

# THE SCHOLAR

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2024  
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## Welcome New Scholars!

The Fall 2024 Semester saw many new students to the Honors Program. We wanted to give our new arrivals a chance to introduce themselves.



Hello everyone! My name is Kylee Harris. This is my first semester at Owens Community College! I am currently enrolled in their Psychology Transfer Pathway, as I plan to transfer to a university after graduation. I graduated from Holgate High School in 2024, in which I participated in CCP classes through Owens both my junior and senior year. In high school, I was a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, and Art Club. In my free time, I love to stay creative, discover new music, read romance novels, and spend time with my loved ones. I am very thankful for the opportunity to become a contributing member of the Honors Club, as I am eager to better my leadership skills and break loose from my comfort zone!

My name is Melana Cook. I grew up in Oak Harbor, Ohio. This is not only my first semester at Owens, but at college as well. Right now, I am currently majoring in chemistry, but I plan on transferring to the University of Toledo to major in drug discovery and design. I am very excited to be a part of the Honors Program and hope to be involved in this community!



My name is Elizabeth Nowak and I am in my second semester working toward an associate degree in Animation. I have been married for 23 years and my husband and I live in Toledo. We have 3 sweet guinea pigs. My dream for the future is to write a book and travel with my husband across America.

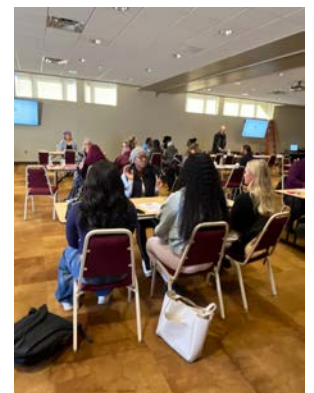
I am Jeron Howie. I am an NC native living in the Midwest for 16 years. I am currently in my final semester as a General Arts Student. This will be my second academic accomplishment because I obtained my Business Administration Degree in 2001. I love learning about any and everything, and everything about anything. I encourage my students in Dance and the Classroom. I also encourage my staff to learn continuously. As an educator and entrepreneur, I know that hard work always pays off and I utilize that same mindset with academics. I am thrilled to be an Honors student and a member of the Honor's Club here at OCC. I look forward to a wonderful semester!



## Human Library

Have you ever been to a library? A library has books, magazines, and any literature you want to read. The library is where an individual can take a book and read it. Libraries are knowledgeable, informational, and tangible for all. You are a library as well. Humans use their thoughts, imagination, and life stories to convey a story. The Human Library is a way for individuals to tell their stories and negate any stereotypes, biases, and misinformation about who they are and what they represent.

Our very own Honors student, Chalisa Rocker, attended the "Human Library", where she told her story and experience of her journey of becoming a "vegan". Readers can check out the book "human book" and hear the author's story. Don't judge a book by its cover, read the book first!



## Owens Honors Staff

### Michael Sander

*Honors Program Dean*

### Dr. Genesis Downey

*Honors Program Director, Honors Professor*

### Dr. Mohammed Elnahal

*Honors Mentor, School of Liberal Arts*

### Mary Kaczinski

*Honors Mentor, School of STEM*

### Janine Rosenthal

*Honors Mentor, School of Business, Hospitality Management, & Public Safety*

### Jami Williamson, MS, CSCS, TSAC-F

*Honors Mentor, School of Nursing and Health Professions*

### Denise Grupp-Verbon

*Honors Program Internship Manger*

### Jennifer Hazel

*Honors Professor*



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## Did You Know?

Honors scholars who take HON201 research and compose an article designed to educate readers on a topic associated with the BIG Read theme of the year. This semester, HON201 is researching various topics associated with Deaf culture and ableism. Scholars who participate earn Campus Engagement, as well.

### “Enhancing Accessibility In Higher Education: The Impact of Assistive Hearing Devices on Student Engagement and Inclusivity” By Wes Nelson

Globally, 430 million individuals live with disabling hearing loss, with many students in higher education facing significant barriers in academic settings that rely heavily on verbal instruction and group collaboration. Assistive hearing devices (AHDs) are crucial in fostering accessible and equitable learning by improving speech clarity and minimizing background noise, enabling students with hearing impairments to fully engage in their education. However, these students often encounter social challenges, including feelings of isolation, anxiety, and reluctance to seek support due to fear of stigmatization, which can impact their mental well-being and academic performance. Assistive technologies such as Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs), FM systems, induction loop systems, and real-time transcription services play a vital role in bridging communication gaps in classrooms, labs, and online learning environments. These tools enable students to focus, actively participate, and reduce the negative effects of hearing impairment. In alignment with legal requirements, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), educational institutions are responsible for providing such accommodations to ensure inclusivity. Owens Community College exemplifies this commitment through its Disability Resource Center, offering services like digital FM systems, captioning, and in-person interpreters. Director Christopher Hendricks, driven by a personal connection to the deaf community, has spearheaded initiatives that support accessibility, including the creation of an ASL Interpreter Preparation Program. His efforts aim not only to meet ADA requirements but also to enhance institutional and community awareness of implicit biases affecting students with hearing impairments. Assistive hearing devices, therefore, serve as more than auditory aids; they are fundamental tools that empower students to overcome academic and social barriers, promoting both academic success and mental well-being within an inclusive learning environment.

## Scarecrow Contest

On October 22 as part of this year’s Harvest Hangout, the Honors club member came together to create “The Terrifier Scarecrow”. To participate in this year’s scarecrow contest. Although the Honor’s club didn’t win this year, honors club members worked hard to create an amazing scarecrow, and hopefully we will win next year!



### **Sophie Kepling**

*President, Education Transfer Concentration*

### **CJ Boggs**

*Vice-President, Community and Family Services*

### **Alanna Lane**

*Secretary, Psychology*

### **Jennifer Lesko**

*Treasurer, Culinary Arts/Baking and Pastry/Event Planning*