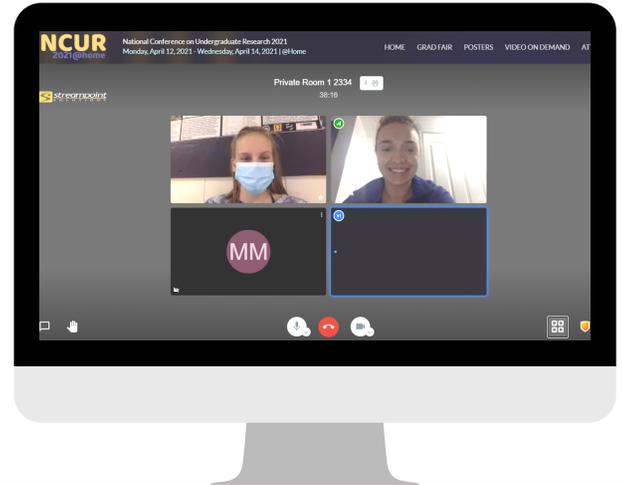




Honors Program Members Present at **NCUR 2021**



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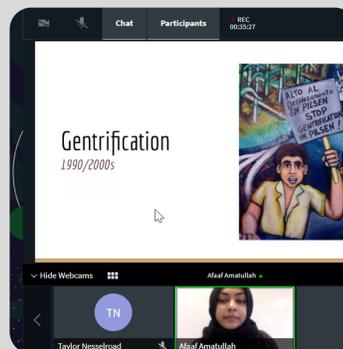
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This year the National Conference for Undergraduate Research was held virtually. While a challenging and new format for many, our students persevered and presented impressive research to students, staff, and faculty from all over the country.



7.4%

Decrease in the
percentage of Pilsen's
Latino population
(Lulay).

Though NCUR was virtual this year, it was such an invigorating and educational experience! There was a broad range of issues addressed by the participants. It was especially nice to see the work that my co-presenters completed. Their projects focused on issues such as the long-lasting effects on the environment from US nuclear testing sites and the feminist implications of Euripides' tragedy, Medea. I definitely learned a lot from watching presentations by the other participants!

-Afaaf Amatullah

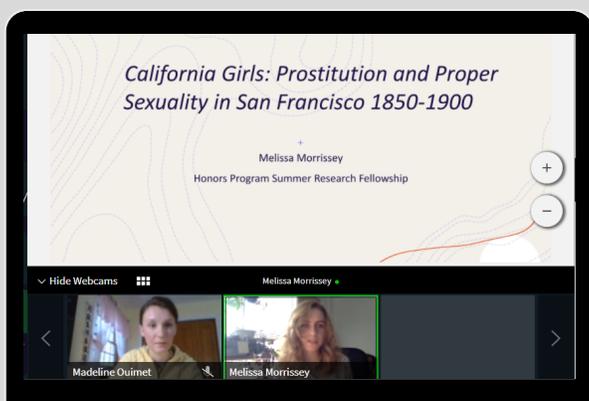
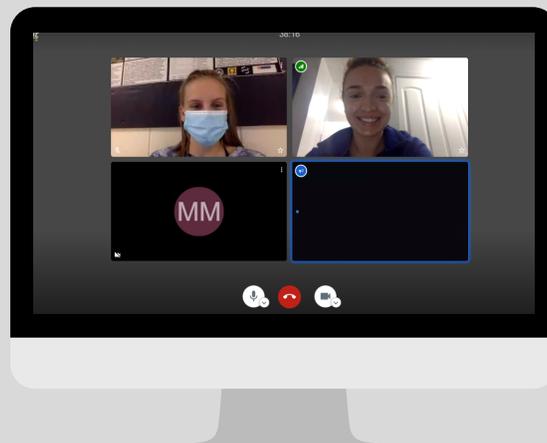


Fifteen Honors Program Students Presented at NCUR!

Read some of their reflections below

The NCUR website was not the easiest to navigate through, but ended up working just fine during the research presentation portion. Overall the experience was great and we got to connect with other students who were apart of all sorts of cool research. One particular group was looking at how construction sites near creeks affect the stress levels in fish in those creeks. It was pretty awesome to see the different research projects conducted and learn about them.

-Paulina Sobieralski



What I'm most grateful for was that this opportunity gave me the experience to re-evaluate my work and thereby witness my own growth academically. In preparing for the NCUR conference, I was able to see the patterns of my research interests as I could explain my motivations for the project. This opportunity forced me to engage with my own ideas and research interests in a serious and professional manner. I believe this realization was a major push into developing my ideas and goals for future opportunities. It can be very difficult to reflect upon your own work or have an objective sense of your project until you present it for others. My preparation made me confront my own perfectionism, a feeling that I'm sure plenty of my peers in the Honors Program know very well. Following up with that, I was grateful to have had such a supportive and interested audience and panel member which allowed me to feel more confident in what I had prepared.

-Melissa Morrissey



Nicole Kim

The Impact of PPE Education on Anxiety Levels Regarding COVID-19 Restrictions



Fifteen Honors Program Students Presented at NCUR!

Read their reflections below





Face Masks Improve Detection of Real and Fake Smiles

Carla Santacruz
Yuliya Zanevych
Amelia Rosales-Rosales
Jason Gill
Kwam Wallace
Advisor: Elizabeth Mayka

<h4>Introduction</h4> <p>Real smiles are characterized by a smiling mouth, lifted cheeks, and wrinkles around the eyes (Frank et al., 2003).</p> <p>Americans tend to weigh the mouth more than other facial regions when judging emotions (Trank et al., 2007).</p> <p>Those who say they use the eyes (vs. mouth) to distinguish real & fake smiles are more accurate (Mai et al., 2011).</p>	<h4>Method</h4> <p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 600 Amazon Mechanical Turk workers (99.2% American, 46.8% female) They ranged in age (18-74, M = 37.44) and were relatively diverse in race (73.8% white) <p>Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent Variable: Target Face Covering (Mask Vs. No Mask) Dependent Variable: D' (Smile Detection Accuracy) <p>General Procedure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Participants watched videos displaying real (n = 10) & fake smiles (n = 10) Target people in the videos either wore face masks or no masks Participants had to indicate if the smiles were real or fake Participants had to predict whether they thought they would be more accurate judging smiles in future if the targets wore masks or no masks. <p>See: https://www.researchprotocols.org/2021/1/e20112/</p>	<h4>Key Takeaways</h4> <p>As hypothesized, participants were more accurate at judging smiles if the targets wore a mask (vs. no mask).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directing attention to the eyes improves smile detection performance! Masks help! <p>As hypothesized, participants thought they would be worse at judging smiles if a target was wearing a mask (vs. not wearing a mask).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People may mistakenly think that masks impair judging smiles/emotions!
<h4>Research Question</h4> <p>Are people better at distinguishing between real & fake smiles when a person's face is covered with a mask (and attention is directed to the eyes)?</p>	<h4>Results</h4> <div style="display: flex;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p>Actual Smile Judgment Accuracy</p> </div> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p>Predicted Smile Judgment Accuracy</p> </div> </div> <p>Legend: ■ would be more accurate if the face had no mask ■ would be more accurate if the face had a mask</p>	<h4>Discussion</h4> <p>Future Directions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replicate study in other cultures Examine other facial expressions/emotions Share these results with public! <p>Implications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants who reported interacting more often with mask-wearers were more accurate at judging smiles, suggesting that masks may help train people to focus on the eye regions!
<h4>Predictions</h4> <p>When will people be more accurate at judging smiles?</p> <p>H₁: Mask Condition > No Mask Condition</p> <p>When will people think they will be more accurate at judging smiles?</p> <p>H₂: Mask Condition > No Mask Condition</p>	<h4>References</h4> <p>Mai, D. A., Gunturko, S. M., Rosenthal, D. L., & Lee, S. (2011). The eyes are the key to detecting real and fake smiles. <i>Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied</i>, 17(1), 1-10.</p> <p>Trank, J. D., Moran, S. P., & Frazee, M. (2007). Americans are not experts at the art of detecting emotion from the face. <i>Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied</i>, 13(1), 1-10.</p> <p>Frank, R. G., Ekman, P., & Friesen, W. S. (2003). The multiple functions of eye corner crinkles. <i>Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied</i>, 9(1), 1-10.</p>	

NCUR was a great experience. The virtual format was very beneficial because it gave us the opportunity to enjoy the numerous presentations and posters. Something interesting in particular was the amount of sessions focused on Covid-19 related topics. A specific presentation focused on online proctoring exams and the accommodations that different universities are offering to students with disabilities. The research showed that the accommodations at most universities allow for extra time to complete exams. Taking the exams even with accommodations still caused students anxiety of being on camera. The alternatives presented to avoid all the negative outcomes were not proctoring exams. There were tons of amazing topics and students determined to share with others their great findings. I am glad to have participated in this conference and encourage other students to take advantage of this amazing opportunity.

-Carla Santacruz

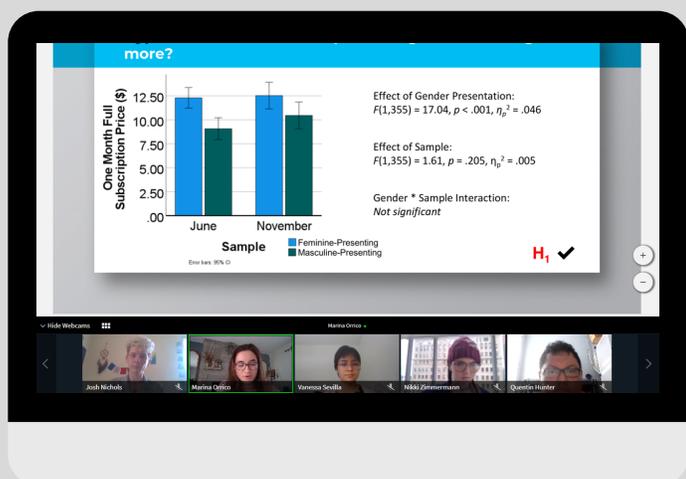
It was an honor to be one of the NCUR presenters representing Elmhurst University. It was also a pleasure for me to work on the research and poster alongside our group. Presenting our poster "Face Masks Improve Detection of Real and Fake Smiles" at NCUR was a very interesting and exciting experience, especially that the conference was virtual this year. I was also able to visit other posters in the category of biology which I found interesting; to name a few, "Use of CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing for generation of mutant yeast for PTC" presented by students from The University of Alabama at Birmingham and "Establishing a Link Between Brain Injury and Adult Neurodegenerative Disease in a Mouse Model of Hypoxia-Ischemia" by a group from John Hopkins Hospital. It was definitely nice to feel a part of the big scientific community.

-Yuliya Zanevych

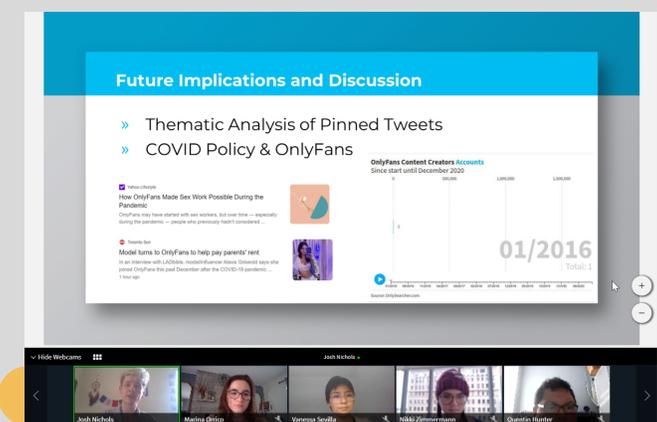


Fifteen Honors Program Students Presented at NCUR!

Read their reflections below



Overall, I had a fantastic time preparing for, and presenting at NCUR. It was very well organized and they provided a lot of resources to aid our success on their virtual platform. In the same session as our presentation, I had a nice time getting to know the other presenter from a nearby college and the very kind and interactive moderator. There were not many people that joined our session, but luckily it was recorded so hopefully more people got the chance to hear about our study. I was very intrigued by Nikki Zimmerman's presentation exploring how dance therapy aided in reducing stress compared to art therapy. It was awesome to see her results and to listen to her speak about the publication process. I am grateful that I had this amazing opportunity to present our hard work that we put into this project and I would be honored to do it again in the future. -Marina Orrico



←
Joshua Nichols, Marina Orrico, Vanessa Sevilla
 Gender Differences in OnlyFans Content Creators' Subscription Pricing Strategies

Other students who presented include:
Heather Anderson, Jason Gill, Kaitlin Krivak, Ioannis Mastoras, Adelisa Omerovic, Carlos Romero

HP STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Honors Program member, Hannah Bacon '22, recipient of Newman Civic Fellowship for 2021-2022!

The Newman Civic Fellowship recognizes and supports community-committed students who are **changemakers** and public problem-solvers at Campus Compact member institutions. Fellows are **nominated by their president** or chancellor on the basis of their potential for public leadership.

This Fellowship will provide Hannah with resources to continue to explore and develop strategies to promote social change.



Honors Program member, Juan Sandoval '22, accepted to prestigious Public Policy Institute!

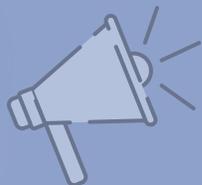
According to the Elmhurst University website "Juan is the first Elmhurst student in recent history—perhaps ever—accepted into the PPIA fellowship program. Juan is a triple major in Political Science, Urban Studies, and Philosophy and hopes to be an immigration lawyer and work in public service."

The six-week fellowship, offered by the Public Policy and International Affairs program, will help Juan prepare for a master's degree, law school, and a potential future career in public service while immersing him in public policy.



Pictured from left to right: President Troy VanAken, Hannah Bacon, Mary Walsh (Director of Service Learning), Grace Woods (2020-2021 Newman recipient), Michelle Reidy (Service Learning Coordinator)

HP
SENIORS
SAVE THE
DATE



**Honors Program
Graduation Celebration**

May 5th @ 7PM CST

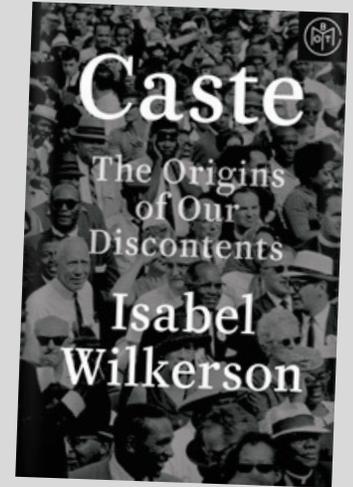


Honors Directed Readings Book Spotlight

Caste: The Origins of our Discontents

Articles by: Shahnaaz Sakkaria & Kamila Obrzut

I thoroughly enjoyed reading *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*, as I was able to relate to the experiences mentioned. I myself lived in India and was submerged in a caste system strictly imposed by society. As a result, I am able to understand the burden people have to endure just because of the religious class they are born into. The eloquence of Wilkerson's words and their long lasting impact has led me to an introspection of my own thoughts and behaviors to others, both majorities and minorities. I realized that the great division between white and African Americans has never fully dissolved and the line will always be drawn despite the BLM movement. The constant reassurance of white supremacy being the dominant caste was exemplified in our **visit to the Bisa Butler Art exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago**. Using art through her culture (textiles), Butler highlights the marginalization set by the "caste system" that exists for the black minorities. The way she overcame her adversities by expressing her individuality encourages me to never be ashamed of my ethnic and cultural background. Through the eyes of both Butler and Wilkerson, the caste system set by the people truly is the origin of our dissatisfaction in life. **-Shahnaaz Sakkaria**



My Honors Directed Reading group discussed the book *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. This was an insightful book with a powerful message. Wilkerson makes several historical connections and provides insightful research displaying how our society resembles a caste system and she explains the evils of this. Along with this intriguing book, our group, guided by our instructor Dr. Kathy Sexton-Radek, **took a trip to the Art Institute to view the Bisa Butler Portrait Quilts** that vividly capture personal and historical narratives of Black life. The exhibit was equal parts beautiful and displaying a powerful message. Butler explained wanting to use textiles—a traditionally marginalized medium—to display the historical marginalization of her subjects. The complexity and detail of her work was not like one I have seen before and I was astounded by her talent, and moved by her message. **-Kamila Obrzut**

SAVE THE DATE

Honors Program Peer Leaders present the "Talk-Back Series."
A series of discussion-based events focusing on various topics.
Here is the last one of the year!

Tuesday, May 18th @7PM | via Zoom
Mental Health at Universities by Jen Szpyt

Honors Council of the Illinois Region Symposium



Three Honors Program members present at the Honors Council of the Illinois Region Symposium

Noelle Bank

Using Geometric Morphometric Analysis to Test the Relatedness of Shark Species

Norbaya Durr

Comparative Facilitative Effects of Commercial and Natural Soil Arbuscular Mycorrhizae Upon Native Prairie Plant Species' Ability to Sequester Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide on a Green Roof

Melissa Morrissey

Conquest and Love: Contrasting the Power Dynamics between Monique Truong's Book of Salt and Marguerite Duras's The Lover

Read Norbaya Durr's reflection below

Conducting independent research has been an experience I find allows me the ability to explore biology, chemistry and humanities issues I am passionate about. It has been the development and establishment of knowledge, experience, and skills I have rendered over the course of my academic career, I believe, have provided me the necessary tools to examine nature and seek applicable solutions. Through research, the mentorship I have received from professors I have worked with has profoundly impacted my learning experiences. They have provided direction, guidance, and nurtured beneficial challenge. While learning and gaining knowledge is inexhaustible, I believe my research experiences promoted my intellectual growth potential and I feel enthusiastic about creating my future career, aiding the STEM and humanities fields, supporting community education and intellectual growth.

HONORS PROGRAM UPDATES



Elmhurst University Honors Program Alumni Council Update

Since the creation of the Honors Program Alumni Council, a Mission has been created and several committees have been formed.

Mission

The members of The Elmhurst University Honors Program Alumni Council will advance and support the Honors Program by:

- Promoting public awareness of the outstanding academic opportunities offered by the Elmhurst University Honors Program.
- Contributing to the Program and University, where appropriate, on its marketing and recruitment initiatives.
- Identifying experiential learning possibilities for Honors Program students, such as internships, undergraduate research, and study abroad opportunities.
- Mentoring Honors Program students as they prepare for careers and graduate and professional school, working in conjunction with the Weigand Center for Professional Excellence.
- Enhancing academic excellence and student success through personal financial commitment and encouraging others' financial support.

Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs

Fundraising

Shannon Dale '11

Events & Programming

Katelyn Ditzler '16

Mentoring

Chelsay Endres '11

Brian Paladie '07

Jaclyn Sorci '07

NAACP + ACT-SO

As explained in the NAACP website, "The **Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO)** is a yearlong achievement program designed to recruit, stimulate, and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African-American high school students."

Elmhurst University has formed a partnership with the DuPage County NAACP chapter. Eighteen EU faculty from all different disciplines participated as judges for the 2021 ACT-SO competition. A special scholarship for an ACT-SO participant to Elmhurst University will also be awarded.

"We are hoping to welcome ACT-SO students to Elmhurst University some day soon! We look forward to having these students as members of our student body in the coming years." -Dr. Mary Kay Mulvaney