan, Christopher Link, and Alex Peh. Also, a sincere thank you to numerous family members and friends, he couldn't have made it without them.



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## Liv Spina

Majors: Psychology (Psychobiology) & Biology

Liv Spina is a Psychology Major with a concentration in biology. Her thesis is entitled "An Exploration of Placebo Effects and their Use in the Treatment of Depression". After graduation, Liv will begin working as a research assistant in the McCarroll Lab at Harvard University, studying the genetic and biological basis of brain illnesses. She would like to thank Dr. Grossi for her invaluable mentorship in writing her thesis, and Dr. Rinking for his generous help with chemistry across many courses.

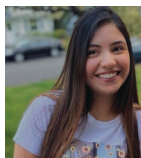


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## Kiran Stoller

Major: Psychology

Kiran Stoller is graduating with a BA in Psychology. His Honors Program thesis, "Confronting and Overcoming Mental Health Stigma in Oneself and Others," reflects his longstanding interest in destigmatizing mental health issues and promoting equality and accessibility of mental health care. He transferred to SUNY New Paltz his junior year after completing his AA degree with honors in Psychology at SUNY Ulster. He has enjoyed serving as a peer tutor in both Psychology and Biology, and in his final semester has begun training as a peer counselor at Oasis Haven. In the fall Kiran will be entering the MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program here at New Paltz. He would like to give special thanks to Dr. Pat Sullivan and Dr. Greta Winograd, and to his mom and his late grandfather Duke for their love, guidance, and support.



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## **Sarah Taborda**

Major: Biology

Minor: Art Studio

Sarah is graduating with a Biology major and a minor in Art Studio. Her Honors Program thesis is entitled, "Disease Heterogeneity and Differential Severities in COVID-19". She had the great opportunity to work with her advisor, Professor Morrow throughout the thesis process. Throughout her college career, she was part of Global Medical Brigades, and she went on a tele brigade in Honduras this past May. She continues to follow her passion in the medical field by working on her medical illustrations and studying towards her medical assistant certification. Sarah hopes to further her education after graduation in the medical field by working as a medical assistant. She will then pursue a medical school education with an aspiration to a pediatric specialty. She would like to thank her professors here and especially Professor Morrow for helping her throughout her college career. Lastly, Sarah would like to dedicate her graduation to her family here and in Colombia, for all the sacrifices they have made for her. She believes that this accomplishment is shared with her family, who gave up a lot in their life so that she could be here today.



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## **Nico Torrez**

Major: Theatre Arts (Theatre Studies)

Minor: Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies

Nico Torrez (they/them) is a graduating Honors Program senior with a major in Theatre Arts, concentrating in Theatre Studies, and a minor in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Over the course of their time at New Paltz, Nico has participated in many department productions on campus as both a director and dramaturg, to include In The Time of the Butterflies, Cadillac Crew, The Killing Fields, and most recently The Wolves; their thesis project, "Pages From a Love Manifesto: A Devised Play Process Exploring Love, Heartbreak, and Everything In-Between," is set to hit the stage in April of this semester. Nico has also been grateful to be a Theatre Studies Intern at New Paltz, with the aid of the Hitz Foundation, as well as being an active member in New Paltz Players and Theatre Council. Outside of theatre, they enjoyed serving on the eboard for New Paltz Dance Association and working in the library. Nico would like to thank all the professors that have made an impact on their time here at New Paltz, with a special acknowledgement to Dr. Martine Green-Rogers, Catherine Doherty, and to Tony Speciale, thesis advisor extraordinaire.





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### **Emily Trama**

Major: Early Childhood Education (B-6 History)

Minor: Psychology

Emily is an Early Childhood & Childhood Education Major and Psychology Minor. Emily has spent her years at New Paltz writing and editing for the campus' lifestyle magazine, The Teller Magazine, and working as a Peer Writing Consultant at the university's Center for Student Success. She is currently finalizing her initial New York State Teaching Certificate and plans to enroll in a graduate program to attain a Master's degree in Special Education and a certification in Educational Technology. Emily is extremely passionate about teaching and is grateful to have found SUNY New Paltz and its amazing School of Education. Emily would like to thank her peers, professors, and advisors for their academic support and guidance, as well as her friends and family for their unconditional love and support.



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### **Amanda Whitehouse**

Major: Accounting

Amanda is a graduating senior in the Honors Program with a major in Accounting. Her thesis is titled "The Past, Present, and Future of Forensic Accounting," which was a topic of interest because she will be going to the University of Albany in the fall to begin working towards a Master's degree in Forensic Accounting. Throughout her time at New Paltz, Amanda had the opportunity to find and accept three internship opportunities, all of which gave her insight into what type of work and work environment she will search for in her long-term professional career. She also received the PCAOB scholarship and was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma (BGS), an international business honors society. She is thankful for all the professors she has had throughout her undergraduate career, from her time at SUNY Orange to SUNY New Paltz, and she appreciates all the support that her family and friends have given her, and continue to give, as she moves into the next phase of her educational career that will propel her forward on her professional journey.



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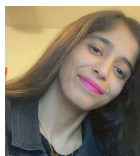
### **Thomas Wood**

Major: History

Minor: English

Thomas Wood is a graduating senior in the Honors Program with a major in History and a minor in English. Throughout his college career Thomas has worked at a golf course and had multiple internships including working for the Town Historian of New Paltz and working at Historic Huguenot Street. The road to graduation hasn't been an easy one, but Thomas would like to thank all his professors for teaching and guiding him through his college career. Thomas is interested in expanding his experience in multiple historical fields after graduation

and sees graduate school on the horizon for the near future. Thomas likes to share and help others in their pursuit of understanding history so that the discipline of studying history can be more widespread. Thomas would especially like to thank Professor Bernstein and Dr. Sullivan for their guidance and support throughout the process of writing this Honors Program thesis. Thomas would also like to thank his family for aiding him in attending SUNY New Paltz. Thomas' Honors Program thesis is titled "Generational Welcomes" and examines the reintegration process of both Vietnam veterans and Iraq War veterans in order to compare the two and see if America has become more concerned of the wellbeing of veterans after Vietnam veterans experienced an imperfect and strenuous readjustment process in returning to civilian life.



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### **Ayesha Zahid**

Major: Psychology (Psychobiology)

Minor: Chemistry

Ayesha Zahid is a first-generation college student and a woman of color majoring in Psychology with a concentration in Psychobiology. Despite everything Ayesha is graduating Cum Laude along with College Honors distinction. She would like to give a big thanks to all the faculty that have helped her get here as they have all played a part in her remarkable growth and subsequent success. She is proud to be able to lend a special thank you to two individuals who have not only played a significant role in supporting her reaching this major milestone but also, have truly been her rock these past couple of years: Alicia Ivan and Pat Sullivan of the Honors program. By working alongside taking classes throughout her college career, Ayesha was able to complete her full bachelor's degree of science in just three years. Working as a waitress & server at local restaurant, B-side grill, she managed to fund her college career whilst immersing herself within the New Paltz community. In her time at SUNY New Paltz, Ayesha has worked as a diligent crisis intervention counselor for the campus-affiliated organization, Oasis/Haven eventually, moving up the ranks all the way up to upper staff. She has had the pleasure to have worked as an assistant to Jane Lehman of the Psychology Department, someone she would describe as the kindest of souls. Of her experiences, one of the most rewarding has been the opportunity to intern and subsequently volunteer at Family of New Paltz. Under the guidance of her more than phenomenal supervisors, Ivan Echenique and Icilma Lewis, she was able to take concepts she had studied extensively and apply them in the context of real-life situations. During her time at Family of New Paltz, she was also awarded the Campus Auxiliary Services Internship scholarship, as well. Ayesha has had the great honor to spread and grow her love and eagerness for learning & connecting with others by forming invaluable bonds throughout the New Paltz community, that she shall cherish for a long time to come.



### **Rachel Barbato**

Major: Psychology

Minor: Anthropology

Rachel's major is Psychology, and her minor is Anthropology. Throughout her college career she had been a cellist for the College Symphony Orchestra and participated in the Saturdays of Service program. Rachel also loves to make jewelry and has been a vendor at the High Falls Flea Market selling her own creations. After graduating from New Paltz, Rachel plans to pursue employment in the field of psychology, gain internships related to her education, and attend graduate school sometime in the future. She hopes to attain a career that combines her interests of the human condition, mental health, and jewelry making.



### **Angeline Gomez**

Majors: International Relations & Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Minor: Communication

Angeline Gomez, or Angie as she is better known, is a Latinx Bronx native. She was a double major in International Relations & Latin American and Caribbean Studies; and a Communications minor. Alongside being a student of the Honors Program, she was a student of the Scholar's Mentorship Program. Throughout her time at SUNY New Paltz, she participated in the 2018 First-Year Summer Orientation Program as the Scholars Mentorship Program Liaison, was a Resident Assistant for three years at Shawangunk Hall, worked with the Scholar's Mentorship Program as an office assistant during her four years, and studied abroad three times (with the help of SMP and Honors) in Dominica (2019), Brazil (2019) and Trinidad (2020). In her first and second year, she was a member and then treasurer of Circle K International -- the most extensive collegiate volunteering program in the United States, and a member of the Multicultural United Students Empowered (MUSE), United Nations Association, and Black Week. In her junior year, she helped revive the MUSE club, served as the senior representative her Senior year, and was an active member of the Senior Gift Committee. She was a student of the Global Engagement Program, where she interned at PEN America, working in their Literary Programs Department. Angie's Honors Program thesis is an auto-ethnography about her experience working in the Department of Residence Life. Her thesis advisor is Professor Jason Wrench of the communication department Angie is currently planning out her life.



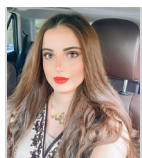
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## Natalie Hawkins

Major: Visual Arts

Minors: English & Art History

Natalie is a Visual Arts major with minors in both Art History and English. Her thesis is titled "Tracking the History of Maritime Art and its Display." Her advisors for this thesis were art professor Rena Leinberger and art history professor Beth Wilson. Since graduating, Natalie has applied for graduate school and hopes to attend Fordham University for a master's degree in Medieval Studies this Fall. In her advanced studies she will be focusing on the art and architecture of Medieval Europe. Natalie would like to thank her mother and sister for their unconditional love and support. She would also like to thank her past professors and counselors, specifically those from the art history department who acted as appreciated guides throughout her undergraduate career.



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## Shaded Herzallah

Major: Political Science

Shaded Herzallah is ethnically Palestinian but was born in Jordan. At the age of 12, she immigrated to the United States and is now a citizen of the country. She attended school immediately and was able to learn English and now speaks it well. Shaded is fluent in speaking, writing, and reading Arabic and received the New York State Seal of Biliteracy in 2017 for outstanding achievement in language studies: Arabic. Shaded completed certification from the NY State Department of Health and Health Career Program to become a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA). She is completing her bachelor's in Political Science at SUNY New Paltz. During her time attending SUNY New Paltz Shaded was extremely involved at the campus. She interned with the First-Year Internship Program, was a Public Relations Coordinator in the Executive Board of the Biology Club, was a Secretary in the Executive Board of the American Red Cross Club and worked as a Peer Mentor in the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). She volunteered her time at the UlsterCorps Service Summit, Chi Alpha Epsilon - XAE, and in the Boys & Girls Club. Her Honors Program thesis is titled "The Turkish Public Support for Erdogan," and her thesis advisors were Professor Kathleen Dowley and Professor Stephen Pampinella. During her time as a college student, she has made it to the Dean's List for academic excellence. She is a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, and the Beta Omicron of Chi Alpha Epsilon (XAE), National Honor Society. She was chosen to be the 2021 Outstanding Graduate and won the 2021 best paper in the Political Science department in the 20th Annual Pi Sigma Alpha SUNY New Paltz. After graduation in December 2021, Shaded plans to start a new Bachelor's degree in Engineering.



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## Brianna McQuade

Major: Psychology

Minors: Art Studio & Evolutionary Studies

Brianna McQuade is a Psychology major with minors in both Art Studio and Evolutionary Studies. Her thesis is titled: "MISMATCH: Translating Concepts of Evolutionary Psychology Into an Aggregation of Various Aesthetic Mediums", which speaks on all aspects of her schooling here at SUNY New Paltz, advised by Professor Glenn Geher and Bryan Czibesz. At New Paltz, Brianna was an active member of Pitches, part of Miami: a student run theatre group on campus. Additionally, she was involved in the evolutionary psychology lab, in which she co-authored a chapter that is to be published in an oxford handbook alongside Nicole Wedberg and Glenn. After this semester, Brianna will be studying ceramic design at the University of the Arts London--and will be working towards gaining the skillset to apply for MFA programs regarding ceramics."



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## Daphne Miyagawa

Major: Accounting

Daphne is an Accounting major and was previously involved in the East-West Living and Learning Community and was an active participant of the Japanese Conversation Table. Daphne was involved in JamAsia, Asian and Pacific Islander Student Alliance (APISA), New Paltz Pride, et cetera. Her thesis title is "Forecasting GDP in the USA: Assessing the Quantity Theory of Money as a Device." Her advisors are Dr. James Forest and Professor Nathen Clerici. Daphne plans to gain practical experience in public accounting before obtaining a Master's degree for her CPA certification.



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## Emma Ryan

Majors: Digital Media Production & International Relations

Minor: Astronomy

CONGRATULATIONS  
CLASS OF 2022

