

SPOTLIGHT for January 2020
Honors College Alumni

Eros Livierators graduated from the Honors College in May of 2019, with a double major in English and Philosophy. While at William Paterson, he completed a novella called *A Small Hell* with Professor Cioffari that became his Honors Research Project.

He is currently applying to graduate programs to pursue his Masters in Fine Arts in Poetry. While he's been accepted into Ohio State's MFA program, he's continuing to weigh his options. Although he finished his undergraduate work quite recently, he has already published a great deal. One of his flash fiction pieces, "Suburbs", has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize by *NUNUM*, a Canadian literary journal that blends flash fiction and art. A poem of his also won third place in *Into the Void's* poetry contest. His other recent publications include:

- "Breathless in Season; Mangled in Form—Chic", poetry, *Into the Void*, 2020
- "The System is Ruined", poetry, *High Shelf Press*, 2020
- "Time & Place" & "The Forms & Self", poetry, *The Notre Dame Review*, 2020
- "Fourth Dimensional Gods Can't be Blamed for Climate Decay", poetry, *High Shelf Press*, 2019
- "On Feeling", short story, *Map Literary*, 2019
- "Bipedalism in the City, Love in Genetics", poetry, *Cathexis Northwest Press*, 2019
- "On Art", poetry, *The Esthetic Apostle*, 2019

What were some of the unexpected bonuses you discovered while in the Honors College at William Paterson?

EROS: After dropping out of high school and receiving my GED I had expected to keep my head down, earn my degree, and leave. I had no idea how many friends amongst peers and faculty I would make during my undergraduate degree. It feels like every department has experts in their own fields who are always available to work or chat with students.

What are your writing goals?

I want to work in as many mediums as possible and be able to support myself from my work.

What advice might you give to incoming freshman in the Honors College?

Talk to your faculty members. Build a community with your peers, commiserate and celebrate together!

When/how did you discover that poetry would be your genre?

Towards the latter half of my undergraduate degree I began to obsess over the Anthropocene Era and technological acceleration. I thought that going forward, the general populous would lose interest in long-form writing, and the craft would become something to and for academics which became increasingly depressing. I want to communicate with people from my class and I knew poetry's immediate form allotted this privilege that I don't think any other medium has. I referred to the medium as "a story at gunpoint" and found that sentiments I expressed in stories that took months to write could be conveyed in a tight stanza. I fell in love with my clumsiness in the medium and committed to learning more after sampling Professor Salerno's graduate Creative Writing course.

What was a hurdle that you faced while in school and how did you figure out how to get past it?

Sleep. I didn't.

What are you most excited about as you think about getting your MFA?

I am really excited at the prospect of change, exploration, and experimenting. I want to use my time in an MFA to explore facets of identity that I haven't fully confronted in my writing while learning more about craft.

What has turned out to be the most important thing that one of your professors taught you?

I don't think I can pinpoint one professor. The English department taught me some invaluable lessons about craft and introduced me to some of my favorite works. However, one of the most important things I learned in college came from the philosophy department. The faculty in that department were incredibly encouraging and instilled this idea of never presuming something is "beyond my comprehension." I just assumed someone from my background would never be able to grasp concepts that I went onto write in depth about. I'll never doubt my ability to learn again and I'm grateful for it.

Following is a link to "Bipedalism in the City, Love in Genetics". a poem of Eros' that was published in *Cathexis Northwest Press* in 2018 If you click on the link at the top of the poem, you can hear Eros reading the poem aloud.

<https://www.cathexisnorthwestpress.com/bipedalisminthecity>



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