

# The HonorRoll

UP HONORS NEWSLETTER

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Spring 2024



## Welcome to the New UP Honors Newsletter!

Welcome to the first issue of the recently resurrected UP Honors Newsletter, "The HonorRoll."

We're excited to share Honors news with current students, alums, parents, faculty, and administrators, and anyone else who is Honors curious and interested in hearing what we are up to!

As we get rolling with the HonorRoll, we welcome news and ideas from our alumni and community members. Please get in touch at [honors@up.edu](mailto:honors@up.edu) with any suggestions.

Enjoy this and future HonorRoll newsletters!

Cara Hersh,  
UP Honors Program, Director

In this newsletter  
you can expect  
updates about:

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New Lateral  
Entry Program

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Alumni  
Spotlight

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Advice Needed

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Honoring our  
Graduates

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Student  
Celebrations

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Humans of  
Honors

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## Inaugural Lateral Entry Program

UP Honors is incredibly excited to share that we have begun a new lateral entry program for first-year students interested in entering the program.

Twenty-four students from across the University submitted applications to join the first-year cohort this spring and nine of these very strong and engaged students will be joining the current first-year cohort.

These students will participate in next Fall's colloquium and will then complete their Honors requirements along with the rest of the 2027 cohort.

In April, current and new Honors students got to know each other in a fun evening of puzzles, group challenges, icebreakers, and pizza hosted by Outdoor Pursuits. We can't wait to continue to welcome and get to know these amazing, curious, engaged, and studious additions to Honors.



## Honors Alumni Update

Honors alum, Molly Lowney (2021) is a recent recipient of a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship award to Argentina! Since graduating, Molly has taught English in Spain and served as an environmental educator in California. Congratulations, Molly, and four other UP students who were selected to travel around the world this year thanks to the Fulbright program!

If you're a recent alum and interested in learning more about applying for a Fulbright, please get in touch with us at Honors ([honors@up.edu](mailto:honors@up.edu)).



## Class of 2028!

One of the best parts of Honors is seeing our next cohort of students forming--we're so excited to welcome the incoming class of 2028 to campus in August for another educational, community-forming, and probably exhausting (in a good way) colloquium. We need your help welcoming these students onto campus! What is one piece of advice you would give to our new Honors students as they get ready to embark on their college adventures? Please submit your answers [HERE](#).

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# Student Celebrations “Honoring Our Graduates”



## Owen Bryant

Owen is majoring in Psychology and minoring in Environmental Science.

His SHP is titled **“Comparing Expectations with Lived Experience of Residential Youth Staff.”** He research showed that residential staff desire changes that include site specific trainings, increased workplace cohesiveness, and more staff to aid in burnout prevention.



## Anna Yrjanson

Anna is majoring in Computer Science and Psychology with a minor in Neuroscience.

Her SHP is titled **“Go Baby Go: A Device to Capture, Store, and Transmit Scooter Movement.”** Her research team designed and built a device to record scooter movements, which helps doctors see how disabled children move around a room and interact with scooter controls.



## Katt Gamblin

Katt is majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

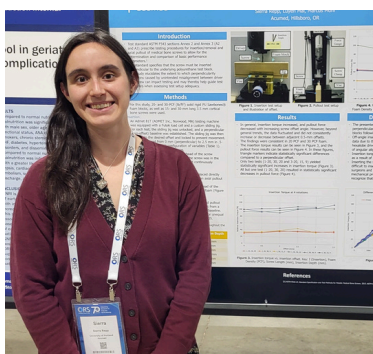
Her SHP is titled **“Education and Ethics with the Malawi Capstone Project.”** Her project analyzed the educational and ethical impacts of the solar power generation and storage system project that she and her team have designed in conjunction with a school in Karonga, Malawi.



## Paige Melby

Paige is majoring in Nursing.

Her SHP is titled **“Skin Tone Diversity in Nursing Education: Analysis and Recommendations for Inclusive UPSONHI BSN Curriculum.”** She evaluated the skin tone assessment representation of six courses, along with lab/simulation in the UPSONHI curriculum, and provided recommendations for improvement.



## Sierra Repp

Sierra is majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

Her SHP is titled **“Engineering Ideation Method Efficacy Study.”** She sought to understand how introducing different engineering ideation methods impacts participants' productivity, creativity, and confidence in their ideas during a problem-solving workshop to assess the strengths and utility of each method.



## Kaden Seely

Kaden is majoring in Chemistry.

His SHP is titled **“A Computational Investigation into Electronic and Steric effects on the Decomposition of NHC Ethenolysis Ligands.”** He sought to develop catalysts capable of transforming plant oils into useful chemical precursors traditionally sourced from petroleum and investigate their stability.

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# Student Celebrations “Honoring Our Graduates”



## Jesper Machi

Jesper is majoring in Environmental Science and minoring in Spanish.

Their SHP is titled **“Biodiversity Assessment: A Plant Survey of Native and Invasive Species in Forest Park.”** He conducted a multi-season plant assessment in the Bird Alliance of Oregon's land with the goal of providing data to help with forest management.



## Christopher Karo

Christopher is majoring in Environmental Ethics & Policy and minoring in Economics, Constitutional Studies, and Innovation.

His SHP is titled **“Watershed Modeling Saint Lucia.”** He simulated past flood events and calibrated to estimate future ones to respond to climate change.



## Grace Vickers

Grace is majoring in Political Science.

Her SHP is titled **“Climate Justice as Gender Justice: A Global Comparison.”** She explored the connections between gender and climate, and how climate research, policy, and innovation can be created and implemented while acknowledging gender and intersectionality as core components of the issue.



## Michael Lang

Michael is majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

His SHP is titled **“Optimizing Cooling Performance of EV Charging Handles.”** He sought to optimize heat transfer through a compact heat exchanger model that sits within the handle of an EV charger and ensure that temperatures don't exceed the standard limits.



## Emma Hippler

Emma is majoring in Political Science and Spanish.

Her SHP is titled **“The China Challenge: Conceptualizing China's Domestic and International Ambitions as a Rising Global Power.”** She investigated China's rise and growing ambitions, as well as the potential for U.S. response and intervention amidst complex circumstances and relations.

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# Student Celebrations “Saluting Our Scholars”



Maeve Hagerty

This semester, Maeve worked as one of Mehling's Wellness Ambassadors. She cohosted four community-building events throughout the semester, including a collaboration with Corrado to teach residents about financial stability.



Emmely Minoth

Emily was accepted as a 2024 scholar for the Summer Health Professions Education Program for pre-dental. She will spend six weeks doing coursework, lectures, panels, and discussions, as well as gaining clinical experience at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine.

Cam Wilder



Cam conducted research on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on various dimensions of Gen Z's health. Her team surveyed UP students and Portland communities to gather information on how the pandemic affected their physical, mental, and social health to best inform healthcare practices catered toward this particular population.

Liam was elected into the ASUP Senate for the 2024-2025 school year and spent his spring semester abroad in Galway, Ireland.

Liam Rogan



Shane was awarded the Gilman Scholarship, the Going Scholarship, and HI International Scholarship for his semester abroad in Cape Town, South Africa.

Zora was promoted to the role of Junior Associate with Original Practice Shakespeare Festival, granted a technical theater internship at Broadway Rose Theater, and has spent the semester working on UP's production of The Prom.

Shane Ruyle

Zora Richardson



Nadia Guadalupe Calderon-Ruiz

Nadia will participate in an OHSU summer research internship where she will be working with Dr. Zimmerman in her lab. This will aid her in reaching her goal of obtaining an M.D./Ph.D. degree and integrating herself in the field of research/medicine.

Olivia was honored as the ASUP Senator of the Year at the UP Student Leader Awards Ceremony.

Olivia Herning



# The Humans of Honors celebrates graduating senior Katt Gamblin who illustrates a glimpse into life at University of Portland while being an Honors student.

Brief Background:

Favorite color: Yellow

Favorite food: Italian food

Favorite Music artist: Leon Bridges



## **What is your Major, and why did you choose that path?**

“I am a Mechanical engineering major, and in high school lots of people told me I was good at math so I tried it out. I started enjoying the content a lot more, specifically thermal fluids—which is how fluids and energy move within systems—but then it turned into a more of a practical reason as I fell in love with problem solving, that’s engineering in general is that you’re a problem solver.”

## **Who is your Role Model?**

“I have lots of role models but I would say my mom. She is currently a pilot for Alaska airlines. She used to be in the air force; she retired after 20 years. I always looked up to her, she’s a woman in a male dominated field. Listening to her growing up, I always felt like I had someone to show me and guide me through things. She came from a family which was lower income and weren’t financially literate and so I really looked up to how much she was able to accomplish. I truly appreciate our relationship and I hope it stays that way.”

## **Biggest accomplishment at UP?**

“Becoming the president of SWE(Society of Women Engineers). That’s the one I’m most proud of, similar to the Honors program you can put so much in and get so much out of it. I feel so proud about how many people I’ve been able to help. I started out in SWE during COVID, and then I ended SWE as the president so it’s gone full circle. It makes me happy how I can guide others. Engineering is a male dominated field so being able to support women is amazing.”

## **If you could go back in time and give your Freshman self advice what would it be?**

“Do the things that you love and that give you joy. Don’t worry as much about school. Stop stressing about it, you’re okay! Find a club, or make a club and stick with it. It keeps you in the loop with that community.

Don’t stress too much, grades aren’t everything. Don’t worry about what other people think of you, nobody’s looking at you—like you’re fine girl, that’s the advice I’d give to myself. Whether I would take them or not I have no idea.”

**After Graduation Plans: Katt has accepted a position at Jentech which she plans to start after her time in Mawali installing her senior capstone project.**

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# Contributors

Becca Henley  
Emma Hippler  
Rowan Bierwirth

*Thank you for reading!*

<b>UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND HONORS PROGRAM</b>	honors@up.edu
<a href="https://www.up.edu/honorsprogram/index.html">https://www.up.edu/honorsprogram/index.html</a>	5000 N. Willamette Blvd. Portland, OR 97203

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