



DURHAM TECH'S HONORS PROGRAM SYMPOSIUM

Fall 2020

Congratulations to our Fall 2020 Honors Program Students!

It's a small number during the year of the Pandemic, but a huge thank you to these bright and brave students who endeavored to pursue and complete Honors Projects this semester. If a pandemic can't stop them from achieving, nothing will.

A big thank you to our faculty who continue to support our Honors Program despite the pandemic, teaching online, and their immense course load. Thank you so very much for supporting our students. Without you, there would be no program and no opportunities to help our students thrive and achieve in this unique way.



Kryschelle Fakir

Kryschelle Fakir is a Middle College HS student pursuing her Associates in Science, majoring in Psychology. Kryschelle plans to attend UNC Charlotte in Fall 2021 but is still considering her options. She plans to get her Masters and Doctorate in psychology and hopes to become a psychotherapist.

Her Honors project for **ENG 232** with **Professor Weberg** is centered on Black women's experiences in the work of Zora Neale Hurston and Alice Walker.



Maya Gilliom

Maya Gilliom is a senior at Middle College High School and a Durham Tech student. She is graduating high school this December to work on a nearby farm before entering a four-year college in the fall.

Her Honors project for ENG 232 with Professor Weberg will apply an ecocritical lens to compare environmental themes in the work of Jewett and Hurston.

This is her **third Honors Project**.



Maya Gilliom – Honors Scholar!

Maya Gilliom is a senior at Middle College High School and a Durham Tech student. She is graduating high school this December to work on a nearby farm before entering a four-year college in the fall.

Her Honors project for **MAT 280** with **Professor Mansfield** examines the declining birth rate among Americans using Linear Algebra.

This is Maya's **fourth** Honors Project. She is graduating from Durham Tech with an **Honors Scholar** designation and will receive an Honors medal and \$100 upon graduation.



Efiotu Jagun

Efiotu Jagun is a senior at Middle College High School who is pursuing her Associates in Science. After graduating, she wishes to transfer to a four-year to pursue her academic interests in STEM and the humanities.

Her Honors project for **ENG 232** with **Professor DelVecchio** was to expose the societal constraints of female sexuality in Kate Chopin's Victorian novel *The Awakening*.



Gayle Krest

Gayle Krest is a student at Middle College High School in her second year of pursuing her Associates Degree in Science. Gayle hopes to pursue language and international relations or medicine in the future. She spends her free time working at an optometry practice and volunteering as a French tutor.

Her Honors project for **HIS 132** with **Professor DePalma** will uncover the successes and failures of American diplomacy during the Iran Hostage Crisis.

This is her **third** Honors Project.



Jessie Parmelee

Jessie Parmelee retired from her first career as a professional ballet dancer in 2016, eager to pursue her second passion: medicine. She is currently working towards an Associate in Science degree at Durham Tech and hopes to transfer to UNC Chapel Hill as a biology major. Her ultimate academic end goal is a master's degree in physician assistant sciences.

Her Honors project for **BIO 111** with **Professor Dyer** focused on the molecular evolution of the *Yersinia pestis* bacteria with a focus on the virulent factors associated with this 3800-year-old bacteria.



Sujung Shin

Sujung Shin is pursuing an Associates in Arts Degree in Business Administration. She plans to transfer to NCSU upon graduation to further her education in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources.

Her Honors project for **ENG 112** with **Professor DelVecchio** sheds light on the “model minority” microaggressions suffered by Asian Americans in the United States and how they contribute to psychological trauma.