

2016

Kelly Kramer Nominated for Honors Scholar of the Year

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/honorable_mention

Recommended Citations

MLA:

"Kelly Kramer Nominated for Honors Scholar of the Year," *Honorable Mention* 3. 2 (2016): Article 12.
Liberty University Digital Commons. Web. [xx Month xxxx].

APA:

(2016) "Kelly Kramer Nominated for Honors Scholar of the Year" *Honorable Mention* 3(2), Article 12. Retrieved from
http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/honorable_mention/vol3/iss2/12

Turabian:

"Kelly Kramer Nominated for Honors Scholar of the Year" *Honorable Mention* 3 , no. 2 (2016): Article 12. Accessed [Month x, xxxx].
[Liberty University Digital Commons](http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/honorable_mention/vol3/iss2/12).

Kelly Kramer

LU Honors' Nomination for 2017 VCHC Honors Scholar of the Year Award

The Honors Scholar of the Year is awarded to a student from a member institution that successfully embodies the scholarship, character, and ambition associated historically with honors students and the Virginias Collegiate Honors Council. The winner will be announced and awarded at the VCHC conference to be held in Norfolk at Old Dominion April 7-8, 2017.



Award recipients will receive registration and lodging at the VCHC spring meeting courtesy of the VCHC, a \$500 cash award, and their narrative may be published in a future edition of the Proceedings of the Virginias Collegiate Honors Council. The recipient will also have the opportunity to give a formal address based upon their application essay as part of the Annual Spring Conference of VCHC.

Once nominated by the member institution, then the student is asked to write an essay about being a part of an Honors community and what it has meant to her. The essay is below.

Kelly Kramer's Essay on Honors

When I visited Liberty University in high school, I knew that if there was one place I could find a home, it would be in the Honors Program. The first time I visited campus, I met Honors professors who later worked with me on my thesis, and Honors students who would become some of my closest friends. The Honors Program has defined my undergraduate experience in terms of service, academics, and community.

Since my sophomore year, I have been serving the Honors Program by writing and editing for two different journals published by the Honors Program, helping Honors students publish their research. This year, I shared my Liberty Honors story at an informational session for future Liberty students. I enjoyed the chance to talk with people about how they could find a community here, and to honor the Honors Program Director for his impact on my life. Dr. Nutter loves his Honors students and is involved in mentoring, serving, and teaching them whenever possible. Mentoring new Honors freshman has also been important to me, and I've been giving them advice about classes, housing, and professors whether they were on my hall or on my quiz bowl team.

On campus, I have tried to encourage an Honors community based on friendship and strong academics. I was in a community group with another like-minded Honors student my freshman year, and we have been close friends since. We brainstorm thesis ideas, encourage each other to do research and present at conferences, lead a Spanish Honors society together, and listen to each other vent during finals week. Together with one other honors student, we founded a blog that publishes student writers' thoughts on our campus speakers. While I have been a team captain and varsity player on Quiz Bowl, a national team competition where players answer questions on academic trivia, my goal is to encourage other players to do the best they can and represent our school well. I'm known for passing out gummy bears to boost team morale and making everyone listen to Hamilton on bus rides.

I have banded together with other Honors students to serve my community. Honors students and I have worked together on hall leadership, planning hall events, building community, and making sure no new student falls through the cracks. I have worked with Honors students on community service projects like Operation Christmas Child and knitting purses and teddy bears to go to underprivileged communities. Honors kids don't have much time or money, but I am often surprised by their generosity and willingness to serve.

What did I gain from four years in the Liberty Honors Program? At the bare minimum, it has changed my life professionally. I would not have been able to afford to go to college without the Liberty Honors Program. Because of my Honors scholarship, I have taken several unrequired courses, such as three semesters of French and five of Spanish, including two upper-level literature classes taught entirely in Spanish. I have loved my Honors coursework; I even took additional Honors seminars above and beyond what is required because I wanted to learn from a legendary professor who was about to retire. Through the Honors Program, I have done research with professors and been published, which has paved the way for me to attend graduate school.

Whenever I talk about Liberty, I have to mention how amazing our faculty are, and how much they have shaped my life. If I were not in the Honors Program, I would have had to wait until my sophomore or junior year to start taking classes with these professors; as it is, I did my thesis research with my professor from Honors English 221, the first English class I had as an undergraduate. My Honors thesis would have been worthwhile if only for the reading I did, but the best step in that process was meeting repeatedly with my chair. I first met him when I visited an Honors class as a high school senior, and his guidance, book recommendations, and insistence that I not write about everything were all hugely helpful. Honors professors have encouraged me in my dream of going to graduate school, given me advice in where to apply, and helped me with several technical steps of the applications. As a result of working with the Assistant Director of Honors to edit several of her academic articles and books, I have been honored to be listed in the acknowledgements of those books published by university presses. Honors professors have encouraged me in excellence, both professionally and personally.

In the end, however, the relationships with other Honors students are what have impacted my life the most. All four years of college, I have lived with Honors students for roommates: an older English major who shepherded my rocky freshman year, a brilliant interdisciplinary major who continues to shape my thinking in innumerable ways, and, finally a history major, my sister. Both student mentors I have had in college were an Honors kids. I have gone home with Honors kids

for Thanksgiving and spring break and been a bridesmaid in an Honors kid wedding. I have gone with Honors kids to on-campus plays, Oscar-winning movies, and indie bookstores. We have had Halloween- and Christmas-themed book exchanges and tried over-ambitious cooking projects. The people who I met through the Honors Program are responsible for the music I listen to, the books I read, and the games I play. When I marry my favorite Liberty Honors student in June, several of them will be in wedding party, and even more will be there with us to celebrate. The brilliant, caring people I have met in the Honors Program define my college experience.