

University Honors Convocation

Pealer Recital Hall
Woodward D. Pealer Performing Arts Center
May 22, 2024

Welcome to Frostburg State University's Honors Convocation. This university-wide event honors faculty receiving awards and graduate and undergraduate students who have been nominated by their department chairs and program coordinators based on their academic excellence, leadership, and community service, both on and off campus. Additionally, we recognize students graduating with honors in general education. Administrators, department chairs, and program coordinators will present the honorees at the ceremony.

On the following pages, you will see the listing of the honorees and their presenters beginning with this year's Faculty Achievement Award recipients, Hardesty Award recipient, Graduate Program Honors, the Undergraduate Departmental Honors, and students graduating with honors in general education. Additionally, institutional, departmental, and program chairs and coordinators have provided short narratives to outline the accomplishments of each department or program honoree.

Special thanks to:

Ms. Kaena Smith and Mr. Conrad Maust
for their help and support
in organizing tonight's event.



Program of Events

Opening Remarks Dr. Traki L. Taylor – *Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Welcoming Remarks Dr. Sharman Siebenthal Adams – *Associate Provost for Student Success and Graduate Education*

FSU Foundation Remarks Mr. Patrick Friel – *President, FSU Foundation Board of Of Directors*

Presentation of FSU Foundation Awards for Faculty Achievement

Dr. Sharman Siebenthal Adams - *Associate Provost for Student Success and Graduate Education*

Dr. Sara Beth Bittinger – *Associate Vice-President for External Relations and Fiscal Management*

Mr. Patrick Friel - *President, FSU Foundation Board of Of Directors*

Presentation of Dr. R. Bowen Hardesty & R. Bowen Hardesty, Jr. Award

Dr. Boyce Williams – *Dean, College of Education and Health & Natural Sciences*

Dr. Sharman Siebenthal Adams - *Associate Provost for Student Success and Graduate Education*

Introduction to the Proceedings

Dr. Sharman Siebenthal Adams - *Associate Provost for Student Success and Graduate Education*

Presentation of Graduate Program Honors

Dr. Sudhir Singh – *Dean, College of Business, Engineering, and Computational & Mathematical Sciences*

Dr. Boyce Williams – *Dean, College of Education and Health & Natural Sciences*

Dr. Michael Mathias – *Dean, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social & Behavioral Sciences*

Presentation of Honors in General Education

Dr. Kara Rogers-Thomas – *Director, University Honors Program*

Presentation of Undergraduate Departmental Honors

Dr. Sudhir Singh – *Dean, College of Business, Engineering, and Computational & Mathematical Sciences*

Dr. Boyce Williams – *Dean, College of Education and Health & Natural Sciences*
Department Representatives

Dr. Michael Mathias – *Dean, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social & Behavioral Sciences*
Department Representatives

Closing Remarks

Dr. Sharman Siebenthal Adams – *Associate Provost for Student Success and Graduate Education*

Faculty Achievement Awards

University and Community Service

Dr. Justin Dunmyre

Associate Professor, Mathematics Department
College of Business, Engineering, and Computational &
Mathematical Sciences

Dr. Dunmyre's deep commitment to service is evidenced not just by his long history of membership on multiple committees at the department, college, and university level but by his dedication to their work through the many leadership roles he has performed. These include serving as Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate, Chair of the General Education Review Committee, Co-Chair of the Faculty Evaluation Working Group, Co-Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence Advisory Group, and Co-Chair of the FSU Self-Study Working Group for Middle States Commission on Higher Education accreditation focused on the Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience. Dr. Dunmyre was instrumental in developing the FSU ACHIEVE Mathematics Initiative and serves his profession as a Teaching Support Group mentor for early career mathematics faculty. Dr. Dunmyre's work in all these efforts has had a lasting and meaningful impact due to the thoughtfulness and collaborative spirit he brings to his service activities. With this award, Dr. Dunmyre becomes the sixth FSU Faculty member to have been honored in all three Faculty Achievement Award categories.

Academic Achievement

Professor Gerard LaFemina

Professor, English & Foreign Languages Department
College of Arts, Humanities, and Social & Behavioral Sciences

Professor Gerry LaFemina's contributions to poetry and creative nonfiction are exemplary. His recent accomplishments include two book publications, an edited book, and more than two dozen published poems in an assortment of journal outlets. LaFemina has made significant contributions as a Professor of English to his academic discipline by serving on panels, publishing scholarly work, and through the collaborative exchange of ideas at a residency in Lichtenstein. His literary prowess celebrates our region's history and culture at venues that span the local to the international and he is the recipient of multiple grants devoted to the honing of his craft.

Teaching

Dr. Michael Murtagh

Professor, Psychology Department

College of Arts, Humanities, and Social & Behavioral Sciences

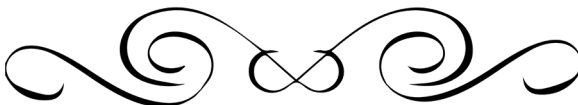
Dr. Michael Murtagh, a Professor of Psychology, has revolutionized counseling psychology education with his commitment to empirically validated interventions. Motivated by a desire to eliminate incompetence in therapy, he has enriched the graduate program with essential courses and specialized training on PTSD. His innovative teaching techniques, which include integrating music to explain psychological concepts, not only make learning enjoyable but also profoundly impactful. Known for his rigorous feedback mechanisms, such as videotaped role-play sessions, Dr. Murtagh offers detailed critiques that significantly enhance students' counseling skills. His multifaceted instructional methods, from case studies to multimedia, engage students deeply and foster a thorough understanding of complex material. As a passionate and reflective educator, Dr. Murtagh's dedication to maintaining high academic standards ensures the development of competent therapists. His outstanding contributions make him a deserving nominee for the Faculty Achievement Award in Teaching

Teaching

Dr. Jodi Welsch

Professor, Educational Professions Department
College of Arts, Humanities, and Social & Behavioral Sciences

Dr. Jodi Welsch has demonstrated continued success throughout the years as a Professor of Education in the Department of Educational Professions. Dr. Welsch teaches courses in literacy education and guides seminars in teacher education for undergraduate and graduate programs. She has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to her teaching role, and her dedication to enhancing student learning experiences is demonstrated by her commitment to effective teaching that involves continuous growth, adaptability, and a student-centered approach. She is constantly refining and improving her course designs, contents, and teaching practices to ensure alignment of her practices with changes in the field. Dr. Welsch is committed to equity for all students and has begun to include social-emotional learning in her course organization and activities. She focuses on the practical application of learning as the content she teaches applies to her students' field experience and future careers.



*Dr. R. Bowen Hardesty and
R. Bowen Hardesty, Jr. Award*

Kelsey Eichelberger

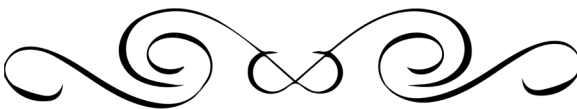
M.Ed. Early Childhood – Elementary Education

Kelsey Eichelberger is an extraordinary educator who has an unwavering commitment to student growth and a passion for teaching.

For six years, Kelsey served as a 4th-grade teacher at a Title I school in Washington County. Her classroom was a sanctuary of learning, where she nurtured young minds and instilled a love for education. Recently, Kelsey embarked on a new chapter by transferring to Sharpsburg Elementary. This move held special significance—it was a homecoming. Here, she stood in the same hallways where her own educational journey began over two decades ago. The familiar faces of teachers who once guided her now welcomed her back as a colleague.

Kelsey's classroom is a hub of curiosity. She ignites a love for learning that transcends grade levels. Whether she is exploring a new book, conducting a science experiment, or discussing current events, Kelsey ensures that her students become lifelong learners.

Kelsey's exceptional teaching abilities did not go unnoticed by her county. During the 2023-2024 academic year, she was nominated for Teacher of the Year, because her impact extends beyond the classroom, touching the lives of students, parents, and fellow educators. Kelsey's impact on others is not confined to lesson plans or report cards; it is etched into the hearts of her students, families, and colleagues. She is a beloved educator, and we are honored to name her as the 2024 recipient of the R. Bowen Hardesty Award. Congratulations Kelsey!



Graduate Program Honors
College of Education and Health & Natural Sciences

Ed.D. – Educational Leadership

Presenter: Dr. Seniz Celimli-Aksoy

Temica Curenton-Lloyd

Dr. T.C. Lloyd, part of 2019 cohort, successfully defended her dissertation in December 2023. Her research, employing a critical quantitative approach, delved into the impact of socially just instruction on the perceptions of freshmen and transfer students. As evident in her dissertation research, through her innovative course design, she fostered a supportive and inclusive for new transfer students aligned with her institution's values. Now, as Assistant Program Director in the Advising Office of the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences at the UMD, College Park, Dr. Lloyd aims to continue her transformative work as a scholar-practitioner, influencing educational practices and empowering students.

M.Ed. Educational Leadership

Presenter: Dr. Curt Baker

Kyndra Dawson

Kyndra Dawson completed the M.Ed. in Educational Leadership program with a perfect 4.0 GPA. She is currently a 5th grade teacher at Parkside Elementary in Allegany County Public Schools, home of the Lions. Previously, Kyndra taught Pre-Kindergarten and Library/Media, also at Parkside. In the Fall, Kyndra will be a third grade teacher at McAllister Elementary School, home of the Wildcats, in Richmond Hill, Georgia, near Savannah. They are lucky to have her. Warren Bennis, in his seminal book, *On Becoming a Leader*, says that five attributes set leaders apart: Guiding vision, passion, integrity that earns the trust of others, curiosity, and daring. Says Bennis: "The leader wonders about everything, wants to learn as much as she can, is willing to take risks, experiment, try new things." By this definition – really, by any definition – Kyndra Dawson is a true leader.

M.Ed. Interdisciplinary

Presenter: Dr. Jamey Tobery-Nystrom

Alison Cutter

Alison Cutter is graduating with a 4.0 GPA from the M.Ed. Interdisciplinary program. Alison has served as a graduate assistant for the Department of Educational Professions and the Office of Field Placement. Using her leadership and teacher researcher skills, Alison created an action research project entitled, 'Teacher Candidates are Stressed: Here is How We Can Help', supporting undergraduate teacher candidates through peer coaching. Alison has demonstrated herself to be a leader whether participating in group projects or presenting her findings when studying education through a three country global comparison of the United States, Canada, and Estonia. Upon graduation, Alison will be a classroom teacher.

M.Ed. Literacy Education Concentration

Presenter: Dr. Kristine McGee

Leanne Dashiell

Leanne Dashiell, soon to graduate with her Masters of Education in Literacy Education, embodies the very essence of an outstanding educator. Her journey has been marked by relentless dedication and a genuine passion for fostering student growth. Notably, Leanne's pursuit of excellence extends beyond her core program; she has also completed multiple courses in the M.Ed. Special Education program, showcasing her commitment to holistic learning. Her unwavering commitment to fostering a love for learning and empowering young minds exemplifies the very best in education. Congratulations!

M.Ed. School Counseling

Presenter: Dr. Jenna Epstein

Julie Thomas

Julie is one of the most resilient individuals I have ever met. She is a mom, a full-time employee with ACPS, and a student in the School Counseling program. She volunteers time to offer groups in the community and always offers to help others. She will be an amazing School Counselor. A non-traditional student, Julie has excelled in her work and maintained a 4.0 GPA while remaining an enthusiastic educator and a stellar mom! The School Counseling faculty is thrilled to nominate Julie as our honors student.

M.Ed. Special Education

Presenter: Dr. Jamey Tobery-Nystrom

Megan Ford

Megan Ford is graduating with a 4.0 GPA from the M.Ed. Special Education program. She is also graduated Summa Cum Laude from Frostburg State University with her undergraduate degree in Early Childhood/Elementary Education. Megan has served as a graduate assistant in the Children's Literature Center (CLC) where she assisted with Storybook Holiday, Harry Potter Book Night, and Pirates Ahoy. Megan communicates with book authors and schedules school visits for the CLC. Megan participates in a reader for the CLC's Adopt-A-School program at Flintstone Elementary School. Megan completed her action research entitled, 'Text-To-Speech: Reading Comprehension Boost for Struggling Readers'. Upon graduating, Megan will be teaching in Calvert County, Maryland.

M.S. Applied Ecology and Conservation Biology

Presenter: Dr. Kate Sheehan

Sonja Barber

Sonja is an exceptional member of our community whose journey at FSU has been adorned with academic excellence, vibrant community engagement, and pioneering research. Her work, blending genomics with ecology, regarding a new disease in Alaska, underscores a strong dedication to science, wildlife health, and conservation. Her commitment to social engagement in the Frostburg community is manifested by her role as co-President of the recently re-erected Graduate Student Associates at FSU, where she has brought together desperate groups of individuals engaged in graduate studies. Through her leadership and innovative studies, Sonja has become a towering example of how determination and scholarship can lead to significant contributions in science and beyond. As we celebrate her achievements, we're reminded of the potential within each of us to make a difference. Sonja's journey is a testament to where passion, coupled with hard work, can lead.

M.S. Recreation, Parks and Sport Management

Presenter: Dr. Natalia Buta Lowe

Kyle Orchard

Kyle Orchard has been an exemplary student in our online Recreation, Parks and Sport Management graduate program. His extraordinary work ethic and commitment to quality work are reflected in his final GPA, 4.0. Kyle has a strong outdoor recreation and education background and a rich professional background in construction, landscaping, and site development. He joined the program from Idaho with a clear vision: to develop a recreation site for Kris Taylor Farms Inc. Kyle meticulously crafted a comprehensive facility design and development proposal for the Taylor Mountain Ranch resort as part of his capstone project. This facility will offer outdoor recreation activities for the local community and visitors. As he transitions into the role of program manager for the proposed resort this summer, Kyle embodies the qualities of a dedicated recreation professional, a great leader, and a strong advocate for outdoor recreation.

Masters in Athletic Training

Presenter: Dr. Lauren Pacinelli

Jordan Patrick

Jordan has consistently demonstrated academic excellence in her five years at FSU. She completed the accelerated Combined BS in Exercise and Sport Science/MS in Athletic Training Program. This is a competitive program that includes hands on internship experience in both health fields. Within the graduate program, Jordan earned a 4.0 GPA every semester while completing various clinical rotations. Her graduate research focused on anaerobic capacity and lower body strength deficits related to thermal protective gear in rural volunteer firefighters and was accepted for presentation at the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers' Association District Symposium. Future endeavors include employment as a full-time Athletic Trainer. Her upbeat and outgoing personality lends itself very well to becoming a highly successful health care provider.

MAT Elementary

Presenter: Dr. Kristine McGee

Ginger Blocher

Ginger Blocher radiates warmth and purpose. Her journey as an aspiring educator has been marked by unwavering dedication and an unwritten promise to make a difference in young lives. Compassion and hard work are the cornerstone of Ginger's teaching philosophy. However, she also understands that beyond textbooks and lesson plans lies a world of emotions, fears, and dreams within each child. It is her advocacy for social justice that truly sets her apart. She believes that education is a powerful tool for dismantling inequities. Her classroom is a place where seeds of change are planted, kindness thrives, and empathy blossoms. As Ginger prepares to step into her own classroom, she carries with her a vision of an inclusive space where every child feels seen, valued, and empowered. Her commitment to student success is unwavering, and I know she will be a teacher who will ignite minds and hearts alike.

MAT Secondary

Presenters: Dr. Jennifer Bishoff

Caroline Maclean-Blevins

Caroline is a dedicated, professional, and student with a 4.0 GPA. Caroline is an asset to the profession. She positively approaches her teaching and presents her lessons with energy and eager interest in what her students will create in their artwork. Her work with elementary students was inspirational! She thoroughly planned and executed all her lessons, adding projects that manifested learning objectives while providing fun activities for her students. Her students were animated and interested in her lessons. Caroline's kind manner with the young students was inspiring. She truly enjoyed teaching them, and they reciprocated in their interactions with her. Caroline also worked with secondary students. In this experience, she demonstrated the same dispositions, and her audience appreciated them just as much as the elementary students. Her classroom management is impressive. Caroline provides detailed explanations and examples of the concept. Her choices of examples enhanced the lesson for understanding while gaining students' interest. She is a promising and inspiring young teacher.

Physician Assistant Medicine

Presenter: Dr. Todd Doran

Jayce Klingenberg

The faculty unanimously nominated Ms. Klingenberg for this recognition. She earned a 4.0 GPA in a 117 credit hour Masters program within 24 months. She is an AHEC Scholar. She participated in the Frostburg Challenge Bowl at the Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants and is the Secretary of the Smolko-McCagh Student Society. Ms. Klingenberg has accepted a position at Frederick Primary Care Associates and will be providing family medicine to the Frederick and Urbana communities.



*Graduate Program Honors
College of Business, Engineering, and Computational
& Mathematical Sciences*

M.S. Applied Computer Science

Presenter: Dr. Michael Flinn

Justin Page

Justin is an exemplary student who has excelled academically and significantly contributed to the Frostburg State University community. Justin completed his graduate studies in one year while maintaining an impressive 4.0 GPA. As a Graduate Assistant in the Computer Science Department, he supported faculty, staff, and students. He even created a helpful tool in Excel to facilitate the admissions process for transfer students. His support extended to his role as a Resident Assistant as he fostered a welcoming and supportive community for residents, coordinated events, and served as a knowledgeable resource. He is also a member of the prestigious honor society, Upsilon Pi Epsilon. Justin is an incredibly bright, motivated, and well-rounded individual who exemplifies the best of Frostburg State University. He is currently in the lengthy application process of the National Security Agency.

Masters of Business Administration

Presenter: Dr. Kenenth Levitt

Justin Kelly

Justin Kelly is graduating with an MBA with a specialization in data analytics. Justin has a perfect 4.0 GPA and is highly praised by his professors for his exceptional analytical performance coupled with reasoned engagement in classes. He is employed as an electrical engineer for SERC Reliability Corporation, where he has been for the last five years. Prior to this he worked for ten years at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. In addition to work he teaches statistics at a local community college.



Graduate Program Honors
College of Arts, Humanities, and Social & Behavioral Sciences

M.S. Counseling Psychology

Presenter: Dr. Kimberly James

Briana Gibson

Briana is graduating with a 4.0 GPA from the Counseling Psychology masters program. While enrolled in the program she has been a skill observer for multiple classes, helping to provide feedback to other students, and completed an internships working with children and families in an outpatient community clinic. Briana has shown growth in her abilities as a counselor and as an advocate for herself and her clients. During her time in the program, Briana was able to balance outside responsibilities and the responsibilities of being a graduate student. Briana knows she wants to continue to work with children and families after she graduates, and she is currently in the process of applying for a position either within the schools or continuing to work for the community clinic.



University Honors Program

The Honors Program at Frostburg State University prides itself upon blurring boundaries traditionally found in academia. Students co-facilitate the first-year orientation course, participate in faculty development workshops, serve on the Honors Program governing committee, and function as equal partners in the redesign of the program's curriculum and requirements.

Administrators routinely teach honors courses and seminars, and an Undergraduate Research Opportunity program pairs honors students with faculty mentors. Throughout the program, students, faculty members, and administrators operate as collaborators in the learning process.

The Honors Program offers a variety of courses that feature content and instructional methods that challenge the students, provide a more active role for the student in the learning process, and emphasize understanding more than factual information. For juniors and seniors, Honors seminars provide unique environments and opportunities for learning. The seminars are interdisciplinary and study a subject in depth. In lieu of one seminar, Honors students have the opportunity of completing a senior thesis or completing an Experiential Learning Project. The purpose of the thesis is to provide students with an opportunity to do independent and in-depth work in the discipline or area of interest with the help of faculty mentors. One benefit is that it may prepare the student for graduate school or professional employment. The thesis can provide evidence of the student's ability to design, develop, and complete an extended piece of scholarship or activity typical of an academic discipline. The Experiential Learning Project allows students to receive honors credit for a semester spent studying abroad, an internship, a research paper, or a performance.

Most students in the Honors Program pursue the distinction of graduating with "Honors in General Education." This distinction is awarded to students who complete the program's curricular requirements, earn a 3.0 average in all courses within the program, and have at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average upon graduation.

Honors in General Education

Quinton Browne	BIOLBS
Dajia Coley	PSYCBS
Abigail Craddock	PSYCBS
Whitney Crosby	CRLSBS
Caleb Heller	SCIABS
Elizabeth Jenkins	BIOLBS
Baby Jimerson	PSYCBS
Cayla Mayo	ECEDBS
Lillian McKenzie	HISTBS
Kaitlyn Mueller	POSCBS
Elizabeth Perry	BAUDBS
Kaylee Pifer	HSCIBS
Sanai Ray	EXSSBS
Julia Seddon	HISTBS
Adam Smith	BUADBS



*Undergraduate Departmental and Program Honors
College of Business, Engineering, and Computational &
Mathematical Sciences*

Accounting

Presenter: Dr. Chelsea Schrader

Nicholas Alexander Trey

As a member of the President's Leadership Circle (PLC), Nicholas 'Nick' Trey is a distinguished graduating Accounting major at FSU, boasting an overall Grade Point Average of 3.74. An accomplished baseball player, Nick has played pivotal roles within the FSU Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), serving as Chair, Vice President, and Co-President. His internship experiences are diverse and notable, including positions such as Accounting Assistant, Sales Representative, and Director of Marketing at Classic Remodeling, Inc., in Ellicott City, MD. Nick's commitment to community and leadership extends beyond academics and athletics. He has volunteered as a 'Coach' Counselor at the Frostburg Baseball Winter Camp, a counselor at Camp Hashawha, and participated in various community events in Frostburg. His academic excellence is recognized through prestigious awards, including the PNC College of Business Presidential Merit Scholar Award and the Sharon L. Robinson Presidential Merit Scholarship in Accounting, coupled with six Dean's List honors. Having secured enrollment in the department's '4+1' program, Nick is set to pursue his MBA at FSU post-graduation. With a foundation in Accounting and Management, he aims to realize his entrepreneurial ambitions.

Business Administration

Presenter: Dr. Carol Gaumer

Elizabeth Perry

Elizabeth 'Liz' Perry graduates with a degree in Business Administration, concentration in Marketing and Minor in Management. Liz has successfully balanced high-quality academic work with collegiate sports, like swimming and field hockey. Her overall GPA is 3.595 and her major GPA is 3.413. Liz works as the Social Media Manager for FSU's men's and women's swim teams. She is a member of the President's Leadership Circle, Student Business Leaders organization, and Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society. Faculty members are impressed with Liz's energy, drive, and desire to be her best at all she does. Liz is taking courses in our MBA program presently and will pursue that graduate degree full-time after her graduation in May.

Computer Information Systems

Presenter: Dr. Xunyu Pan

Shelby Sanders

Tonight, it is my pleasure to highlight Shelby Sanders, an exceptional student and DevSecOps Developer at SimVentions Inc. Shelby incorporates security from the initial stages of development in systems crucial to the U.S. Navy, demonstrating her commitment to her role and the broader mission of national security. Shelby's academic excellence at Frostburg State University is demonstrated by her stellar performance, maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA in her master's program after completing her bachelor's degree with a 3.6 GPA. She is not only committed to her professional growth—receiving support from her company for further education and certifications—but also to fostering innovation and mentoring upcoming talent within her field. Her proactive approach and leadership potential suggest a promising future in technology and management. Please join me in congratulating Shelby Sanders on her remarkable achievements and her bright future ahead.

Computer Science

Presenter: Mr. Steven Kennedy

Kaitlyn Custer

Kaitlyn Custer is a proactive Computer Science major, standing out as long-time President of the Computer Club and a dedicated tutor and mentor to her peers. Her commitment to helping both our department and her classmates is demonstrated through her active roles in various tech projects and leadership positions. Kaitlyn's extensive involvement and real-world experience, including a notable internship at Estée Lauder Companies, set her apart as a leader in her field and as such she stands out as our honors recipient this year.

Economics

Presenter: Dr. Suranjana Nabar-Bhaduri

Kolby Hendricks

Kolby Hendricks is graduating in May 2024 with a major in Economics. His overall GPA is 3.79 and his GPA in Economics is 4.0. Kolby is a natural leader whose conduct has significantly influenced economics students and others in the College of Business. He is a student assistant to the Economics Department Chair, President of the Economics Club, President of the Accounting Association, Leader of the Student Business Leadership Council, and a member of the College Student Engagement Committee. Kolby also served as volunteer workshop leader for Principles of Economics courses for lower level Econ students. He has also voluntarily formed study groups for many upper level economics classes. These actions significantly aided the performance of several current economics students. The Department Chair of Economics stated, 'Kolby has been the best role model and mentor for fellow students that I have observed during my approximate forty-year tenure at Frostburg State. His intellectual ability, his willingness to work hard, his personality, and his willingness to volunteer to help other students are unparalleled in my opinion.' Kolby has already obtained a job with an Economics Consulting Firm after graduation. He will be missed by the faculty and students in the Economics Department. Congratulations Kolby!

Information Technologies

Presenter: Dr. Wendy Xu

Ryan Hagelin

Ryan Hagelin is a dedicated student pursuing a major in Information Technology with a focus on security. He possesses an exceptional work ethic and is always willing to contribute to class activities. For example, Ryan readily offers assistance to his classmates during lab sessions whenever needed. His genuine warmth and eagerness to support others are evident not only in his academic pursuits but also in his role as a help desk agent at Frostburg State University. Beyond his academic achievements, Ryan possesses impressive hands-on skills in various areas of information technology. His practical expertise enhances his understanding of complex concepts and allows him to excel in both academic and professional settings. He has been doing a great job as a help desk agent at FSU. With his combination of academic prowess and empathetic nature, Ryan is a valuable asset to both the university community and the field of information technology.

Management

Presenter: Dr. Michael Monahan

Keely Grace Knotts

Keely Grace Knotts will graduate with a Business Administration degree with a concentration in Small Business Entrepreneurship and a minor in Finance. She has an impressive 3.928 grade point average and has been ever-present on the Dean's list. Her faculty assert she is a joy to have in class as she consistently comes prepared and is respectful of others. She is a quiet leader who leads by example. Aside from class, she is a member of the FSU Women's Soccer Team and received the Academic All Mountain East Conference Award and the Division II Athletics Directors Association Academic Achievement Award. After graduation she received a dual internship at Martin's Potato Rolls in the Accounts Payable and Internal Controls departments. With her intelligence, perseverance, and healthy competitive attitude, her faculty feel confident she will succeed in anything she does.

Mathematics

Presenter: Dr. Marc Michael

Dawson Hormuth

While studying as a mathematics major, Dawson has distinguished himself as an exceptional student in the eyes of his professors, mastering both the broad concepts and the finer details of the subject at hand. He has achieved an overall 4.0 GPA at FSU, with his mathematics grades not only being A's but often the highest in his class. For his capstone project, Dawson did an impressive job learning the foundational ideas of projective geometry, guided by the theorems of mathematicians Pappus and Desargues. Furthermore, Dawson has played an active role in our local chapter of Kappa Mu Epsilon, a national mathematics honor society, where he has served as the treasurer over the past year.

Recreation and Parks Management

Presenter: Dr. Martin Barrett

Mayah Morant

Mayah Morant is a recreation and parks management student pursuing a concentration in sports promotion and communication. During her time at FSU, she has maintained a high GPA, completed a minor in marketing, and engaged in a semester-long field experience with the on-campus Athletic Communications team (which turned into an ongoing work-study position). Every summer, she took on responsibilities that would strengthen her preparation. Mayah worked as a marketing assistant in the summer of 2022 and 2023 and as a gymnastics coach and summer camp staff in 2021. She has completed all this alongside being a three-year Acrobatics & Tumbling college athlete in a nationally ranked program. Her goal is to obtain a position in sports digital marketing of sports communication at the collegiate or professional level. The department is very proud of her accomplishments and wishes her continued success in all her endeavors.

Secure Computing & Information Assurance

Presenter: Mian Qian

Nathan Thompson

Nathan R. Thompson is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Secure Computing and Information Assurance. He will graduate in May 2024. With a remarkable background spanning from his service in the United States Marine Corps to his professional roles in customer service and help desk support, Nathan embodies dedication and resilience. His proactive engagement in our research project and self-study efforts in cutting-edge technologies such as blockchain showcase his commitment to continuous learning and growth. Nathan's impressive GPA of 3.9 serves as a testament to his excellence and sets a high standard for his future endeavors. As we celebrate his graduating class, Nathan shines as an inspiration, poised to achieve even greater success in the years ahead.



*Undergraduate Departmental and Program Honors
College of Education and Health & Natural Sciences*

Biology

Presenter: Dr. Rebekah Taylor

Andrew Held

Andrew Held earned a 3.925 GPA while completing his Biology degree and taking additional courses in the Wildlife/Fisheries program. He has conducted research on pollinator biology and waterbird parasites and presented his work at professional meetings, as well as assisting with other projects as diverse as monitoring owl movements and biological monitoring of stream fishes. Andrew is also an avid outdoorsman. He is a certified whitewater raft guide and a four-season hiker and backpacker. These skills will serve him well as he starts his new job with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, where he will be conducting fisheries research in wilderness areas of the Rocky Mountains.

Chemistry

Presenter: Dr. Matthew Crawford

Ayden Roberts

The Chemistry and Physics Department would like to recognize Mr. Ayden Roberts as our Honor Student in Chemistry. Ayden is an extremely hard-working and reliable individual. He could always be counted on to complete whatever task he was assigned within the department. During his time at FSU, Ayden conducted research focused on evaluating deep eutectic solvents in microwave-assisted aldol condensation reactions. Ayden is a member of FSU President's Leadership Circle, and he was the Chemistry representative at the Dean's Colloquium. After graduation, Ayden plans to attend the University of Maryland Baltimore County to earn a Ph. D. in chemistry.

Early Childhood / Elementary Education

Presenter: Dr. Fannia L. Boayue

Ms. Laken Michael

The faculty of the Early Childhood/Elementary Program is proud to present its honors award to Ms Laken Michael of Williamsport, Maryland. Laken graduates with a 4.0 score in her major and an overall GPA of 3.79. She is an amazing teacher of young children. She has a wide range of experiences with varying ages of students including Summer Camp Director and Counselor for Washington County Parks and Recreations, substitute Teacher for several years in Washington County, and a Student Intern in Allegany Public Schools where she planned and taught developmentally appropriate contents to Head Start, kindergarten and fourth grade students. Laken is and will be an asset to any school district lucky enough to recruit her.

Elementary / Middle School Education

Presenter: Dr. Jodi Eirich

Ciera Davisson

Ciera Davisson is a dedicated scholar, an enthusiastic aspiring teacher, and an educational advocate. She is the current president of the Frostburg Student Education Association after previously serving as vice-president and treasurer. In this role, she facilitated professional learning sessions for fellow students and assisted with a variety of community events including Storybook Holiday and the Festival of Children's Literature. In her advocacy work, she collaborated with Maryland legislators on HB1219. In addition to her leadership with FSEA and the Maryland Student Education Association (MSEA), Ciera has accepted the nomination for the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, as well as the National Society of Leadership and Success, and was awarded multiple scholarships. She accomplished all of this while earning a 4.0 GPA and completing two successful internships in the Allegany County Public Schools.

Environmental Science

Presenter: Dr. Phillip Allen

Mariana Day

Overall GPA 3.697; Major 3.516; Dean's List student (Fall 2020, 2021, 2022, Fall 2023) Minors in Geography and Sustainability Studies. Mariana is a member of Gamma Theta Upsilon (National Geography Honor Society); she has participated in the GTU's Adopt-a-Highway clean-up. Other volunteer activities include Arbor Day Tree Planting (2024), Frostburg State University Tulip Garden (2023), Mapping Elk Ridge Land Trust (2023); and City of Frostburg Harry Potter Book Night (2023). She is a member of the FSU Field Hockey team. Mariana's commitment to academic excellence is demonstrated by her high grades and dedication to challenging coursework. She exhibits a remarkable combination of a positive and fun attitude, preparedness, integrity, and a collaborative spirit. After graduation, Mariana plans to work in helping to preserve the fragile environment of Eastern Shore.

Health & Wellness Education

Presenter: Dr. Nicole Bosley

Maximilian Chumbris

Max has had a successful academic career in the Health and Wellness Education program, earning an overall GPA of 3.868 and a 3.95 GPA in his major. He has participated in a wide variety of activities to support his professional development, including attendance at state and local conferences and leading activities at local field day events. Max is currently completing a teaching internship at Mount Savage Middle School, where he has been praised by his mentor teachers and supervisor as a highly effective teacher candidate. This semester, Max was selected as a finalist for the Maryland Teachers of Promise program.

Health Science

Presenter: Dr. Karen Keller

MacKenzie Freeze

Ms. MacKenzie Freeze will graduate in May 2024 with majors in Health Science and Biology and a minor in Chemistry. She earned the outstanding GPA of 4.0 while participating in the FSU Women's Basketball Team and working on research projects both inside and outside of FSU. In her limited amount of free time, she also tutored students in Biology and Chemistry-related courses and volunteered with several churches and ministries including participating in a mission trip to South Africa. With her superb work ethic and giving nature, we know she will be a wonderful health-care professional in the near future.

Physics

Presenter: Dr. Eric Moore

Dylan Spano

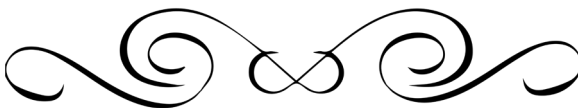
The Chemistry and Physics Department would like to recognize Mr. Dylan Spano as our Honor Student in Physics. Dylan has strived for excellence and has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA within the Physics major. Dylan is a very determined and hard-working individual. During his time at FSU, Dylan conducted research for his final capstone project on measuring eddy current heat dissipation. Dr. Eric Moore (Physics Faculty) wrote, "If you are fortunate enough to spend a few minutes talking with Dylan about physics, you would quickly learn that he is a natural-born problem solver. In and out of class, Dylan presents himself professionally with polish and poise. He engages positively with everyone: peers, staff, and faculty. We are excited to recognize him as our honors graduate in physics!"

Wildlife & Fisheries

Presenter: Dr. Rebekah Taylor

Ted Hoxie

The Department of Biology is happy to recognize Ted Hoxie with Departmental Honors for his strong performance in academics, leadership, and service. During his time at FSU, Ted has demonstrated strong leadership skills while serving as the Vice President of the FSU Wildlife Society, where he led several organizational events and often represents the chapter at regional meetings and competitions. He works in the university Natural History Museum where he leads meaningful and immersive outreach activities for visiting students from local schools and organizations. Ted has additionally participated in several field experiences that have reinforced his academic studies in wildlife biology, including a lands management internship in Washington state, habitat restoration research with the local National Park Service, and wildlife monitoring with the MD DNR. Ted has recently accepted a full-time position with the MD Department of Forestry where he will continue his work in native habitat restoration.



*Undergraduate Departmental and Program Honors
College of Arts, Humanities, and Social & Behavioral Sciences*

Art & Design

Presenter: Dr. Travis English

Skylar Ellsworth

As an Art and Design, Skylar has maintained a 4.0 GPA across all her coursework at FSU while maintaining an ambitious record of activities and noteworthy professional development. She served as the Visual Art Department's Peer Mentor for First-Year Orientation in 2023 and was an exemplary peer role model for our new students. Skylar has participated in Frostburg ArtsWalk activities as a representative of the department and exhibited her work in numerous student exhibitions in the Roper Gallery. As an intern in FSU's Department of Creative Services, Skylar has produced over 100 designs used in FSU print and digital materials, including the cover of the fall 2023 Profile magazine. Her work has extended to design for student organizations and academic departments, including infographics for the Biology Department. She has been the recipient of many University and departmental scholarships for her academic excellence. Building on her experiences at FSU, Skylar plans to pursue a career in design work related to higher education.

English

Presenter: Mr. Andy Duncan

Alivia Melius

Alivia Melius is a 4.0 student who left her rural hometown to study in Tokyo, Japan. As a student who is visually impaired, she faced extra challenges that she learned to overcome. She has since utilized her unique perspective to inspire other students like her to travel the world. As an ambassador for the Knowledge Exchange Institute and student representative for FSU's Center for International Education, she has guided students in finding their ideal programs abroad. She has served as treasurer of both Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society for students with disabilities and Sigma Tau Delta International Honor Society for English majors. She has advocated on Capitol Hill for rural education reform, and she has tutored elementary-school students in reading, math, and science. At Frostburg State, she has been a writing tutor and an assistant in our Student Support Services office. Alivia is pursuing a career in international education.

History

Presenter: Dr. Gregory Wood

Julia Seddon

Julia Seddon will graduate from the FSU History major with a stunning 4.0 GPA. Her studies in international history shaped the work that became her eye-opening senior thesis on the ways Russian political repression in East Germany after World War II rested upon Nazi Germany's earlier system of concentration camps. Throughout her time in the history major, Julia pursued opportunities in public history and archival science as a volunteer intern in the FSU Special Collections library. She also served the Mountain Ridge High School marching band as a percussion section leader and instructor.

Law and Society

Presenter: Dr. Scott Johnson

Francis Carden

Francis 'Del' Carden is graduating with a double major in Law and Society and Political Science, and a triple minor in Psychology, Philosophy, and Sociology. His overall GPA is an impressive 3.927 and he has a 4.0 within his two majors. As a student-athlete, Francis is well respected by FSU faculty as an outstanding student and also played a leading role on the Bobcat Tennis team during his undergraduate career at FSU.

Liberal Studies

Presenter: Dr. Linda Steele

Naomi Faith

Naomi graduated in December 2023 with a Liberal Studies degree focused in Biology. She entered FSU as a transfer student from Hagerstown Community College and Cedarville University in Ohio. During summer 2023, Naomi completed a summer field experience with the National Park Service at Antietam Battlefield where she was responsible for invasive and exotic plant control, trail and landscape maintenance, GIS data collection, monument cleaning and painting of War Department tablets. She maintained a 4.0 cumulative GPA at FSU. Since graduating, Naomi briefly worked at the Eisenhower National Historical Site and part-time as a Human Resource Assistant, which helped her to grow and expand her skill set. She will soon begin a position within the USDA working in conservation.

Mass Communication

Presenter: Dr. John Lombardi

Ellie Buckheit

Ellie has been an outstanding student at FSU. In classes she is engaged and thoughtful. She earned a nearly perfect 4.0 GPA withing the mass communication major and both her journalism and social media minors. What makes her an even more deserving honoree, though, is her consistent desire to seek out and take advantage of other opportunities and her strong desire to go above and beyond what is merely required. For instance, she produced a series of television news stories to bolster her resume and to connect with the campus and surrounding communities. She served as a peer mentor for a section of ORIE 101 where she assisted first-semester freshman with the transition to college. She has also been a member of the FSU softball team where she has consistently been named to the all-conference academic team. More broadly, Ellie exhibits enthusiasm and professionalism in all her endeavors.

Multidisciplinary Studies

Presenter: Dr. Linda Steele

Ava Willett

Ava is an outstanding student, maintaining a cumulative 4.0 GPA while carrying a course load of 18-21 credits each semester. She was recently inducted into the FSU chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, an honor reserved for only the top 10% of the senior class. As a nontraditional college student, Ava has worked as a substitute teacher with Washington County Public Schools to support herself while taking classes throughout the challenging pandemic period. She has demonstrated the power of perseverance, using her strong communication and organizational skills to navigate and overcome the many challenges that come with being an online student. She plans to pursue a career in either the communication or education field and is currently interviewing for positions.

Music

Presenter: Dr. Brent Weber

Joseph Orr

Joseph (Joey) Orr is graduating in May 2024 with a Bachelor of Science in Instrumental Performance with Computer Science and Jazz Studies Minors. Overall GPA: 3.86, Music GPA: 3.94. His Department activities and work include; Wind Ensemble, Jazz Orchestra, Jazz Combo, Brass Ensemble, Junior and Senior Trumpet Recitals, Band Assistant (2021), and a TA for tonal analysis (2023-24). His honors and awards include; Instrumental Scholarship, FMF Leadership Award, Witwer Scholarship, Mable Myers Scholarship, Dean's List every semester, and Garrett Community Concert Band Scholarship (2020). His community activities include; Garrett Community Jazz Band and Garrett Community Concert Band. Joey has no current plans for future education, but he may eventually decide to do so. After graduating, Joey plans to find work in game development, while also working as a freelance musician and private trumpet instructor.

Philosophy

Presenter: Dr. Skott Brill

Toni Fiocco-Mizer

Toni has earned an impressive 3.88 GPA in Philosophy's rigorous Law School Preparation program. She has served as president of Philosophy's student club, the Philosophical Society, and for three consecutive years has received the department's prestigious Society of Socrates and Hypatia Award. In addition to achieving academically, Toni has excelled athletically. She has been a four-year starter on FSU's women's soccer team, was voted offensive MVP for three years, and in 2023 was one of only thirteen players conference-wide to receive the highest honor of First Team in the Division II Mountain East Conference. Next fall Toni plans to attend Xavier University where she will work on a master's degree in criminal justice, as well as take advantage of one more year of NCAA eligibility as a soccer player for the Musketeers.

Political Science

Presenter: Dr. John O'Rorke

Jamie Roberts

Jamie will be graduating after only three years with a double major in Political Science and Law & Society while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Jamie's next step is law school. Jamie became engaged in campus democratic initiatives during her first year and has continued to be actively involved in political and civic activities on campus. In the Fall of 2023, Jamie represented FSU on the system level as our USM Langenberg Legacy Fellow. Jamie was also selected to be one of our FSU Global Civic Leader Fellows. We believe that Jamie is exactly the type of student FSU and the Political Science department want to showcase. She is bright, articulate, engaged and engaging. She combines the best attributes of both a student and an athlete. In short, we believe Jamie exemplifies what we want our graduates to be as they leave FSU and enter the next phase of their lives.

Psychology

Presenter: Dr. Kimberly James

Abigail Craddock

The Department of Psychology is happy to convey honors to Abigail Craddock. In her time as a Psychology major, she has demonstrated her hard-working and caring nature. She is graduating with a 3.875 GPA in Psychology and has done great work for the department by serving as an Undergraduate Learning Assistant for Introduction to Psychology courses. She has also been active as President of the Psychology Club, as a member of Psychology's national honor society (Psi Chi), and as a student member of the American Psychological Association (APA). She is currently doing excellent work as an intern at an inpatient psychiatric hospital. We are excited that she will be continuing her education in a doctoral program in the fall.

Social Science

Presenter: Dr. Linda Steele

Whitney Winkler

Whitney is an exemplary student who will graduate in only three years with a perfect 4.0 GPA. She is very dedicated to her studies and consistently produces high quality work. Whitney is collaborative in class and is always very positive. Outside the classroom, Whitney was the Student Support Services Vice President in 2022, a tutor with the Tutoring Center for three semesters, and a Resident Assistant for three semesters before being promoted to Assistant Resident Director for academic year 2023-2024. Whitney served as President of the National Residence Hall Honorary for academic year 2023-2024. She was Student Support Services Freshman of the Year in 2022, Resident Assistant of the Year in 2023, and a member of Phi Eta Sigma honor society. She plans to enter FSU's Master of Arts in Teaching program right after graduation, with the goal of becoming a middle school social studies teacher.

Sociology

Presenter: Dr. John McMullen

Laiken Spahr

Laiken Spahr is a double major in Sociology and Political Science with an overall GPA of 3.824 and a GPA of 4.0 in sociology. As part of her undergraduate work, she earned experience in the field as an intern at a non-profit agency working with at-risk youth. Laiken is more than a high achieving student in the classroom, she also excels in gymnastics as a member of the Acrobatics and Tumbling Team where she has been named to the all-MEC team. Laiken is uncertain of her future plans, but is considering graduate school and a career in law enforcement or parole and probation, preferably working to juveniles.

Theatre and Dance

Presenter: Ms. Shea-Mikal Green

Brendon McCabe

Brendon McCabe is a multi-talented theatre artist who ambitiously completed the Acting and Design and Technology tracks within the Theatre major. He created designs for eight University Theatre productions, including Costume Designs for *Spring Awakening*, *Thoughts of a Colored Man* (directed by Keenan Scott II), and *Radium Girls*, as well as delightful puppets for the Children's Roundabout Theatre tour of *Nate the Great*. He performed significant roles in eight productions, including *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (Arthur De Bourgh), *Radium Girls* (Arthur Roeder), and *Martin & Margaret and the MINDSWAP* (Professor Georg Wachtendorf). In addition to establishing a rigorous academic, design, and performance resume, he served as President of the Savage Mountain Stage Combat Club for three years and Vice President for one, earning certifications in five fight styles and Theatrical Firearms Safety from the Society of American Fight Directors. Upon graduation, Brendon will pursue graduate study in Costume Design.



Congratulations to all
Honors Graduates!