



SPRING 2020 HONORS PROGRAM SYMPOSIUM

DIRECTOR, MARINA DELVECCHIO

Vanessa Aidoo is in the Associates in Science program. She is transferring to East Carolina University in fall 2020 to major in Biochemistry as her premed. She is glad she took the Biotechnology honors program class because in there, she learned a lot about annotating genes and hands-on techniques needed in the biological field like a professional.

BIO 280: Biotechnology Honors Course with Dr. Fogarty and Dr. Ward

For the second semester of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's SEA-PHAGES program, the task of Dr. Fogarty and Dr. Ward's honors students was to annotate at least two bacteriophage genomes that were discovered last semester. Part of this task includes using PCR primers to match each sequenced genome to its phage. Once completed, these annotations will make future research easier by providing a summary of each phage's genome and functionality.



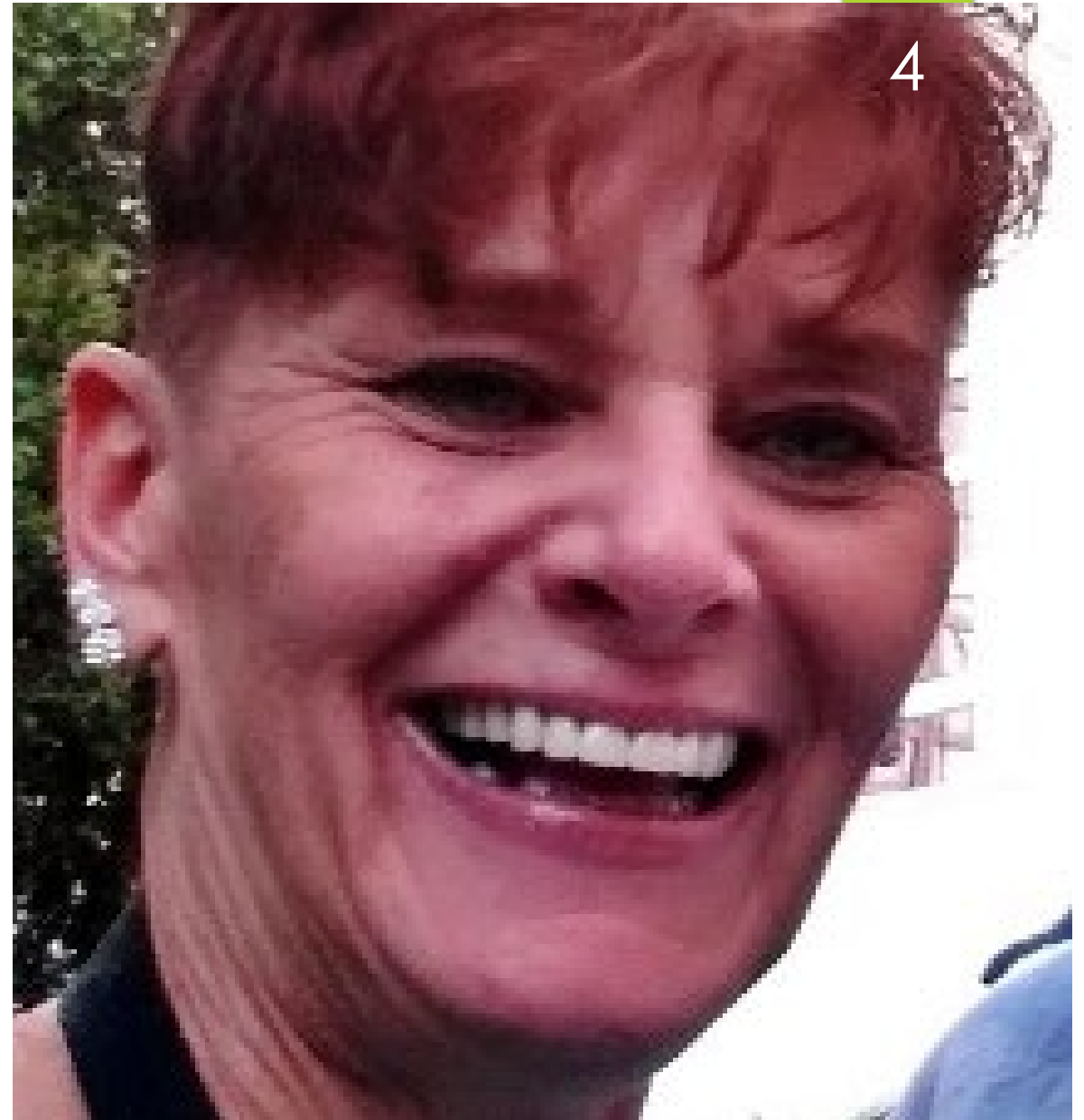
Benjamin Anspach is currently attending Durham Technical Community College as a high schooler hoping to get his associate in arts before he graduates. He is currently planning to transfer his credits to whichever university he attends.

For his honors project in Professor DePalma's HIS 132 course, Mr. Anspach examined the development of the nuclear reactor, starting with the very basic first-generation prototype not used commercially.



Adriana Cook will graduate from Durham Tech in Spring 2021 with an Associate of Arts degree. Her major is Sociology, and she plans to transfer to UNC-Chapel Hill in Fall 2021 to continue her Sociology studies, with a minor in Economic and Social Justice. Adriana is a C-STEP student, a member of Phi Theta Kappa and a recipient of the MLK I Have a Dream Scholarship. She hopes to become a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor (CSAC).

For her honors project in Professor DeVecchio's ENG 232 course, Ms. Cook examined F. Scott Fitzgerald's depiction of alcoholism in *The Beautiful and the Damned* in comparison to Bill Wilson's book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.



Maya Gilliom is a rising senior at Middle College High School at Durham Tech who hopes to graduate high school with her Associate in Science. Aside from gender differences in COVID-19 outcomes, she's interested in intersections between the coronavirus pandemic and sustainable development. This is her second honors project.

For her Honors Project in Professor DeVecchio's ENG 112 course, Ms. Gilliom wrote an outstanding paper that explored the behavioral and biological differences between men and women in understanding why men have been more likely to contract and die from COVID-19 compared to women.

This is her second Honors Project.



Mary Terese Grace is receiving her A.A. at Durham Tech, with a 4.0 GPA. She is transferring to UNC-CH to study the psycholinguistic underpinnings of trauma and Trauma Informed Care. These studies will enhance her work with conflict reduction and nonviolent conflict resolution in families and communities, here and in war zones

Her Abnormal Psychology Honors Project with Professor Cain avers that malnutrition is worthy of designation as an Adverse Childhood Experience as part of the childhood trauma rubrics. She explores how food desserts and lack of nutritional understanding exacerbate numerous psychological and physical disorders, negatively impacting healing.

This is her second Honors Project.



Justin Hall is an Associate in Arts student who will be transferring after this semester. He will major in Political Science, minor in something or another, go to law school, and eventually go onto practice tax law (and maybe even run for local political office someday!). He was the President of the Student Government Association (2019-2020) and a member of the Search Committee tasked with finding potential candidates to be the next President of Durham Tech.

For his final Honors Project in Professor DeVecchio's HUM 150 course, Mr. Hall sought to unravel the online backlash against Feminism through anti/pro-feminist internet personalities.

This is his fourth Honors Project at Durham Tech.

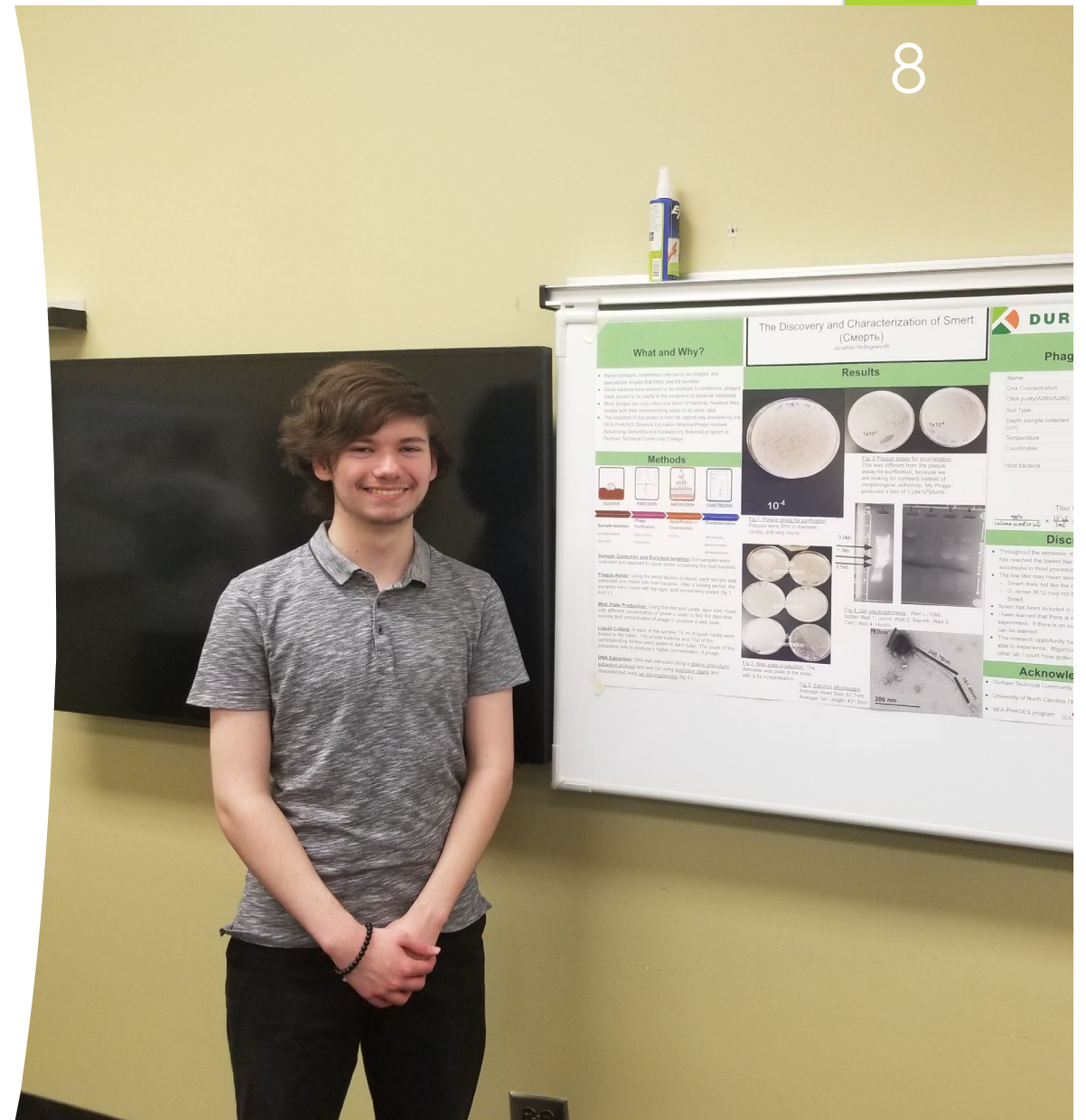
He is graduating with an **Honors Scholar Distinction** for completing four honors projects.



Jonathan Hollingsworth is currently majoring in Biology, hopefully transferring to UNC Chapel Hill next year. His life consists of school and sleep.

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William Humbert is transferring to Appalachian State University for the Fall 2020 semester after completing his Associate of Science degree at Durham Technical Community College. He will be majoring in Cell and Molecular Biology at App State.

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Gayle Krest is pursuing her Associate's degree in science at Durham Tech through Middle College. After graduation, she hopes to transfer or enroll in a four-year college program. She has also been on the President's list for superior academic achievement.

For her ENG 232 Honors Project with Professor Weberg, Ms. Krest delved into the writing of Zora Neale Hurston and Gwendolyn Brooks to show the ways they humanized women by challenging their gendered roles in society.

For her HIS 131 Honors Project with Professor DePalma, Ms. Krest compared the Culper Spy Ring of the American Revolution to modern espionage and found how advanced the Ring was during its time.



Elior Martinez Aguilar is pursuing his Associate in Science degree at Durham Technical College. He plans on transfer to NC State where he plans on majoring in physics.

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Elliott Richter moved to Durham in 2015 and started at Durham Tech in 2016. He was a professional chef for 21 years who came back to his original love and career in engineering. He owns and operates 3 businesses in engineering consulting, R&D, and hydroponics farming. He graduated December 2019 with a 3.704 GPA in Associate of Engineering Degree and will receive in 2020 an Associate of Science with a 3.742, primarily focused in Mechanical Engineering from Durham Technical Community College. His plans include transferring to NC State for a bachelor's degree in Mechanical and Biomedical degrees while growing and expanding his businesses.

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Borna Zareiesfandabadi moved to North Carolina 5 years ago as a refugee and is currently working towards their Associates of Science degree. They are planning to major in environmental sciences at UNC, after finishing their degree at DTCC. They hope to help sustain wildlife, which has been affected by global warming.

For their BIO 112 Honors Project with Professor Dyer, Borna's project explored the coral animal's thermal stress response to understand why coral "kicks out" algae at higher temperatures, the impact of coral bleaching on marine life, and mitigation efforts.



Valerie Zeigler plans to graduate from Durham Tech with an associate's degree and major in Biology to study/ pursue a career in the field of neurology. She is an artist who does commissions, she was selected for the Superintendent's Art Reception in 2019 and the Through Eyes of My Own gallery in 2018. She is a member of the North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble (NCYTE) and a Middle College student

For her BIO 111 Honors Project with Professor Ward, Ms. Zeigler appraised the role of CARD11 and its mutated protein structure in people with eczema.

