

# HONORS EXPRESS

Monthly updates of developments within the Honors community

## Notes from Our Director

Greetings Honors diaspora!

I have been, not surprisingly, thinking a lot about community amid the quarantines and isolation. As we moved our habits of being together and ways of practicing community to online, it became clear that the communities that had previously fostered strong connections, cultivated practices of being vulnerable together, and encouraged creative resistance to cultured despair found possibilities for reimagining how we can be present to one another, even if in imperfect mediums like Zoom. The online technology brings us together, but it is our shared, offline, embodied histories and relationships that bind us together. This became clear to me in large part because of the Honors community and the (re)generative, highlights-of-my-day video chats we have been able to have in HLB, Exploring Leadership, and Deep Fried-ays, among others. It is in your commitment to reclaiming social proximity while remaining physically distant that I have come to understand more deeply that while the Honors community is found, first, within a particular place – Viterbo – it is not bound to that space. Nor is it bound by time – as the generous reflections below from Honors alum Jed Barton reminds us: one’s sense of belonging in this community extends beyond the day you graduate.

May you be well wherever you may be.

-Matthew Bersagel Braley

## Someone You Should Know...

**Jed Barton, 2017 alumni majoring in Biopsychology with a minor in Family Studies**



### What are you doing now?

I work as the clinic manager at Christ House in Washington, DC, which is a medical respite facility for men who are experiencing homelessness. Medical respite can look several different ways, but for us that means providing 24-7 medical care as well as addiction recovery support, social services, spiritual activities, food services, patient transportation, and leisure activities.

I am also currently enrolled in the Masters in Servant Leadership program at Viterbo and set to graduate in December 2020. In my free time I enjoy various attractions in the DC area, spend time with friends, take improv classes, volunteer with an affordable housing organization, and volunteer with an LGBTQ+ youth program.

### What is next for you?

I’m working on how to balance “being” and “doing” so I don’t have a plan more than about a year out. Plus, life never goes according to plan. However, I think I can safely say that in 10 years I would like to still be working in some intersection of non-profit management, clinical administration, and/or homeless services.

### What is the most valuable thing Viterbo taught you?

During my time at Viterbo I learned so many wonderful lessons and met several lifelong friends, so it’s hard to pick just one. If I had to choose though, I think the most valuable thing Viterbo taught me was the importance of living out the call to serve the common good in both my personal and professional life. I think this MLK quote reflects this idea best, “It’s possible to affirm the existence of God with your lips and deny his existence with your life.”

### What advice do you have for current college student/soon-to-be-graduates?

Something I learned (probably too late into my college career) was to do things you truly enjoy. That doesn’t mean spend all your time on Instagram or watching Netflix. What I mean is it’s good to get experience in areas that you think you may like to go into to confirm for yourself a certain career path, but equally as important are the activities that speak to you personally as well as the activities that bring you closer together with a community of people.

On a practical note, if you are like how I was at the end of college and have no idea what’s next or you’re looking for a gap year experience, I highly recommend participating in a year of volunteering post-graduation. That was how I found Christ House, moved to DC, got a job, and meet a community of people. It was truly a transformative experience

### Honors Classes Offered in Fall 2020

VUSM-260: Living in a Diverse World with Rolf Samuels.

Co-counts as Literary Analysis

Contract all other VUSM classes for Honors credit.


# APRIL 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7 	8 	Easter Break		11  
12 	13 	14	15  Apply for HLB!	16	17	18 
19	20	21  Applications due!	22 	23  Scholars' Day	24  Scholars' Day	25
HELL WEEK		28 	29 	30	1	2


## Events

 April 7: WI Judicial General Election and Presidential Primary

 April 11: WI Partisan Primary

 April 12: Easter

 April 15: Applications for Honors Leadership Board available

 April 22: Earth Day

 April 22: Honors Leadership Board Applications due

 April 23-24: Scholars' Day. Honors Poster Presentation

 April 29: Ethics Video Contest

## Matthew's Corner of Contemplation

### Thoughts that have given me pause this week:

"And for all our awakening to the power of digital technologies to divide and isolate us, this too is true: our technologies have given us the tools for the first time in the history of our species to begin to think and act as a species." ~ Krista Tippett, host of *On Being* podcast

"Your job is to figure out what the world is trying to be."  
~ William Stafford, from the poem "Vocation"



## Birthdays



April 8: Levi Orr

April 11: Nathan Atkinson

April 13: Marne Boehm

April 15: Makala Teske

April 18: Mya Snyder

April 21: Ben Gibson

April 24: Trevor Rowray

## Strength for Your Day

