

Fall 2023 Graduates

Abiola Ojo

From Saint Charles, Maryland, Abiola Ojo is set to graduate from Towson University with high honors, magna cum laude, having pursued a bachelor's degree in biology. Post-graduation, Abiola is committed to furthering her career as an orthopedic technologist, accruing valuable clinical experience to pave her way into Physician Assistant School. The Honors College has been an invaluable pillar of support and kinship for Abiola throughout her undergraduate journey. During her time at Towson University, Abiola had numerous roles: she served as an undergraduate learning assistant, and a medical assistant, volunteered at MedStar Union Memorial, and actively engaged in the pre-physician assistant organization. She holds a deep appreciation for the Honors College staff, her cherished friends, her supportive brother, and her devoted mother, all of whom have been an irreplaceable backbone throughout her college career.

Amaya Collins

Amaya Collins hails from Elkridge, Maryland, and will graduate December 2023, earning a degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Psychology. She plans to start her career as a teacher soon. She appreciated all the professors and peers within the Honors College who provided her with the support and drive to complete her degree with Honors. She would

Charles Hess

"Billy" Hess is from White Hall, Maryland and will graduate (Magna Cum Laude/Cum Laude depending on final grades) earning a B. S. in History with a minor in Asian Studies. After graduation, Billy plans to continue working in the lumber industry at J. Gibson Mclvain where he sells premium hardwoods. While in the Honors college, Billy studied abroad in Greece, was an editor in Towson's undergraduate History Journal, and received multiple academic awards and scholarships. His favorite part of the Honors experience was the small class size, interdisciplinary study, and the excellent Honors staff. Billy would also like to thank his Fiancé Emily, Dr. Zajicek, and the TU History department, as well as his family for guiding him through his college experience and contributing to his success.

Ebony Lewis

Hannah Harr

Hannah Harr will be graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing on December 21, 2023. Hannah aims to work as a registered nurse in an Intensive Care Unit post-graduation. This fall she completed an internship in the Intensive Care Unit at Sinai Hospital and conducted a literature review examining the history of cannabis legalization and how nurses' perceptions of cannabis use can influence how they care for patients. For this project, Hannah won the 2nd place audience choice award in the internship category at the fall 2023 Celebration of Scholarship and Learning. Hannah's favorite experience in the Honors College has been taking a class on biblical archeology. She enjoyed the opportunities that the Honors College gave her to stay engaged with other members of the Towson community. She would like to thank her parents for their continuous support and Dr. Lobst for the guidance and encouragement she provided throughout the internship experience.

Jenna Smith

Jenna Smith from Elmer, New Jersey is earning a degree in Anthropology. After graduation, Jenna plans to attend graduate school in the fall. She was able to participate in undergraduate research through the Honors College. Jenna was the director and outreach coordinator of a student organization, Kesem, which helps kids impacted by a parent's cancer. Jenna was also a resident assistant her junior year. Last year, she was the recipient of the Most Distinguished Scholar in Anthropology, Kesem, under her direction, won the Hoke L. Smith Student Organization of the Year Award, and she received the program of the year award from Housing and Resident Life. Jenna would like to thank her family for their support, the Honors College for my opportunities, and Dr. Siegel and Dr. Buresh, for believing in her.

Jesse Griffith

Jesse Griffith is from Aberdeen, Maryland, and will be graduating with Honors, earning a bachelor's degree in Chemistry. Following graduation, Jesse will enter into the work field of chemistry driven research or forensic investigation where he then hopes to pursue his masters degree in Forensic Science. During his undergraduate career, Jesse was fortunate enough to have various involvements on campus, including his roles as a section leader and member of the piccolo section in the World Famous Towson University Marching Band and Pep Band, captain of his intramural volleyball teams, member of the Towson University Winter Guard, member of the Forensic Science Student Organization, Public Relations Director of the Independent Greek Council, and member, webmaster, assistant vice president of membership, diversity and risk management officer, chapter assessment program officer, and President of Tau Beta Sigma. Furthermore, Jesse completed a summer internship on Aberdeen Proving Ground working under the DEVCOM Chemical Biological Center CBR Filtration Team where he researched and presented the "Photooxidation of a sulfur mustard gas simulant using metal organic frameworks." Jesse also dived into undergraduate research with Dr. Dana Kollmann to anthropologically study human remains and further build his forensic knowledge. Jesse is very appreciative of all the skills and experiences he has gained through the Honors College. He would like to thank the Honors College faculty, his professors, his friends, and his family for all their support throughout his undergraduate career."

Kenneth Cooper

Kenneth Cooper was born in Memphis, TN, but grew up in Owings Mills, M. He will be graduating with a nursing degree and plans to work in the field of psychiatry. He hopes to eventually become a psychiatric nurse practitioner after gaining a few years of experience in the field. He was a member of the Honorables of Color organization and the Honors College Leadership Council. His favorite part of the honors college was the variety of topics he learned about that he was not familiar with, such as poetry and coding. He would like to thank everyone who helped him through his academic journey!

Lexi Ciof

Lexi Ciof is from Frederick, Maryland, and will graduate summa cum laude as one of the first students to earn a degree in Business Analytics from Towson. After graduation, Lexi will pursue her MBA at Hood College while starting her career at the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Throughout her time at TU, Lexi studied abroad in Spain, served as a Student Leadership Consultant for the Tigers Lead program, and also held positions as a member of the Towson University Student Foundation as well as an orientation mentor and recruitment officer.

for the Honors College. She would like to thank the Honors faculty, her family, and her closest friends for their constant support and encouragement.

Logan McNelly

Logan McNelly spent most of his life in Potomac, Maryland. He'll graduate cum laude with Honors, earning a degree in English with a concentration in Literature. After graduation, he plans to pursue a Masters degree and if all goes according to plan, a PhD. As a student in the Honors College, he completed a thesis on Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, under the mentorship of Dr. McMahan and Dr. At  . He would like to thank them both, as well as Dr. Fehskens, the late Dr. Lawrence, the staff of the English Department and Honors College, and his family and friends for supporting and encouraging him through his time at Towson University.

Lucy Saper

Lucy Madaline Saper will graduate with a degree in Art + Design with a concentration in Painting, Drawing, and Printmaking and in the Honors College. Lucy plans to continue her independent art and animation business and teach art. Lucy was on the Dean's List every semester. She was awarded the Provost's Scholarship, Art Department Scholarship, Ronald and Marcus P. Johnson Endowment Scholarship Award, a Kaplan Travel Grant, Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry Travel Award, and also an Honors College Scholarship. At Towson, Lucy also had a Springboard Dive Team (Division 1) Scholarship. She has been in five exhibitions in Towson and Baltimore, and hopes to continue to exhibit and work professionally in art and animation.

Makaylie Doody

Makaylie Doody is an aspiring artist born and raised in Frederick, Maryland, earning her degree in Electronic Media and Film. After graduation, Makaylie hopes to work for the entertainment industry, bringing her stories to life on screen for an audience of all ages. Makaylie studied abroad in both Ireland and Japan during her time at Towson and participated in Lambda Kappa

Michael Harris

Michael Harris hails from Frederick, Maryland, and he will graduate from Towson University's Honors College with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science via the NSA/DHS-recognized Cyber Operations track and a minor in Political Science. In his time at Towson, he was a member of the National Society of Black Engineers and the Undergraduate Research Club, and he was in the inaugural class of the Honorables of Color. Michael has also served Towson's Department of Housing and Residence Life as both a Community Center Assistant and Community Center Manager. In his two years with HRL, he earned the Tubman House MVP Award and contended for the CCM of the Year Award. After graduation, Michael will pursue his Master's in Security Policy Studies at George Washington University. After his time at George Washington, Michael hopes to enter the Intelligence Community as an Intelligence Analyst. He would like to thank Dr. Kelleher, Dr. Sivey, and Dr. Clark for their wisdom in the intersection between technology and policy and their unwavering support throughout his academic career.

Morrisa Bussie

My name is Morrisa Bussie and I am from Upper Marlboro, Maryland. I will be receiving a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology. My time at TU has been nothing short of transformative. As an Undergraduate Research Assistant in the SecOps Research Team, I had the incredible opportunity to be part of the pioneering Alpha team—the very first research team in our department. One of the highlights of my academic journey was being nominated and voted as the Honors College Banner Carrier at the 2023 Fall Fisher College of Science & Math Graduate Commencement. Making the dean's list for four consecutive semesters was a proud moment for me. Looking forward, I'm excited about what the future holds. With a recent certification in Scrum and Agile Framework, I'm on the lookout for a job that aligns with my expertise and interests. I'm also carving out time to focus on my creative dreams—acting and writing. Beyond that, I'm planning to continue my collaboration with TU's Office of Competitive Fellowships and Awards as I gear up for the Fulbright application process. My ultimate goal is to pursue a Masters in Business Management and continue growing as a leader in my field.

Swadha Bhat

Alicia Anthony

Alicia Anthony is earning a degree in Mass Communication, along with a minor in marketing.

Britney Whitington

Britney Whitington was born in Germany and moved to Maryland with her family when she was 2 years old. Britney will be graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Software Engineering concentration, and a minor in Astronomy. After graduation, Britney will start a summer internship with Space Telescope Science Institute, where she will help develop software for the Hubble and James Webb Space Telescopes. She then plans on pursuing a job that will allow her to combine her love for programming, astronomy, and art. During her time at Towson University, she helped refurbish and operate Towson's 16" Telescope, putting together a software suite that controls the telescope. She did summer research with Dr. Neda Saeedloei and attended Astro Scholars, an astrophysics mini-course with STScI. She was the president of

Chaz Edwards

Chaz Edwards is from Fort Washington, MD, and will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in psychology. After graduation, Chaz plans to gain more research and internship experience for his future career choice of becoming a counseling psychologist. Even though Chaz was here for 2 years, he greatly enjoyed his experience at Towson University and is highly thankful for those who helped him along his journey. During his time in The Honors College here at Towson University, he most appreciated his seminar classes because of the topics they covered, such as shipwrecks, biology in pop culture, and interpreting the Book of Genesis. Chaz would like to thank the Honors College staff, professors, family, friends, and peers for helping him thrive in this program.

Chidimma Obeleagu

Chidimma Obeleagu grew up in Prince George's County, Maryland, and will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in biology. After graduation, Chidimma plans on taking a gap year before applying to medical school programs. She has studied abroad in San José, Costa Rica, and received the TU Honors College Study Abroad Scholarship and TU Institutional Diversity Study Abroad Scholarship to do so. Chidimma Obeleagu received the Leadership for the Public Good Summer Fellowship to conduct research. She also completed a summer internship with the Baltimore City Health Department. She has served the community by volunteering with the Catholic Charities of Baltimore and the Cool Kids Campaign Foundation. At Towson, she was the co-president of Not Your Granny's Book Club and fundraising chair of Honorables of Color. She was an Honors Orientation Mentor and a College Readiness Outreach Program (CROP) Mentor. She would like to thank her mentors, Dr. Gitler, and Dr. McDougal for all their guidance, and her family, and friends for all their support.

Christina Anyalewechi

Christina Anyalewechi hails from Rosedale, Maryland, and will graduate with summa cum laude, earning a bachelor's degree in Healthcare Management with a minor in Business Administration. After graduation, Christina either plans to continue her education to gear up for Dental school through shadowing and obtaining experience in dental offices. Furthermore, she plans to start a job/internship surrounding Medicare and social justice. What she appreciated most about the Honors College were the various opportunities and programs that catered toward advancing her education and career. Christina is a part of the pre-dental club, Delight Ministries, and was a constant recipient of the Dean's Award, Delegate Scholarship and Senatorial Scholarship. She would like to thank the Honors College staff for their support and encouragement throughout her college career.

Colin Mullican

Eber Guzman-Cruz

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Glory Omodia

Glory Omodia was born in Nigeria and moved to the United States at 15 to continue her education. She will be graduating with honors this spring earning a degree in Biology. After graduation she plans to start a PhD program at Boston University where she will earn her doctorate in Neuroscience. During her time at Towson, she was actively involved in research and was able to present her work at numerous conferences like the American Association for Immunologists (AAI), Annual Biomedical research conference for Minoritized students (ABRCMS), and American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) while also presenting at Towson during the Celebration of Scholarship and Learning (CSL), Falling for research symposium and the Research creative inquiry forum. She also completed an undergraduate honors thesis on her research in the lab of Dr. Erin Harberts. Glory was a member of the Hill-Lopes Scholars program and the president of Beta Beta Beta Biological Honors Society (TriBeta) while also being involved in a few other STEM clubs. She worked as a Resident Assistant in her last two years, a student ambassador for the Office of Competitive Fellowship and Awards (OCFA) and part of the Undergraduate FCSM council. Glory would like to thank her family, mentors and the Hill-Lopes scholars program for their unwavering support and love.

Hannah De Grof

Hannah De Grof, a student from Ellicott City, will graduate magna cum laude with a degree in Cell and Molecular Biology with a minor in Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, and Bioinformatics (MB3). She won first place at the Honors College Celebration of Scholarship and Learning for her presentation of the work she did at her internship with the "Lost Towns Project." She also completed an internship at the Maryland Department of Health where she worked in their microbiology lab. Hannah was a board member of Towson University's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the National History Honor Society, as a freshman, and later was a member of Beta Beta Beta, the Biological Honor Society. After graduation, she plans to pursue a MS. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support throughout her undergraduate career.

Jayla Lowery

Jayla Lowery is a x4 TU scholarship recipient and will graduate with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing. After graduation, Jayla plans to return to her home state, New Jersey, to launch her passion for public health and women and infants into a career as a labor and delivery registered nurse. One of her biggest takeaways from Towson were her roles as second vice president and chaplain of the National Council of Negro Women where she participated in numerous community service events, and fostered sisterhood and fellowship among the organization. Another meaningful takeaway was her externship working as a Labor and Delivery Nurse Extern at Medstar Harbor Hospital in Baltimore in which she had the opportunity to work and train alongside nurses to care for mothers and newborn infants. She would like to express her utmost gratitude to her parents, Rodney, and Kim Lowery, for their unconditional love, support, and rel

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Josephine Stahl

Josephine Stahl is a graduating Honors College student from Rockville, Maryland. She will earn her B.S. in English with a concentration in creative writing, a degree she intends to use in the publishing industry. Highlights of her experience as a Towson University student include three years in the Towson University Marching band, a semester abroad in Ireland and a winter term in Japan, and working as head fiction editor for the 2023 edition of Towson's literary magazine Grub Street. There are many things she will miss from her time at Towson, the campus printing stations notably not among them. She would like to thank her parents, for their emotional and financial support over the last four years, and her sister, for regularly sharing her Tiger meals so Josie didn't starve before she could graduate.

Kai Merriman

Kai Merriman grew up in Bowie, Maryland and will graduate Summa Cum Laude, with a degree

Katherine Cook

Katherine Cook comes from Rosedale, Maryland and will graduate with a degree in Art History and Art+Design and a minor in Museum Studies. She plans on continuing her studies at CCBC

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Makaelan Bond

Malik Barry

Malik Barry '24 is from Gaithersburg, MD and will be graduating with a degree in Political Science. After graduation Malik will be taking a gap year before pursuing a law degree with plans to pursue a career in corporate or criminal law. During Malik's time at Towson he served as the following: Honors College Student Director, President of Honors Civic Engagement Council, Ambassador of TU's Women's Leadership Collective, and Treasurer of Freshman Council. Among these activities, Malik has won numerous awards, scholarships, and accolades such as being the First Recipient of the Honorables of Color Scholarship and a recipient of the TU Institutional Diversity Study Abroad Scholarship. Malik studied abroad in France where he was able to garner the benefits of experiential learning. Malik would like to thank the Honors College faculty, his family, and Towson's academic community for their support and encouragement through the years.

Mary McDonald

Mary McDonald was born in Kansas City and will graduate from Towson University with Honors earning a degree in Biology. Following graduation, Mary will be working at the NIH Vaccine Research Center for a two year research oriented Postbacc. Following this wonderful opportunity, Mary plans on applying and attending medical school to pursue her dreams of becoming a physician. Mary was the Treasurer of the Premed club, a recipient of the Undergraduate Research Grant as well as presented her research at the Biophysical Science annual conference. She would like to thank her mentor, Dr. Tran-ba for his amazing guidance throughout the research process as well as several professors and staff who were crucial to her success along the way.

Morgan Hawkins

Morgan Hawkins, from Brandywine, Maryland, is graduating with a degree in Molecular Biology,

Natalie Flanders

Natalie Flanders hails from Prince Frederick, Maryland, and will graduate cum laude, earning a degree in Mathematics: Secondary Education. After graduation, Natalie will begin her new job at a high school in Anne Arundel County teaching high school mathematics. During her time at Towson University, Natalie's biggest accomplishment was creating a podcast titled, "Mathematics Across the Writing Multiverse," and presenting her research on the perceptions Mathematics college students have regarding their writing and strategies that can aid in writing tutoring for Mathematics students at the IWCA Baltimore conference in October of 2023. She would like to thank all of the staff at the Honors College, her professors in the UTeach program, and her family for helping her throughout her college career.

Nathan Usi

Nathan Usi is from Eldersburg, Maryland, and will graduate summa cum laude, earning a degree in molecular biology, biochemistry, and bioinformatics with a minor in public health. After graduation, Nathan plans to complete a postbac research position in immunology and infectious disease before applying to graduate school. During his time at Towson, Nathan worked as a tutor at the Writing Center and the Tutoring and Learning Center. He studied abroad in Australia and New Zealand, conducted research on allergen immunotherapy, and received the TSEM Information Literacy Award. What he appreciated the most about the Honors College was the engaging and thought-provoking seminars. Nathan would like to thank his Honors professors, his family, and his friends for supporting him through the past few years. He would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Harberts for her never-ending positivity, encouragement, and willingness to help.

Nawal Ali

Nawal's hometown is two hours south of here in Southern Maryland. Graduating Cum Laude, she has excelled as a double major in Business Analytics and Business Systems and Processes, while also distinguishing herself as a member of the Business Honors Society. Post-graduation, she aims to kickstart her career as a data analyst. Nawal has enjoyed her time in the Honors College, and greatly appreciates the exposure she's gotten to different disciplines, like art, psychology, and religious studies. She says that every professor was a delight to have and that she will look back fondly at her time with her Honors peers.

Nicholas Wynn

Nicholas Wynn is from Towson, Maryland. He will graduate from Towson University with degrees in Business Administration and Electronic Field Production. After graduation, Nick plans to continue learning technical skills of film production through working on sets and freelancing.

Nick enjoys music, staying active, and communication. He has been heavily involved with Tiger Toastmasters, a public speaking club on campus, crediting his peers and faculty advisor, Professor Quincy Johnson, for his development of professionalism and confidence throughout his time at TU.

Some of Nick's favorite Honors College experiences were Jazz History class with Professor James McFalls and Resonant 20th Century Ideas class with Dr. Terry Cooney. These classes exemplified how learning can be very enjoyable, and Nick is thankful that the Honors College has taught him that lesson."

Olasubomi Lawal

Olasubomi Lawal, also known as Subi Lawal, is from Edgewood, Maryland and will graduate with cum laude, with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science. After graduation, Subi plans to work as a Software Engineer at Walmart Global Tech. The Honors College allowed him to meet many people of different backgrounds and with great personalities to help him reach his goals through college and post-graduation. He would like to thank all of the Honors College staff for their role in his ongoing success.

Olivia Brady

Olivia Brady comes from Annapolis, Maryland, and will be graduating with her degree in psychology with a minor in mass communication. After graduation, Olivia plans to get her master's in counseling psychology at the University of Baltimore. What she enjoyed the most about the Honors College were the opportunities it gave her and how helpful the advisors were. Olivia was a member of the Honors Society in Psychology Psi Chi, and won 2nd place at the Celebration of Scholarship and Learning conference in the service-learning category for her research on students with ADHD. She would like to thank the Honors College staff, her professors, and her family for helping her make her college career so successful.

Owen Black

Owen Black grew up in Salisbury, Maryland and will be graduating from Towson University with a degree in Electronic Media and Film and a minor in Spanish. After graduation, Owen plans to seek corporate film work in the Baltimore area while fostering creative connections and applying for the English teaching assistantship grant, NALCAP, offered through the Ministry of Education of Spain. During his time at Towson, Owen directed three short films and one documentary, produced, and directed an independent academic film.

Phoebe Calkins

Rianna Thomas

Rianna Thomas is from Annapolis, Maryland, and will be graduating with honors, earning a bachelor's degree in sociology and anthropology. During her time at Towson Rianna was able to explore various cultural and social topics. Her independent study with Dr. Heather Hax granted her the opportunity to deep dive into the topic of "Black Feminist Thought" which she really enjoyed. Rianna also worked as a writing tutor at the Towson University writing center. After graduation Rianna plans to work for the federal government through the Pathways program.

Taylor Perkowski

Taylor Washington

Taylor Washington is a graduating Psychology major and Marketing minor from Bowie, Maryland. She has maintained good standing in multiple jobs throughout her years at TU while also maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.74. Throughout her years at TU, she has participated in a number of extracurricular activities and programs including being a programmer on TU's Campus Activities Board, an Event Planner at the Career Center, and a pharmacy technician. She would like to thank the Honors college for providing her with the platform to be successful in her future endeavors.

Vanessa Gregorio

Vanessa Gregorio is graduating with a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Legal Studies. Being in the Honors College at Towson alongside her main degree plan greatly enriched her educational experience. She worked as a student researcher for the Empowering Secure Elections Research Lab under the guidance

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Zolani Grady

Zolani Grady, a native of Montgomery County Maryland, is a dedicated and accomplished student leader and community member.