



College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Frostburg State University
Frostburg, Maryland 21532



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Annual Dean's Student Colloquium

April 27, 2020

**Sabrina Upole (International Studies)
Study Abroad**

The International Studies major provided me the flexibility to cultivate a diverse and unique experience. I utilized this opportunity to develop an undergraduate education plan that was filled with immersive and challenging opportunities. I studied abroad in both Spain and Thailand and volunteered abroad in Peru. I worked for the Center for International Education, University Programming Council, and as a Student Mentor, in addition to holding memberships in President's Leadership Circle and Student Alumni Association. I customized my course load to have a focus in International Business with a Spanish language component and to include various courses of interest to me such as cross-cultural psychology, digital marketing, and eco-tourism.

International Studies provided me the ability to develop a personalized undergraduate plan based on independence and exploration. After my first study-abroad experience in Spain, I realized I could develop a plan to gather experiences outside the classroom to further define and develop my career interests. These experiences, coupled with the classes I had taken as an INST major, would set me up for multiple career paths that I could pursue. I had the freedom to study the Thai and Spanish language, to deeply connect with the local cultures, and to see more of the world than I hoped for an entire lifetime. I developed the ability to understand others through a lens outside of my own, to problem solve, and to remain flexible in the face of uncertainty.

While being some of the most difficult experiences in my life, I grew in unimaginable ways. I dove deeper into my interests through on-campus employment opportunities. I expanded my knowledge of international education through working as a Study Abroad Recruiter. My interest in event management swayed my plan to include becoming an Event Coordinator for University Programming Council. I also worked as a Student Mentor for first-year Ori101 students. These opportunities deepened my understanding of my own personal interests that were needed to graduate into the next step of my journey.

International Studies allowed me the space to pave my own path. I created my undergraduate plan in order to cultivate a diverse set of skills, experiences, and pathways. I used my on-campus jobs to gain experience in various potential fields that interested me. Study abroad provided me with invaluable life experiences and skills such as problem-solving, multi-perspective thinking, and communication. My ideal career path in event management is rapidly changing and evolving due to COVID-19. My undergraduate plan through the International Studies major has equipped me with the ability to see the bigger picture, to adjust to everchanging circumstances, and to adapt to whatever comes my way.

**Joia Bullock (Visual Arts)
Taking Your Art Public**

Joia Bullock is an effervescent Visual Arts BFA student focusing in Painting and Graphic Design, with a minor in Art History. Joia takes her art public as a yearly exhibitor in the Undergraduate Research Symposium and works as a graphic designer in the Lane Center Publications Office. She exhibits and sells her work in the Baltimore/Washington area, works summers as a graphic designer, promotes her work in the Roper Gallery Art Extravaganzas, and is a published poet with Barnes and Noble. Joia practices her sales potential with participation as a Sloop Leadership Officer and a Student Success Mentor. A certified EMT and firefighting team captain, Joia maintains a public presence with English, Spanish, Japanese, and Tagalog. She has been a consistent Dean's List recipient since transferring from San Francisco Academy of Art early in her academic career.

**Ashley Armbruster (Mathematics)
Ensley Vallin 4 Card Trick**

In the Ensley Vallin 4 card trick, we have a magician and a participant. The participant is given four cards, one of each suit, and stacks them face-up so that the colors are alternating, and then the spade card is turned face-down so that it is “dissenting.” The participant is then asked to make the following two moves as often as they see fit, and in any sequence that they like:

- Move 1) Take the top card of the stack and move it to the back without changing if it is face-up or face-down.
- Move 2) “Pancake flip” the top two cards by exchanging their order and whether they are face-up or face-down, as if you took two pancakes off a stack and flipped them back onto the stack.

After the participant has completed their sequence of moves, the magician invites the participant to make a certain set of last moves. Without looking at the cards, the magician then makes an accurate prediction about the state of the stack of cards (no spoilers!).

This wondrous trick is very subtle, and requires no card counting or slight of hand by the magician - it just works, every time. But why? The goal of the project is to use mathematics to prove that the trick always works, and in so doing, explain what features are important for the trick to work.

The future of the project will involve generalizations of the Ensley Vallin 4 card trick, perhaps questions like: Is there an analogous trick that works with 5 cards? Are there other moves that could be introduced to add complexity to the trick? Are there manipulations that could lead to a different dissenting card?

**Grace Easterday (Theatre and Dance)
Designing with Courage, Compassion, and Community**

During the 2019-2020 academic year, senior Grace Easterday engaged in numerous theatre design projects that extended beyond FSU and into the community.

During the fall semester she designed scenery for Theatre and Dance's opening production, *Alabama Story*. Set in the late 1950s and early 1960's, the play centers on a children's book about a black rabbit and white rabbit who marry and the fiery standoff that ignites between a segregationist senator and principled state librarian. Easterday used computer drafting techniques to generate blueprints for the production team. She also helped build the set and led the team in scenic painting during a fifteen-week production schedule.

In November, under the guidance of Scene Shop Foreman Aaron Bittner, Easterday and fellow students engaged in over 320 service hours painting scenery for the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad's *Polar Express* train ride. Easterday took a lead role in the execution and successful completion of this project. Furthermore, she served as the scenic designer and head painter/charge artist for *Spamalot JR* at Braddock Middle School.

Easterday's extraordinary ability and accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. She serves as the student Master Carpenter for the Department of Theatre and Dance. In January, she and three peers competed in the Stage Crew Showdown/Tech Olympics at the Region II American College Theatre Festival, and they won. During the festival, Easterday went on to receive an Honorable Mention award for her scenic design for *Alabama Story*, as well as the Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas Award, which allows her to attend a one-week intensive in Las Vegas this summer. She also won an online essay contest through the United States Institute of Theatre Technology (USITT) and received a full conference pass to the national convention in Houston, TX.

Grace Easterday is an exceptional artist and dedicated student leader who inspires courage, compassion, and a deep sense of community in her design process. She approaches her craft with a daring sense of adventure and pure joy for the process.