



## Honors Portfolio

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Graduation Spring 2020

### Honor classes

Fall 2018: Public Speaking, COMM1303H- Marc Turner

Spring 2019: Introduction to Theatre, Theatre 1003H-  
Ashley Edwards

Summer 2019: Exploring the Humanities, HUMN  
1003H- Sharon Fox

Spring 2020: Geology, GEOL 1114H- Dianne Phillips

Hello, if you are reading this portfolio you are either an honor student, an honor educator, or anyone. I am Dami, an international student from Nigeria. My first time in the United States was for my elder sister's graduation from the University of Arkansas. As I watched the graduation from my seat and saw my sister in her black gown and cap graduating with honors, I had a painful thought, "I might never have this graduation." At that time, I was accepted into a couple of universities, but they were too expensive to attend. My sister later told me about NorthWest Arkansas Community College, which was perfect for me because it was a lot cheaper than 4-year colleges and had a great transfer program. Taken from my sister's graduation and my experience getting into college, I wanted to be an exceptional student when accepted into NWACC. Clearly, I was accepted that is why I have a portfolio. I joined the Honors program because I believed (and still do) it was what I needed to give me that push, ensuring that one day I too am in a black gown and cap, graduating with honors. Being an honor student is more than a title, it is passion, determination, and lots of hard work. It is also about self-improvement, experience, relationship forming and strengthening, and fun.

**In what ways did the Program help you "demonstrate engagement," "cultivate curiosity," and "explore perspectives" (community, curiosity, and diversity)?**

A huge portion of the Honors program are the honor classes. One of the requirements of honor classes is engagement. It can be in a variety of ways like our group debate team in my Public Speaking class. Another one of my groups wrote, directed, and performed (practiced) a play in my Theatre class, we visited Crystal Bridges to explore and appreciate art in my Exploring the Humanities class, and our group "art" projects on the solar system and other taught material in Geology.

This is an essential perk of honor classes that makes them very interactive, starts and increases curiosity, and offers views into different perspectives.

Out of all my honor classes, my Theatre class really pushed me to be engaged. It made sense when I realized it was not a script writing, but a theatre class so I will actually need to be on stage doing something. This was a fun class for me, because I have been interested in acting for a long time, and this was probably going to be my closest stage experience. We wrote a play, created the scenes, practiced stage entrance and exit, included props, and acted the whole play different times. Also, I had the opportunity to see live plays at Theatre Squared. These were precious learning experiences for me because I got to see what our professor taught us in action. The plays also talked about issues like immigration and was portrayed from an immigrant's perspective, which made me view immigration in a different way. Yes, it was exciting!

My Geology class was all about curiosity. I am a business major, so I am not familiar with science classes. To me, science can be fun, but it is one of the things I had to study continuously to understand. I heard that the Geology honors was a good class to take, so I thought "Another journey, at least you will not be alone." In teams, we were to draw the processes Professor Dianne taught us. These activities made me curious, and it was the perfect opportunity to seek answers because I needed them anyway to learn and complete the projects.

For exploring perspectives, my Exploring the Humanities class is the perfect example. We studied Freud's theory of personality that argues the human behavior is the result of interactions among the three components of the mind: the id, ego, and superego. Then we studied different ways people have made art out of this theory, like Edvard Munch's painting "The Scream", James Joyce 600-page novel "Ulysses" (use of stream of consciousness), and E.E Cummings' poem "She Being Brand New." We studied architecture, cubism, assemblage, abstraction and photography, Picasso, T.S. Eliot, modern dance, futurism, and many more. When these are grouped into their genres and time, they make more sense in expressing the mood of their era and creators. There is more than one work of art in each genre, so I got to explore the diversity in the humanities, compare, and study each of them from their perspectives. I learned a lot, and my blind spots are decreased.

**How did this program prepare you for a university (or for a workplace, if you aren't transferring at this point)? What hard or soft skills will you take with you?**

As a business major, I need skills like public speaking, teamwork, creativity, and presentation. I have learnt all these from the Honors program, as I took a full

course on public speaking, where I learnt to make my speech outline, how to deliver different types of speeches like persuasive vs. commemorative, how to make my presentation during speeches professional, etc. Best part is I delivered different speeches; I got the experience! Teamwork is a skill that I have learnt and practiced in my honor classes, it takes creativity to make my poster on the prose “Wild Harbour” by Ian Macpherson in Exploring the Humanities, and I also presented the poster. This was my first time making and presenting a poster, it took a lot of work on my part, and it was definitely worth it! All these skills help prepare me for a smooth transition into the university I am transferring to, because they are not new or foreign to me anymore, but skills I have learnt and practiced.

**What is one experience you had while a member that you'd like to share?**

My first semester at NorthWest Arkansas Community College, I took my first honors class; Public Speaking. I remember how I felt, “Wow, these people really are ahead, they know a lot”, by the way Reece Hodgson and Niala Gotel were speaking intellectually and had ideas that did not cross my mind. I need to say this, “I was shook”. They made me have that fire for self-improvement, and it made sense when Reece stood in front of the class and invited us to the Honors Program, that that was where I needed to be. Ultimately, the Honors Program will not be the same without the amazing input from the people (student and staff).

**Considering all you have written for the above, what advice do you have for new members? This answer should be “short and sweet.”**

My advice for new honor members agrees with the words of the man that made our childhoods fun, Walt Disney, “*If you can dream it, you can do it. Always remember that this whole thing was started by a mouse.*” If you do not have goals, make them, if you have goals, do follow them being aware but not dwelling in the difficulty. Never give up (sounds overused, but cannot be any truer), focus on the big picture to dim out distractions and hurdles. Yes, it is true... you have no limits, so what are you going to do with your limitless lives?

