

Hunter Davis

Sabrina Chesne

NWACC Honors Program 04/05/2019

Class of 2019



## Honors Portfolio

### Classes Taken

- Honors World Religions, Professor Doug Kruger
  - This honors course taught me compassion and understanding for those of different faith backgrounds. The course also teaches the basic principles of a survey of world religions ranging from Judaism to Scientology; further, it also gave me the personal ability to take off my shoes and step into another person's viewpoints.
  
- Honors Public Speaking, Professor Marc Turner
  - Public Speaking is something that all, and some professors even, dread doing. It's not fun, it's sometimes not pretty; however, Honors Public speaking is precisely what taught me to be more comfortable when speaking in public, writing a speech, or preparing a presentation. This class taught me both, soft and hard skills and is well worth the investment for the credit hours and work. You will leave this class more prepared for any job market and will end the semester with the right amount of knowledge on speeches, presentations, and even debates.

- Honors American National Government, Professor Walter Hinojosa
  - Honors American National Government, was a class that updated me on the knowledge and background of our nations history, governmental system, and taught me how the government functions from the creation of laws to the final draft that hits the Presidents desk. This is an exciting class that provides insight into the world of politics and how the political system functions. Further, it also gave us some insight into Citizens United and the funding and capital that is required, to run a campaign and eventually become a lawmaker.
- Honors Gender Studies - Fall 2019, Professor Sharon Fox
- Honors Social Problems - Fall 2019, Professors David Kirsch
  - This class is going to provide a sociological insight into our society most prevalent “problems,” ranging from systematic issues, to structural, to looking at gender, sex, and sexuality. This class will provide insights for my sociology major, and aide me in crafting my sociological imagination for years to come. Further, it offers an excellent base understating of what we as a society have major working issues with and can provide us with ways to have an open and honest conversation about them.

## **Section One**

The NWACC Honors Program has provided me with several ways to demonstrate our core values of Community, Curiosity, and Diversity, in ways that I honestly did not expect. It has created engagement for me by providing me with exciting classes, in which I have been exposed

to social and political causes that I have become active and passionate about. For example, without taking world religions, I would not have found the American Atheists to whom I donate money to keep and maintain the separation of church and state.

Further, I have found a community that is genuinely passionate about one cause that connects us all at a national level. I was able to demonstrate curiosity by having interesting dialogue and debate with my peers in the program, whether it be on theology, sex, and sexuality, or to which is better peanut butter or jelly. But out of all these, I got different perspectives which drove my views and fundamentally helped my career and further academic pursuits by developing a decent sociological background on opinions in a vast depth of subject due to my interactions in the program.

Hunter Davis

Professor Douglas Kruger

Philosophy 2033H

05-01-18

#### Dudeism: The Most Holy Way of The Dude

Dudeism is a modern religion founded in 2005 by a man names Oliver Benjamin who was a journalist based out of Thailand. This religion is based of the protagonist from the Cohen Brother's movie "The Big Lebowski," in which his holiness The Dude teaches us all to be men. While Dudeism is new to the world we are accepted in the wider community even to the extent of being able to become ordained in the state of Arkansas. Philosophically we are a peaceful religion that teaches to be chill and be unlike another religion in the world.

## Section Two

I personally believe that the program has aided me in my academic life by challenging me and creating the ability for me to perform to a higher standard than what a healthy professor- student relationship would require. For example, in honors courses, we have to be prepared at all times to be able to accurately and fluently discuss the topics at hand, which is heavily encouraged at

the higher levels of academia as well as in other honors programs around the country. I personally think this asset that has been taught to me through the program. Another soft skill that I have further developed is interpersonal dialog, the honors lounge is a small and somewhat intimate space that creates the place for stimulating and involved conversations.

For example, the topics can cover literally any item without restriction to content, or quality, or even clarity; however, these conversations are practical development for interpersonal conversations between co-workers or another student. These are somewhat valuable skills that I would not trade for the world, the honors course also encourage so much more such as an increased level of thought, probing of questions, and standing up for one's own beliefs. I personally think that this program has made me a stronger person, a better thing, and fundamentally more aware of myself than I was two years prior. It's been amazing the growth on my own behalf as well as my peers and professors, we are growing every day to be better, and more inclusive of all ideas and philosophies.

### **Section Three**

Honestly my favorite and most memorable experience as a member of the NWACC Honors Program was the NWACC Foundation Holiday party. Ben Schapp former president of the HSA and I attended this fantastic holiday party provided by the college. We were there to represent the Honors Program to the college and the foundation. It was a magical experience in which I got to

meet some of the varied professors that the program offers as well as begin to craft my identity as an honors student. This event was my first event as a honors student and indeed exposed me to what honors are capable of. For example, I truly enjoyed being able to socialize with people like the president of NWACC as well as the board of trustees, and future professors like Dr. Sevin Gallo, and Dr. Chris Huggard whom have both given me great advice toward my history degree. This event was pretty much the sealing deal for my love of the honors program, the knowledge that I gained at this event has shaped my future and will continue to change my life further.



Another event in particular that comes to mind that truly shaped my relationships with the honors program was the programs blind date with a book. This is a very public event in which we share the gift of a book with random students around the campus. The gift of literature is truly something that anyone can connect with, plus it encourages our students to keep reading for fun through college, which fundamentally extends our goals as a program to a broader audience. This has brought us several new members as well as several old members reconnecting with friends. My participation in handing out book built character and brought me into contact with some of NWACCs most



diverse student, bringing their love of literature, to the table and risking it all with a randomized book.

## **Section Four**

My biggest recommendation to any new honors member, would have to be, don't be afraid, don't be scared to trust, don't be afraid to help one another, and don't be scared to challenge your identities, ideas, or mind. The honors program gives you a leg up to create community and create friends that can last a lifetime, I strongly encourage you to challenge yourself and go out and find something that makes you happy in this program, the paths are unlimited.