

# Philadelphia University Honors Institute at Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson University

# Presentation Overview

- Program Description
- Plan of Study
- Sample Student Work
- Professional Associations
- Student Profile
- Faculty Profile
- Alumni Profile



# Ms. Karima Bouchenafa

HONORS INSTITUTE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



[Honors.Institute@jefferson.edu](mailto:Honors.Institute@jefferson.edu)



215-951-2761

The mission of the **Honors Institute** is to prepare students for professions of the future by creating a distinctive community of scholars who exhibit academic excellence and integrity.

The **Honors Institute** provides students with curricular & co-curricular experiences in general education, professional majors, and multi-disciplinary tracks.

**Honors** students will:

- Engage with faculty scholars, outstanding peers, and leaders from their respective fields
- Receive guidance about scholarly activity and research opportunities
- Participate in Honors courses that concentrate on perfecting communication and interpersonal skills
- Immerse in collaborative and interdisciplinary practice with students and faculty from a variety of majors and backgrounds

The **Honors Institute** values collaborative opportunities that promote the development of:

- Curiosity to pursue your own **QUESTIONS**,
- Empathy to **ADAPT** with respect to diverse perspectives,
- Confidence to **ACT** and apply knowledge in real-world conditions, and
- Courage to **CONTRIBUTE** ideas that make a difference.

The **Honors Institute** promotes inquiry and curiosity as our students contribute to their communities through leadership, innovation, creativity, global discovery, and research for a lifetime of learning.

## Curricular and Co-curricular Overview:

### Question Cornerstone

(1) Co-curricular:  
program expertise  
and/or research

### HONORS Core Courses

(5) Honors Sections of  
Hallmarks Core  
Courses:

- First Year Seminar
  - Ethics: Moral Philosophy
  - Writing 2
  - Contemporary Global Issues
  - Hallmarks Capstone
- (4) MAJOR COURSES
- Vary By Major

### Act Cornerstone

(1) Co-curricular:  
professional  
development

### Contribute Cornerstone

(1) Co-curricular:  
community  
engagement

### Adapt Cornerstone

(1) Co-curricular:  
global awareness


# Northeast Regional Honors Conference (Baltimore, MD, 2019)



Each year, the Honors Institute supports our students' participation in the Northeast Regional Honors Conference, hosted by the Northeast Regional Honors Council. The NRHC provides members with opportunities to exchange information, share ideas, and assist in the continued growth and development of honors students. The theme for the 2019 conference was "Generating Power: Influence. Impact. Endurance." The following five Jefferson Honors Institute students submitted compelling proposals and were selected to present at the 2019 conference:

- Rachel Alexander
- Tristy Paulose
- Melasia Pinder
- Quatia Powell
- Rosario Tineo



- **National Collegiate Honors Council**
    - Supports and enhances the community of educational institutions, professionals, and students in participate in collegiate honors education around the world.
  - **Northeast Regional Honors Council**
    - Organization of students, faculty, and administrators dedicated to the encouragement and support of undergraduate honors learning. Provides members with opportunities for the exchange of information, ideas, and assistance through annual conference, newsletter, and scholarships.
  - **Hosteling International, Great Hostel Give Back Program**
    - Provides opportunity for students to give back to communities while engaging in service and experiencing the culture and character of other cities.
  - **United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA)**
    - The UNA-USA supports the global work of the United Nations. Honors students serve as leaders of the Jefferson chapter and network with UNA-USA.
- 





## Suhail Tarazi

WEST CHESTER, PA  
CLASS OF 2023

Suhail is a freshman Pre-Med major at Jefferson, and he has already distinguished himself as a member of the Honors Institute, as well as president of the Jefferson chapter of the United Nations Association of the USA. In high school, Suhail dedicated himself to excellence in his studies and to enthusiastic commitment to community service, and he maintains that dedication here at Jefferson.

*“Thomas Jefferson University has the power to make great change in our community and those surrounding us. Here, I can immerse myself in a thoughtful environment with like-minded students and other leaders, stimulating conversation amongst my peers and acting upon the issues our campus and the communities around us face, such as hunger, poverty, and lack of quality education.”*



## Marcella McCoy-Deh, PhD

HONORS INSTITUTE, DIRECTOR  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN STUDIES, COLLEGE OF  
HUMANITIES & SCIENCES  
U.S. STUDENT FULBRIGHT ADVISOR

BA IN BROADCAST JOURNALISM FROM MORGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
MA IN MASS COMMUNICATION FROM BOWLING GREEN STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
PHD IN AMERICAN CULTURE STUDIES FROM BOWLING GREEN

In addition to being an educator, scholar and author, Dr. McCoy-Deh is a recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship Award. She is currently completing a year of teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in Ghana at the University of Accra-Legon.

### COURSES

---

- FYS100 - HONORS FIRST YEAR SEMINAR
- WRIT2XX - HONORS WRITING 2
- GLOB3XX - HONORS CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL ISSUES
- HALL499 - HONORS HALLMARKS CAPSTONE

# Dr. Marcella McCoy-Deh

Honors Institute, Director

*“Welcome! I have worked with the Honors Institute since 2002. It has been an extraordinary experience to assist students in charting their life paths. At this point, there are several Honors alumni who serve as inspiration for me! After serving as campus Fulbright Program Advisor for the past 10 years, I have embarked on a similar journey upon which I’ve set many other students: Tim Carroll (Peace Corps, Mali); Malcolm Ingram (Fulbright, Argentina); Tyler Fleming (Fulbright, Vietnam); Marisha Marsh (Peace Corps, Moldova); Libby Nichols (Fulbright, Germany). Currently, I am teaching courses in African-American Literature and American Studies at the University of Ghana-Legon (West Africa). You are in good hands with Associate Provost, Susan Frosten; Assistant Director, Karima Bouchenafa; Program Coordinator, Moira Pannepacker, and Undergraduate Assistant Mayerly Benavides! Until my return, in summer 2020, be well, do good and continue to soar! Honors education means thoughtful exploration of new and old ideas, a penchant for discovery, and a fearless approach to learning. The life hack I share with students is, ‘You can do it all - just not at the same time! Let’s map things out.’”*





## Tyler Fleming

RESIDENT PHYSICIAN, EINSTEIN MEDICAL CENTER  
BRIGHTON, NEW YORK (hometown)  
PHILADELPHIA, PA (current)  
CLASS OF 2012

In addition to seeking out opportunities to serve as a peer tutor and teaching assistant, Tyler Fleming presented his research at several conferences, co-authored an article with a faculty member, and studied abroad in Australia. Upon graduation, Tyler taught in Vietnam on a Fulbright fellowship. He then enrolled in Touro University of Osteopathic Medicine, during which time he won an Albert Schweitzer Award. He graduated from medical school in 2018 and is now a resident physician at Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia.

*“I really wanted to do the Fulbright the right way – which was getting away from my comfortable, Western, English-speaking world....I wanted to go someplace with a different viewpoint from my own. The Honors Institute helped to prepare me for this experience.”*





## Malcolm Ingram

ASSOCIATE, JACKSON LEWIS PC  
PHILADELPHIA, PA (hometown)  
PHILADELPHIA, PA (current)  
CLASS OF 2010

In addition to majoring in International Business, Malcolm was a Division II student athlete. Upon graduation, Malcolm received a Fulbright U.S. Student Award in Buenos Aires, Argentina to study the problem of pirated pharmaceuticals. He then went on to study at Temple University Beasley School of Law and graduated in 2018.

*“Take advantage of every opportunity offered to you at Jefferson. When I applied for the Fulbright Research Grant, the Honors Institute Director, Dr. McCoy-Deh, made sure I had everything I needed to produce a winning application.”*



## Elizabeth Libby Nichols

RESIDENT PHYSICIAN, UNC Medical Center  
BRIGHTON, NEW YORK (hometown)  
CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA (current)  
CLASS OF 2014

Libby Nichols was a pre-medical major at Jefferson who also excelled as a student athlete on the women's lacrosse team. She was the chapter president of Global Medical Brigades and participated in numerous other community service experiences. During her senior year, Libby won the Eileen Martinson Capstone Award to conduct a transdisciplinary study with engineering students. She was also a winner of a Fulbright U.S. Student Award to Germany to conduct research on the neurological effect that traumatic brain injuries such as concussions can have on athletes. She then went on to study at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and is now a resident physician at the UNC Medical Center.

*“Being an honors student encouraged me to pursue innovative research, and my education here fostered this particular Fulbright research project.”*



## Skylar Tibbits

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, MIT ARCHITECTURE DEPARTMENT  
DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER, SELF-ASSEMBLY LAB AT MIT  
MERION STATION, PA (hometown)  
CAMBRIDGE, MA (current)  
CLASS OF 2008

Skylar graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture degree and a minor in Experimental Computation. With support of his faculty, he started writing code and building installations during his undergraduate studies. After graduation, he went on to receive two graduate degrees at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), as well as a 2011 TED fellowship and other awards. He credits Jefferson with modeling passion in your career and teaching him to push boundaries and challenge conventions, which led to his interest in new technologies.

*Skylar's advice, "...fight your own legacy and conventions because that brings innovation."*



**Jefferson**

Thomas Jefferson University