ARCADIA UNIVERSITY'S HONORS PROGRAM

HONORS PROJECTS

Featuring projects of all disciplines created by our accomplished students.

April 21, 2020 | 4:00PM to 5:20 PM
April 22, 2020 | 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM
April 23, 2020 | 3:00 PM to 5:40 PM

Zoom Links on the next page.
Honors Students, in lieu of a traditional thesis, are required to do a semester long project outside their majors. Here at Arcadia, the Honors Students are encouraged to explore their passions. We know, with the right support, students can accomplish anything they choose to pursue. So we provide the tools and support to help them realize their potential. And they take their tremendous talents, dedication, passion and vision to accomplish formidable projects. Thank you to all the mentors who helped our students achieve these amazing projects this year and for all years. We invite the community to engage in the larger conversation around these projects on April 21st, 22nd, and 23rd.

Congratulations to this semester’s Honors Project Students!

Zoom link for April 21 - https://arcadia.zoom.us/j/238180258  
Meeting ID: 238 180 258

Zoom link for April 22 - https://arcadia.zoom.us/j/533481086  
Meeting ID: 533 481 086

Zoom link for April 23 - https://arcadia.zoom.us/j/96855516456  
Meeting ID: 968 5551 6456

DAY 1

Tuesday, April 21, 4:00 pm - 5:20 pm

ANNA MARIA DEPOIAN

Moving Forward: Who is Here to Help!
Mentor: Allison Berk, Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator  
International Studies Major, International Business Minor, Italian Minor, 2023

While Arcadia does an amazing job helping and supporting students, often times, support systems are difficult to find or students are unsure where to turn to. My goal through "Moving Forward: Who is Here to Help!" is to show students which members of the community are available and exactly what their departments can do for you.
HONORS PROJECTS
SPRING 2020

DAY 1 CONT'D.  
Tuesday, April 21, 4:00 pm - 5:20 pm

SAMANTHA GILBERT  
Biology Major, Pre-Medicine, 2022  
4:20 PM

ANNA TASSARI  
Biology Major, Pre-Physical Therapy, 2021  
4:40 PM

The Last Straw  
Mentor: Mimi Bassetti, Director of Auxiliaries, Risk & Insurance
We looked for sustainability in campus dining. Tassari and Gilbert worked collaboratively with Metz Culinary Management (Metz) to further their efforts in sustainability. We found Metz to already be very sustainable. However, we have worked to convert the plastic straws in The Chat to paper ones. We have also provided 1000 metal straws for the incoming class of first year students to be given in their orientation packets in order to one day completely eliminate the campus need for disposable straws.

STUDENT TBA  
5:00 PM

DAY 2  
Wednesday, April 22, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

STUDENT TBA  
3:00 PM

MICHAEL SOROKA  
Michael's Quarantine Art Projects  
3:20 PM

Mentor: Linda Ruth Paskell, Adjunct Professor, School of Education Actuarial Science Major, 2021

With the Coronavirus epidemic, everyone is stuck at home. With Michael's Quarantine art projects blog, you could help fill your days with creativity and art. These small art projects are things that can be done using common objects and materials found around the house. During these hard times, it is important to keep busy with affordable and fun activities, and that is the purpose of Michael's Quarantine Crafts.
In a world of heightened awareness of environmental sustainability, I wondered what my university was doing to contribute to lowering carbon footprints, saving energy, recycling, etc. My honors project this semester focuses on all of the efforts the facilities department is making to keep Arcadia sustainable. Many of these efforts go completely unnoticed by the student body, and that is something that I wanted to change. Did you know that Arcadia recycles lightbulbs, batteries, and desks? Or that The Commons is solar powered? Or that we have green roofs to save energy and conserve heat? I researched all of these features and more in conjunction with my mentor, Tom Macchi, Head of Facilities. Working in tandem with Tom, Calvin Wang from the Faculty Environmental Sustainability Committee, and Caitlin Burns from University Relations, I worked to get news articles out to the student body in order for the students to be just as proud as I am of Arcadia’s truly future-oriented stance on sustainability.

My project follows the process of writing an orchestration, based on a piano piece. This particular piece is "Menuet in E flat" by Ludwig van Beethoven. Using the computer program, Sibelius, I worked to pick apart the chords and harmonies in the sheet music, to create a score for strings (Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass). My mentor, Professor Samuel Heifetz, helped me to determine which parts of each chord should be distributed to which instrument. Once the string section is finished, we plan to begin the woodwinds and the brass sections. Once completed, this may be played by the Arcadia Orchestra. I will continue to work on this orchestration with the help of Professor Heifetz even after this class is over.
KEIRA CHARLES

Reading in the Dark

Mentor: Dr. Elizabeth Vogel, Associate Professor, English
Psychology Major, 2021

Reading in the Dark is a three-act play following two adolescents with ADHD. Morgan O’Connor, a lonely overachiever struggling to appear normal, and Delilah Martin, a proudly hyperactive student who frequently clashes with her teachers, form an uneasy friendship as they try to stay afloat throughout a tumultuous year of high school. The play is fictional but based off of my own experiences in high school and college as an ADHD student.

MAMIE DEMPSEY

Sustain Magazine.

Mentor: Dr. Giorgio Galbussera, Assistant Professor, Modern Languages and Cultures
Psychology Major, 2022

"Sustain" is a magazine focused on enabling consumers of fashion goods to enhance their understanding of the reality behind their clothes and how to make informed decisions about how and where they shop. It features a number of interesting articles about thrifting, upcycling, selling used clothing, do-it-yourself (DIYs), professional advice, and tips and tricks. It is meant to be an entertaining, yet informative magazine that readers can use as a starting point in their journey to sustainability in the fashion realm.
KATELIN DECKER
Campus Pollinator Garden
Mentor: Richard Melissen, Facilities Management & Capital Planning
Biology Major, 2022
I chose to create a bee and butterfly pollinator garden on Arcadia’s campus for my Honors Project. The goal of pollinator gardens are to provide more flowering plants and trees that will help improve the health and number of bees, butterflies, and other local pollinators. I am collaborating with a group who is creating a community fruit and vegetable garden on the same plot. A pollinator garden is the perfect compliment to a fruit and vegetable garden, not only for enhancing the beauty of the area, but also by drawing in pollinators to pollinate the vegetables. The garden cannot be planted this semester, but we plan to be fully prepared to plant the garden as soon as the quickly changing situation allows!

GABRIELLA RAVIN
Homeopathic Remedies & Natural Ways
Mentor: Dr. Sandra Crenshaw, Associate Provost
Chemistry Major, Political Science Major, 2021
My Honors Project is about homeopathic remedies for common ailments that college students experience. Many students are unable to go to a doctor due to high costs and a lack of accessibility. My project features a variety of homeopathic remedies showcased on my own created website. I have always been interested in using natural remedies, because there are so many side effects with chemical-based medicine. My goal for this project is for students to know a variety of ways that they can use homeopathic remedies to treat their own ailments. My project also features a variety of preventative measures that students can take in order to make sure that they have healthy habits and can prevent certain ailments.

MIA WOO
Children Need LGBTQ+ Stories... So I Wrote One
Mentor: Ellen Murphey, Adjunct Professor, English Ceramics Major, 2022
For my Honors Project, I decided to write and illustrate an LGBTQ+ positive children’s book. I chose to pursue this project because, though changes are slowly being made for the better, children’s media lacks positive, intersectional LGBTQ+ representation. I created the story I never had as a child by combining elements of creative writing and illustration. In my presentation, I will discuss my process in the creation of my book as well as the importance of positive representation in children’s media.
HONORS PROJECTS
SPRING 2020
DAY 3 CONTD.

Thursday, April 23, 3:00 pm - 5:40 pm

RYLEE PELLEGRINO
4:20 PM
Repurposing Used Clothing
Mentor: Carole Loeffler, Associate Professor and Chair, Visual and Performing Arts
English Major, 2021
For my project, I am repurposing/reconstructing used clothing into something more wearable. Everybody has clothes that are out of style or just don’t fit right anymore; so, instead of tossing them I decided to turn them into something else. With this I am learning a lot about sewing and designing techniques and applying them to my work.

JACOB BROWN
4:40 PM
A two player card game with a fast pace.

AMIVI ESTHER KOUDOSSOU
5:00 PM
Awaking
Mentor: Dr. Valerie Levicoff, Adjunct Professor, Music
"Awaking" is an original composition of a solo piano piece. It is a composition that I wrote using the inspiration of one of my favorite classical pieces of all times, "River flows in You" by Yiruma. A musical representation of the state of rising from sleep, and on some level, a feeling of being in between fully asleep and totally awake.

KELSEY MASHINSKI
5:20 PM
Knutritional Knights: A Guide to Healthy Eating at Arcadia University
Mentor: Scott Rawlins, Professor, Visual and Performing Arts
Actuarial Science Major, 2021
The first year of college is both exciting and terrifying. Many incoming freshmen hear rumors about and fear the dreaded “Freshman 15”, where students gain about 15 pounds from eating too much, eating poorly, and lack of physical activity. Eating healthy is easy at home when our parents cook meals for us, but once we’re on our own, how do we eat healthy in college and at Arcadia University in particular? Knutritional Knights is a blog that offers guidance not only for incoming freshmen, but for all Arcadia students who might feel a little lost when it comes to a healthy diet.
GIANNA GONZALEZ
Service Industry: Behind the Scenes
Mentor: Alan Powell, Professor, Media and Communication
Biology Major, Pre-Physical Therapy, Neuroscience Minor, 2022

If you think really hard, how many times would you guess you have gone out to eat in your life? 100? 500? 1000? Do you ever wonder what it is like to be on the other side of things, serving the people instead of being served? This project gives a glance into what your waiters and waitresses go through on a daily basis. Through six interviews, my coworkers explain what we deal with while working. From what they have learned through working in this industry to some of their craziest customer stories, this short documentary aims to help its watchers understand the restaurant life. It is in hopes that this will allow people who have never had a job in service realize the type of lifestyle servers have and maybe change their point of view next time they go out to eat.