Welcome & Opening Remarks

Dr. Donald P. Christian
President

Dr. Patricia A. Sullivan
Director of the Honors Program

Aryiah Adams
Major: Communication Studies (Public Relations)
Minor: Theatre Arts

Dariana Almeyda
Major: Adolescence Education: English
Minor: Theatre Arts

Dariana Almeyda is an Adolescence Education major with a concentration in English and a minor in Theatre Performance. During her time at New Paltz, she has been a Resident Assistant and Senior Resident Assistant in Lenape Hall, served as treasurer for the Residence Hall Student Association and participated in the Honors Peer Mentor Program. As the recipient of the Cetrino Scholarship during this academic year, Dariana is currently a Research Assistant at the Benjamin Center under Director of Education Projects Robin Jacobowitz. She is passionate about equity and opportunity in education, English literature, and theatre arts. After graduation, Dariana hopes to pursue a Master's degree in English Literature or TESOL, and hopes to work towards a PhD in education policy in the future.

Halle Anderson
Major: International Relations
Minor: Economics

Nissa Bisguier
Majors: Philosophy and Spanish
Minor: Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Nissa has fond memories of being raised in Inwood and the Bronx, and is grateful for her opportunities to visit when she can. Her multi-disciplinary education has given her a critical eye and has likely heightened her cynicism, though she is trying to be
more optimistic. She is consistently inspired by the insights of her classmates in Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies, Philosophy, and Spanish courses and of the work they do outside of class to engage others in meaningful conversation. As this has characterized much of her experience at SUNY New Paltz, she extends her gratitude to those who work tirelessly to promote social justice on- and off-campus. She is deeply appreciative of her family, friends, girlfriend, and teachers for their support and dedication as she completes her undergraduate studies. Impressed with the strength she sees amidst the devastation of this pandemic, she sends her sincerest sympathies to those struggling with illness, financial hardship, and the loss of loved ones during this time.

Robyn Borstelmann
Major: Adolescence Education: English

I would like to thank the Honors Program for granting me with the greatest college experiences I could have ever imagined.

Being a part of this program pushed me to become a better student, a better professional, and a better person. I am grateful to have been a part of something so wonderful and am even more sad to leave it behind. However, as I gear up to become a teacher out in the “real world”, I know that I have been given all the tools necessary to succeed. Congratulations everyone; we made it!

Alexa Bryden
Major: Sociology (Human Services)
Minors: Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies and Anthropology
Miranda Cooper  
*Majors: Theatre Arts (Performance) and English*

Konrad Dalland  
*Major: International Relations  
Minor: Law & Politics*

I am an International Relations major with a minor in Law & Politics. I have loved my time at New Paltz and I am so thankful for the Honors program. It has greatly enriched my education here providing me a rigorous and illuminating variety of coursework. I am sad that my time at New Paltz has come to an end and that I will no longer spend countless hours in the Honors Center. I'd like to thank Pat and Alicia for all their help over the years. It has truly been an honor to be a Hawk.

Jamie Ericksen  
*Major: Management  
Minor: Communication*

My name is Jamie Ericksen and I majored in Business Management with a minor in Communications. New Paltz has been my home for the last four years. In that time, I joined Alpha Kappa Phi Agonian Sorority Incorporated, and worked as a Student Ambassador and Admissions Assistant in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. I also got involved within the Honors Program by becoming an Honors Peer Mentor. Other clubs and organizations I was a part of include Hall government, the Union Programming Council, the Business School's Dean's Advisory Board, Emerging Leaders, and Beta Gamma Sigma National Business Honors Society. I enjoyed my time at New Paltz and am sad that it is coming to an end. After graduation, I plan on attending Graduate School here at New Paltz to get my Master’s degree in Business Administration.

Brianna Fachin  
*Major: Psychology (Industrial/Organizational)  
Minor: Disaster Studies*

Brianna has become a proud member of the SUNY New Paltz student body. Throughout her four years, she has gained leadership experience from a number of different organizations and clubs on campus including Global Medical Brigades and Alpha Phi Omega. She has interned at places such as the New Paltz Youth Program and at Orange County Emergency Management. She thanks New Paltz for everything it has given her, from friends, to brothers, to an infinite amount of pride and confidence. She looks forward to a bright future with endless possibilities.

Teresa Ferguson  
*Major: Art History*

Teresa Ferguson majored in Art History. She was the President of the Dorsky Museum Ambassadors and the Co-President/Treasurer of the Art History Association. During her four years at SUNY New Paltz, she also served as the Online Collections Management Intern for the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art. She will attend Pratt Institute's School of Information and earn a Master of Science in Library and Information Science.
Tyler Gopee  
Major: Biology  
Minor: Chemistry

Tyler is a third-year Senior studying Biology at SUNY New Paltz. He spends most of his time outside of class either doing research in the lab or tutoring other students. His hometown is in Wallkill, New York not too far from New Paltz. Tyler is currently applying to Medical School in hopes of becoming a physician one day.

Samuel Halligan  
Major: Psychology  
Minor: Anthropology

Samuel Halligan is a proud member of the Honors Program! While attending SUNY New Paltz he was a Senior Resident Assistant, Orientation Leader, and President of the Residence Hall Student Association. Through the Honors Program, he has been able to make new friends, and develop himself as a leader and a scholar.

Erin Hannan  
Major: Digital Media Management  
Minor: Journalism

Erin Hannan is graduating from New Paltz with a Bachelor of the Arts in Digital Media Management and Journalism. During her time at school she dedicated most of her time to her membership in national service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, where she was able to take on leadership positions, build incredible friendships, and volunteer in the Hudson Valley over the last 2 years. New Paltz has provided her with the opportunity to take advantage of several internships at Radio Kingston, iHeartMedia, and currently working as a news reporter for the

Legislative Gazette Newspaper. She plans to continue her education at New Paltz this upcoming fall to earn a Master’s in Business Administration with aspiring plans to break into the media industry one day.

Gabrielle Hidalgo  
Major: Sociology (Criminology)  
Minor: Environmental Studies

Benjamin Jay  
Majors: Psychology, Management and Business Analytics

Eryka “Ree” Joseph  
Major: Black Studies

Carly Kapusinsky  
Major: English (Creative Writing)  
Minor: Business Administration
Shahnoor Khan
Majors: International Relations and Political Science

Looking back at my time at New Paltz, I am so wonderfully grateful for the memories, the laughs, and even the workload. Thanks to the support of the Honors department and some truly wonderful mentors, I was able to take on several jobs, internships, and leadership positions while here. My time at New Paltz has taught me that anything is possible if you put your mind to it. Work tirelessly, dream fearlessly, and have faith in yourself! I am excited to head to law school this fall!

Mark Laaninen
Majors: Music (Classical Performance) and History

Mark Laaninen is graduating with a double major in Music and History. Over his four years at SUNY New Paltz, Mark took part in a year-long study abroad to Wales, worked as a writing consultant and participated in numerous musical ensembles. Still, the best experiences he had while at SUNY New Paltz were lessons with his excellent professors in both the music and history departments.

Emily LaSita
Major: English (Creative Writing)
Minors: Art Studio, Art History and Film & Video Studies

Lindsey Mayer
Major: International Relations
Minor: Art Studio

I am a senior majoring in International Relations and minoring in Studio Art. I am a student senator for the New Paltz Student Association, alumna of the SUNY Global Engagement Program, and a member of Pi Sigma Alpha. My Honors thesis is titled “Composting the Big Apple: Climate Mitigation Efforts in New York City.” In this thesis, I analyze New York Cities' progress on reducing emissions and I provide a policy recommendation on ways New York City can further reduce its carbon footprint.

Lonniece McDonald
Major: Finance
Minor: Spanish

Lonniece was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York by a single mother who valued hard work and education. Lonniece studies Finance with a minor in Spanish, destined to pursue a career as a business owner and a Financial Advisor. Lonniece is not only an honor student, but also a leader. She was inducted into the Beta Gamma Sigma honor society in January of 2018.

BGS is an International Business Honor Society that recognizes and honors top performing students from around the world that are enrolled in a business school accredited by The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). She has been the recipient of the School of Business Hall of Fame Scholarship two consecutive years, has been on the dean's list every semester while at SUNY New Paltz and she has been a member of the SUNY New Paltz Honors Program since August 2017. In addition, Lonniece studied abroad at the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (Madrid, Spain) during the spring 2019 semester. During this time, she succeeded as student and further developed her cultural awareness, reading and writing proficiency, and sense of social responsibility.

Lonniece has also held many leadership positions. As President of the Business Association for Students of Color (BASC), Lonniece connected
students with career, networking and business opportunities. Lonnie serves as an extraordinary resource for members who are navigating their way in business. As a member of the Diversity Task Force, Lonnie worked with a student lead task force to help plan and present a DIFFvelopment workshop that exposed over fifty students of color to topics including business, entrepreneurship, income disparities, and generational wealth. Starting in June of 2019, Lonnie has served as the Vice President of Finance for the Student Association. In this role she is responsible for allocating and accounting for a $1.3 million budget for student clubs and organizations. She has evaluated over 500 financial requests and served as the lead of the Budget and Finance Committee. The latter is responsible for budget oversight and preparing the annual budget. Lonnie was also a Co-Founder of National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) Chapter at SUNY New Paltz.

Lonnie has served as a member of the Dean’s Student Advisory Board in the School of Business from August 2018 to present. In this role she presents and addresses issues that directly affect and improves the student experience.

Lonnie has participated in multiple community service events. She has volunteered for two Make-a-Difference day events (2017 and 2018). She participated in the First Year Internship Program which required her to complete a 40 hour, unpaid internship on campus. As a member of the Honor Society, she completed 40 community service hours performing various tasks ranging from giving student tours to helping feed the homeless at Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen and local pantries with New York Cares. As President of the Student Association for Students of Color (BASC), she organized service projects including but not limited to Math Buddies, a student-led organization that tutors students and assist teachers from local elementary schools in Poughkeepsie with math material.

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**Molly Minor**

*Major: International Business
Minor: Anthropology*

Molly Minor is a graduating senior who was been in the Honors Program for all four years. She has participated in the Honors Program E-Board as the Outreach Coordinator, worked as an Orientation Leader, participated in Hall Government, and volunteered for many other jobs on campus. She is graduating with a degree in International Business with a minor in Anthropology. She has written her thesis about the cultural and economic effect of Food Deserts by exploring personal accounts of individuals living in low food access areas. Molly has loved attending SUNY New Paltz for the past four years and wishes congratulations to all other Honors Program graduates!

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**Shayna Murphy**

*Majors: Anthropology and History*

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**Brooke Musmacker**

*Major: Early Childhood and Childhood Education (Mathematics B-6)
Minor: Biology*

Brooke has been an Orientation Leader, Senior Orientation Leader, Peer Advisor, Subject Tutor, a member of TBA Improv Comedy, and a member of the Honors Program throughout her years at
New Paltz. She would like to give a big thanks to the Honors Program for giving her the opportunity to meet new people, take interesting classes, and get involved. Also, she would like to say thanks for all of the coffee and snacks that were well needed during late nights working and studying!

Rachel Obergh
Major: Early Childhood & Childhood Education (English B-6)

Rachel Obergh is a senior, Early Childhood/Childhood Education major with a concentration in English. She has been involved with Saturdays of Service, the Highland Residential Center Tutoring Volunteer Program and CREW. She is currently a member of Alpha Phi Omega, a co-ed service fraternity and has previously served as their President. Working as a personal trainer and indoor cycling instructor on campus, she plans to continue these passions after college. After college she plans on working towards her masters in Special Education.

Brenna O'Brien
Major: Biology (Cellular/Molecular)
Minor: Mathematics

Caitlin Pastore is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies, a concentration in Interpersonal/Intercultural Communication, and a minor in Psychology. Throughout her time at SUNY New Paltz, Caitlin was an active member of campus. For the past three years she has served as a Resident Assistant in Lenape Hall and has worked as a Greeter at the campus Welcome Center—where she was later promoted to a Student Manager position. During this time Caitlin also completed a summer internship at the Child Advocacy Center of Putnam County and volunteered at the Oasis/Haven Peer Counseling Center. Caitlin is excited to say that she will be continuing her education at SUNY New Paltz as she earns a Master of Science in School Counseling. Caitlin is incredibly grateful for all the family, friends and faculty who have helped her along this journey; she couldn't have done it without them all.

Dylan Perles
Major: English
Minor: Medieval/Early Modern Studies

Caitlin Pastore
Major: Communication Studies (Interpersonal/Intercultural)
Minor: Psychology

Dylan Sage Perles is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in Medieval and Early Modern Studies. She began her freshman year at SUNY New Paltz as a member of the Honors Program and joined Sigma Tau Delta (English Honors Society) in her junior year. Dylan has dedicated her academic career to studying British literature, particularly Shakespeare and 19th century fiction. Dylan's lifelong love of British literature began when she was a child and was only strengthened as she grew older. In the spring of 2019, Dylan decided to study abroad in the epicenter of British literature by attending Kingston University in London. While she was there, Dylan was fortunate enough to work with one of the co-founders of the Victorian Popular Fiction Association. In her senior year, Dylan completed her thesis on the repression of female emotions in
Victorian fiction and worked at the SUNY New Paltz Center for International Programs. Dylan is tremendously grateful for the professors in the honors and English programs for giving her a well-rounded education. Dylan plans to go back to school to become either an English teacher or a librarian.

Michelle Pirrone  
Major: Electrical Engineering  
Minor: Biology

I am a graduating electrical engineering major who has been an active member in the IEEE Eta Kappa Nu HKN Engineering Honor Society, Engineering Club, and Women in Science & Engineering (WISE). In addition, I have participated in research in the biology department, in which I presented at two national conferences and the New Paltz Symposium, along with research in the electrical engineering department. I have maintained jobs as a secretary assistant in the Engineering Department, a technician at the IT Service Desk, and a teaching assistant for circuits lab and had an engineering internship at Fair-Rite Corp. In my downtime, I enjoy traveling, hiking, and trying new foods. I am very excited to announce I have received a full fellowship to attend the University of Colorado Boulder in the fall to pursue a PhD in Electrical Engineering and am grateful for the opportunities New Paltz has provided me to get this far in my academic career.

Alexandra Reydel  
Majors: Contract (Linguistics) and Philosophy  
Minor: Deaf Studies

Jillian Rubin  
Major: Communication Disorders  
Minor: Deaf Studies

Jillian Rubin got her undergraduate degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders. During her time at New Paltz she took advantage of multiple study abroad opportunities including the Deaf Education and Empowerment Program in Ethiopia, as well as spending a semester at the University of Sydney. She will be attending graduate school in the fall at Long Island University Post where she will get her master’s degree in speech-language pathology.

Molli Salomon  
Major: Mathematics  
Minors: Economics & Business Administration

My name is Molli Salomon and I am graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, with minors in Economics and Business Administration. Being a part of the Honors Program for four years was an amazing experience, and my favorite part was all the amazing people that I’ve met and being a Peer Mentor for the Peer Mentorship Program. For my Senior Thesis Project, I analyzed the state of student loan debt in the United States and explored all aspects of the student debt industry. I will definitely miss New Paltz and the Honors Program.

Tessa Schaumburg  
Major: Visual Arts
Alina Schroeder  
*Majors: French and Communication Disorders*

Almost seven years to the day, my college journey will finally be complete. Besides being the married mom of four, nothing has been as challenging or rewarding. Not including my own kids, I will be the first person in my family to have earned a college degree.

As a non-traditional student, I was blessed to have amazing professors who understood the difficulties that could arise in everyday life, especially when a parent still has children at home.

I will always be grateful to them for the accommodations given me, allowing me to get through my semesters. An extra-special shout out goes to my advisor extraordinaire, Assistant Professor Rachel Somerstein. Without her, I would have thrown in the towel long ago.

My time at SUNY New Paltz has been memorable. This experience was manageable because I had the unwavering support of my own little village. You know who you are, and I thank you all.

Lastly, I could never have done this without the unwavering love and support from my husband of almost 30 years, Phil. He has been my rock, cheerleader, chef, and best friend. After retiring over a year ago, he has been patiently waiting for me to finish this chapter of my life. My next adventure will be with him, whatever that may be.

Tina Staniscia  
*Major: Journalism*

Michelle Tejada  
*Majors: Political Science and Latin American & Caribbean Studies  
Minors: Philosophy and Black Studies*

Michelle Anastasia Tejada is graduating with a BA in Political Science and Latin American & Caribbean Studies with minors in Philosophy and Black Studies. In her time at SUNY New Paltz, she was an active student and advocate for students of color.

She was a part of many student organization executive boards, but some of her favorite memories were as President of the Latin American Student Union and as a sister of Chi Upsilon Sigma National Latin Sorority, Inc.

Sachin Thackeray  
*Major: Biology  
Minors: Computer Science and Chemistry*

Sachin is an Honors student set to graduate this semester with a BA in biology and a minor in chemistry. He has been in the Honors program since 2014 and has loved every moment of it. During his time at New Paltz, he has been an Associated Council Representative for College Hall and Bevier/Minnewaska Hall, been a first year intern at the Institute for Disaster Mental Health, been in the Emerging Leaders program, been in the SMP program, gone to Honduras twice over the summers as part of the Global Medical Brigades, and has been a Student Association Senator for two semesters. So far, Sachin has researched for Dr. Haselton and Dr. Waldo of the Biology department and Dr. Wilklow-Marnell of the Chemistry Department. His research with Dr. Wilklow-Marnell has spanned almost a year and revolved around quinone-based phosphine ligands. He is unsure of exactly what he plans to do after graduation but is gravitating towards anything from further lab research or medical school or data science or all of the above.
Lauryn Tortora
Major: Communication Disorders
Minor: Deaf Studies

My name is Lauryn Tortora. I am a Communication Disorders major with a minor in Deaf Studies. During my undergraduate career, New Paltz has provided me with experiences I will always remember. I studied abroad in Greece for one month with a group of students. The 24 days I spent there were the best of my undergraduate career. I also was on the New Paltz Cheerleading team. I enjoyed being a part of the athletic community at New Paltz.

Sophia Urrutia
Majors: English and Spanish
Minor: Latin American & Caribbean Studies

Sophia is graduating with a double major in English and Spanish with a minor in Latin American & Caribbean Studies. She was a 4-year member and 3-year captain of the SUNY New Paltz field hockey team. Within the athletic department, she served as the Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee and worked as a fitness monitor and front desk worker for the Wellness and Recreation Center. During her time at New Paltz, she participated in three study abroad programs: The Model EU Simulation and Study Mission in Brussels, Belgium; the SUNY Stands with Puerto Rico program; and a semester abroad in Seville, Spain. She will be attending Tulane Law School in the fall to continue her education.

Carly Walsh
Majors: Music (Jazz Performance) and Digital Media Management

Helen Zhang
Major: Early Childhood & Childhood Education (English)
Minor: Deaf Studies

Helen majored in Early Childhood Education, English concentration with a minor in Deaf Studies. She has been involved in many on campus and off campus organizations. When she was a first-year, she volunteered over 200 hours and participated in many non-profit organizations. She worked for the New Paltz Youth Program for three years and was a participant and a mentor for the Alternative Spring Break program. Helen has been with Residence Life for three years, one year as a Community Mentor for Service Learning and two years as a Resident Assistant. Helen likes to keep herself very busy and you can see her on campus rushing from one building to another.

After undergrad, Helen plans on pursuing a Masters in Teaching English to Students of Other Languages (TESOL) at Hunter College. She was once an ELL student and her teacher changed her life, so Helen wants to do the same for other English Language Learners. Her thesis and research was based on finding the academic and emotional benefits of Multiple Intelligence and ASL in ELL classrooms.

Kelly Zhang
Major: Digital Media Management
Christine Carter-Huffman

*Majors: English and Digital Media Production*

Christine Carter-Huffman graduated from SUNY New Paltz in December 2019 with a double major in English and Digital Media Production. She was recruited for and played on the Varsity Field Hockey team her freshman year. In her sophomore year she founded the New Paltz Club Field Hockey team which has had increasing success over the years. She was the president of the React to Film club for two years and was elected to and participated on the Student Senate for two years. Christine wrote and photographed for the student newspaper The Oracle before she spent a semester abroad, studying at Victoria University in Melbourne, Australia—which she loved! Christine plans to attend law school after graduation.

Allisen Casey

*Major: Psychology (Industrial/Organizational)*
*Minor: Business*

Allisen Casey graduated in December 2019 with a Bachelor’s degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology. Her Honors Thesis was an experimental research project about Flow Theory and its relationship with productivity and individual differences. Completing and presenting a research project of her own was a great learning experience. Allisen would like to thank her professors, students, and faculty who offered great support during her time at New Paltz. She will be attending Baruch College for their Industrial and Organizational Psychology Master of Science program this upcoming spring 2021.

Maria Ciraco

*Major: Communication Disorders*
*Minor: Deaf Studies*

Maria Ciraco is a Communication Disorders major and a Deaf Studies minor. She is currently applying to graduate school to study Speech-Language Pathology at the masters level.

Nicole DePaola

*Major: Biochemistry*

Nicole DePaola majored in Biochemistry and was a member of the women’s softball team. She is currently studying for the MCAT and applying to medical schools this summer. After the test, she hopes to continue volunteering with Stony Brook Hospital and start a job in the healthcare field.

Kelsey Fredricks

*Major: English (Creative Writing)*
*Minor: Journalism*

Kelsey Rae Fredricks is an English major with a concentration in Creative Writing and a Journalism minor. During her time at SUNY New Paltz, she has worked as a greeter at the campus Welcome Center and a tutor for the middle school through the New Paltz Youth Program. She also currently serves as the first Multimedia Editor for the college’s official student-run newspaper, The New Paltz Oracle, which she has been a part of since transferring here in the Spring 2018 semester. At her previous college, SUNY Adirondack, she was the sole student awarded the Parnassus in Creative Writing for her deemed excellence in all writing genres. Last spring, Kelsey spent a semester studying in Galway, Ireland, where she hopes to live again someday. While she doesn’t know what’s
to come in the next year, 13 or 50, she will continue to pursue her writing career—exploring and delving into the crafts of poetry, memoir, journalism and more. She also strives to remain a voice for those who are still searching for their own, while encouraging people to speak their truth and make their daydreams a reality.

In “wilting into bloom,” her debut memoir and poetry book, Kelsey puts pen to paper in deep reflection of her life from childhood through her teenage years, conveyed through the symbolization of seasons. From her sunny days of childhood and innocence, to the sudden feeling of changes and struggles with her life, living through depression and, eventually, blooming anew through discovery and self-love, Kelsey has crafted this story to speak for herself and others who may feel isolated, or as though they are wilting from within. While she is sad to leave New Paltz for now, she is excited to explore more of the world and herself through writing, traveling, and communicating with people of many passions and backgrounds. Kelsey is honored to share her honors thesis, after working closely with the multi-talented and caring Professor Jan Schmidt of the English Department. Lastly, she sincerely thanks those who have reminded her to love herself for being who she is, all while making her experience at New Paltz wonderful and worthwhile. She will miss her time here dearly, but will hold onto the memories, lessons, and people forevermore.

Alyson Hummer
Major: Psychology
Minor: Music

Alyson Hummer is a psychology major and a music minor. She studied abroad in Guatemala in the summer of 2018.

Alyson worked with the first Burmese percussion ensemble formed in the United States, which is what she did her Honors thesis presentation on. Alyson is the recipient of the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence. Her plans after college are uncertain, but she will be visiting Myanmar for the first two weeks of the year and then working.

Joan Lauria
Major: English (Creative Writing)
Minor: Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Joannie Lauria is an English major and Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies minor from Long Island, NY. She will be pursuing a Master’s degree in Library and Information Science from the University at Albany this Fall. She hopes to work in an educational setting as a school librarian.

Kerri Neville
Major: Business Analytics
Minor: Digital Design & Fabrication

Kerri Neville is a business analytics student who was also a member of the women’s volleyball team. During her time as an honors student at New Paltz she was a statistics teacher’s assistant, a Hawks Leadership Academy member, a School of Business deans advisory board member, and staff for the intramural department. Her thesis was a meta-analysis on the effects of concussions in professional sports with a focus on the National Football League.

Majessa Pedrozo
Major: Communication Disorders
Minor: Sociology

Majessa Pedrozo completed a major in Communication Disorders and a minor in Sociology. During her time at SUNY New Paltz, she enjoyed being involved in the Honors Program. She served as a mentor and coordinator of the Honors Peer Mentorship Program. Majessa is this year’s Valedictorian and also the recipient of the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence. She plans to pursue a Master’s degree in Speech-Language Pathology in the fall.
Erin Phillips
Major: Communication Disorders
Minors: Deaf Studies and Linguistics

Erin Phillips is a Communication Disorders major with a double minor in Linguistics and Deaf Studies. During her time attending SUNY New Paltz, Erin was a founding member of Women’s Club Field Hockey. In addition to this, she was also an active member of New Paltz's chapter of NSSHLA, Women’s Club Soccer, and the ASL club. She also had the opportunity to participate on campus as a research assistant in the Communication Disorders Department with Assistant Professor Dana Arthur, who is also her faculty advisor for her thesis. After graduating at the end of the semester, she hopes to attend graduate school after taking the next semester off to work.

Olivia Porcari
Major: Sociology (Human Services) Minor: Anthropology

Olivia is a Sociology major with a concentration in Human Services and a minor in anthropology. Through the CHS she completed three semester-long internships, at a food pantry and homeless shelter, at Woodland Pond Continuing Care & Retirement Community, and at the Brookside School. Each internship experience allowed her to work with diverse populations and gain new learning experiences. In addition to academics, Olivia was a member of Alpha Phi Omega, a nationally recognized service fraternity. Through Alpha Phi Omega she completed over 200 hours of service on campus and in the community and wants to continue to find ways to be involved in the future. She is excited for life after graduation and plans on attending graduate school to pursue a degree in School Counseling next fall.

Marisa Rupolo
Major: Communication Studies (Public Relations)
Minor: Film & Video Studies

During Marisa’s three and a half years at New Paltz she majored in Communications with a concentration in Public Relations and minored in Film & Video Studies. After graduation Marisa would like to do a range of Public Relations work for a company utilizing both her professional writing skills and incorporating her multimedia skills to create content for their social media networks. The work Marisa has done in her thesis has given her great insight to the powers of social media and how to utilize them in a healthy and effective way.

Natalie Yee
Majors: Marketing and Accounting (Food Marketing)

Natalie is a senior majoring in Accounting and Marketing with a concentration in Food Marketing and is graduating at the end of this semester with her Bachelor’s degree. Natalie will be continuing her education through the 4 plus 1 MBA in Public Accountancy. Natalie has helped advance the School of Business by being on the Dean's Student Advisory Board, as well as, serving as the Math Assistant for the past three semesters. She has also served as the Treasurer for the Asian and Pacific Islander Student Alliance (APISA). Natalie intends to use her thesis to explore opening a bakery one day.
CONGRATULATIONS!