

# ❁ Danielle Anna Gloy ❁



## Honors Classes:

Public Speaking (Marc Turner)

English Composition II (Jim Laughton)

Geology (Dianne Phillips)

Film Arts (Marc Turner)

## Section I

### Community, Curiosity, Diversity

Roy T. Bennett once said, “It is only after you’ve stepped out of your comfort zone that you begin to change, grow, and transform.” I personally believe that this statement could not be truer. In the year 2019, I packed my bags and made my way to the United States, all the way from South Africa. I was so nervous coming to an American college because I did not know if the teaching styles were going to be different, how difficult the teaching material would be and if I would be able to adapt to the technological advances. I never left high school with great grades, in fact, my grades were quite low, and I lost all confidence in my schoolwork. So, when I was approached with the opportunity to join the honors program, at NWACC, I felt extremely intimidated as my first thought was, “I am not smart enough.” I learnt, however, that the honor

classes are not about being smart, instead, they are about engaging, applying yourself, thinking outside of the box, and discovering your strengths and weaknesses. The smaller classes created a non-traditional learning environment that were challenging, motivating, and educational in the most fun way. I did not let my past school experiences impact the new possible opportunities in front of me, I stepped out of my comfort zone and challenged myself to push further and as a result, my grades, and confidence naturally started to improve. The honors environment was completely different, in the most stimulating way. Joining the honors program was something I never expected to do, but it was one of the best decisions I made as it changed me, grew me, and transformed me in more areas than one. For example, it completely changed how I viewed and engaged with the community.

When I think about the word 'community' and associate it with the honors program, there are multiple experiences and thoughts that come to mind. Firstly, I think about the community created within the honors program. I

never expected to form such strong relationships with other members, but the more I got to interact with them, the more I realized that every member was curious, supportive, welcoming, diverse and had different interests, goals, and backgrounds. Although

there were different honor students with different degrees, everyone connected through humor, classes, engagement projects, memories, and new perspectives. The more we got to know one another, the more our little group turned from a strong community to a fierce family, and with each new member that joined, the family grew, and we as individuals grew too. The



diversity of the students in the program is what helped me grow the most. Each member that



had a different ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, religious or political belief introduced me and educated me in so many areas that I may have been oblivious or ignorant to. The diversity created such a respectful, loving environment that constantly provided room for more learning opportunities. It was such an amazing, beautiful, and unforgettable

experience. The honors program not only formed a community, but it challenged us to engage with and serve our community outside of NWACC's walls. For example, one of the projects that we did was to pick up litter on the streets of Bentonville. It was an act so simple, yet so impactful! Not only were we able to serve our community but the experience, for me personally, transformed my heart and motivated me to do more for my community.

## Section II Preparation

The honors program has prepared me for university multiple ways. The first being, public speaking, came when I took a honors public speaking class with Professor Marc Turner. This was my first ever honors class and so I was extremely nervous as I had no idea what to expect. The class, however, exceeded all my expectations and made me a better public speaker and individual. Mr. Turner taught us how to present a speech with confidence, skill, and respect. We not only did written and rehearsed speeches, but we also did impromptu,

debates, and so much more. I know that moving forward into university, I will be faced with many more public speaking situations like speeches, presentations or debates which is why I am thankful that I learnt how to write, outline, and present a professional speech and presentation. Mr. Turner prepared us for so many different realistic speaking situations, he guided us out our comfort zone and helped us build a confidence in ourselves in preparation for life outside of college.

The honors program has not only prepared me for university but the workplace too. For example, the second way that it prepared me was through teamwork. Teamwork has not always been my strong suit as I would try take on all tasks and get everything done myself. The honors program, however, changed that and taught me how to delegate, trust and work with a team. In our Geology class we were faced with a lot of group projects; at first, I was hesitant, but the more I got to know my other group members, listen to them and their perspectives,



and understand everyone's strengths and weaknesses, the more I was able to depend on them and find my position in the group. This group experience made me more understanding towards my peers. The growth that I had in this area of teamwork is probably one of my favorite and most

valued lessons from the honors program as I know that in university and the workplace, I am always going to find myself working with a group at one point and I truly believe that the program has prepared me to do that.

## Section III

### Experiences

This is probably one of the most difficult sections to write about, as each experience, whether it be the engagements with the people, the projects or activities, or the classroom interactions, were so awesome and unique in their own way that it was difficult to try and pick a favorite. I have three top experiences when it comes to the honors program, the first being games night. Games night was one of my first group activities that I went to and it was definitely a night I would not forget. Everyone was so welcoming, competitive (in a very healthy way), motivational and incredibly humorous. Every games night that I went to was filled with laughter, anticipation, and lots of debates. The stressors of the week were completely forgotten, and it just became a time of enjoyment. My absolute favorite experience, however, that I will forever hold dear to my heart, happened over a 16-week period in the spring of 2020. It was the semester that I registered for English Composition II with Professor Jim Laughton. Mr. Laughton's class was entertaining, intriguing, and so encouraging that I would look forward to attending his lessons every week. Mr. Laughton is an incredible professor who teaches with so much passion and support for his students. He helped me and pushed me in every one of my assignments and his encouragement made me want to be a better student. Attending his class was my favorite takeaway experience NWACC.



## Section IV

### Advice

My advice to you would be to get involved and make use of the resources provided to you. NWACC has multiple resources available to students, for example, there is tutoring, the writing center, library, and so much more. There are endless opportunities offered that are there to help students learn and succeed; all you have to do is go for it! Getting involved in different clubs, associations, and campus activities also enhances your college experience, helps you build community, and allows you to serve in areas of your interests. Apply yourself, have fun, and try new things, because just like Roy T. Bennett once said, “It is only after you’ve stepped out of your comfort zone that you begin to change, grow, and transform.”

