

## Sara Johnson

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### Classes and Graduation Date

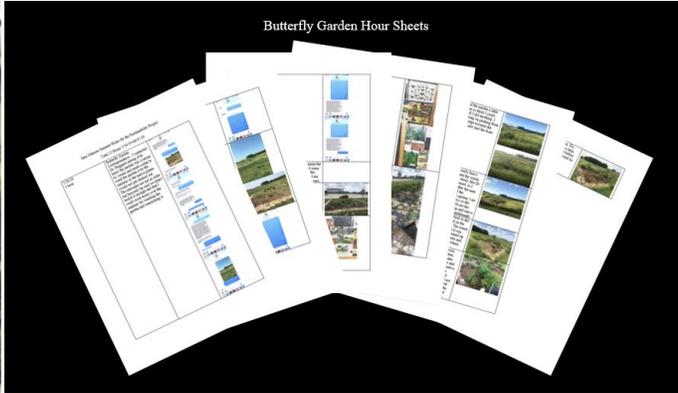
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Classes I took in the honors program included General Sociology SOCI 2013H with Janet Dodd, History of American People Since 1877 HIST 2013H with Dr. Chris Huggard, Intro to Philosophy PHIL 2003H with Dr. Douglas Krueger, and Introduction to the United Nations PLSC 1303H with Matt Evans. My graduation date is December 2019.

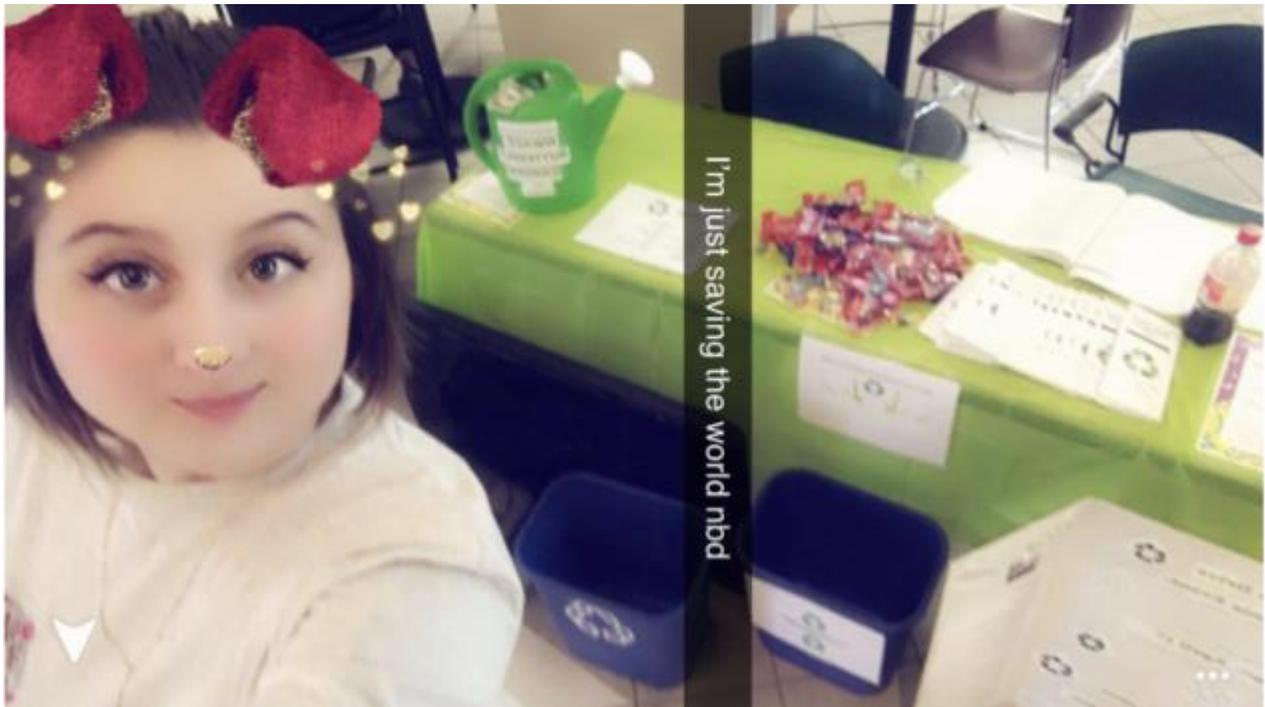
### **In what ways did the Program help you “demonstrate engagement,” “cultivate curiosity,” and “explore perspectives” (community, curiosity, and diversity)?**

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The Program helped me “demonstrate engagement” through Service Learning experiences. I had the option to participate in several projects including the Native American project, the Sustainability project, and the Women’s project. The Women’s project was not an official project when I first got involved in Service Learning, so I got involved in the Sustainability project. I was surprised when a lot of people showed up to the first meeting and only four showed up to the second meeting. I became very hands-on when I saw the dwindling numbers and became driven to help the NWACC Butterfly Garden become a garden that semester after three years of procrastination and mishaps. After three years the garden was just a dirt plot with rocks and a lot of weeds. I felt sorry for Dr. Huggard, the leader of the Sustainability project and a farmer being forced to watch a bunch of kids fumble with his garden for six semesters. I was very involved in the Butterfly Garden and helped get it to the planting stage. Below is a photo of the plant collection run and a copy of my hour sheets from the garden.



After a few weeks of working on the garden, no educational project ideas emerged from our team, so I introduced an idea for creating an Electronics Drive. I called a lot of people at the NWACC until I finally got in touch with the department that reserves tables for events and got a table sent to the Student Center, then emailed the other students volunteer opportunities for the table. Two other students helped run the Drive and we collected three truckloads of recyclable electronic waste that would otherwise be trashed and pollute the environment. We safely recycled the items and taught the public about good recycling habits. Below is a photo of our electronics collection table with educational posters and a donation jar for the butterfly garden. Three other students and I collected three truckloads of electronics and transported them to Fayetteville for safe recycling.



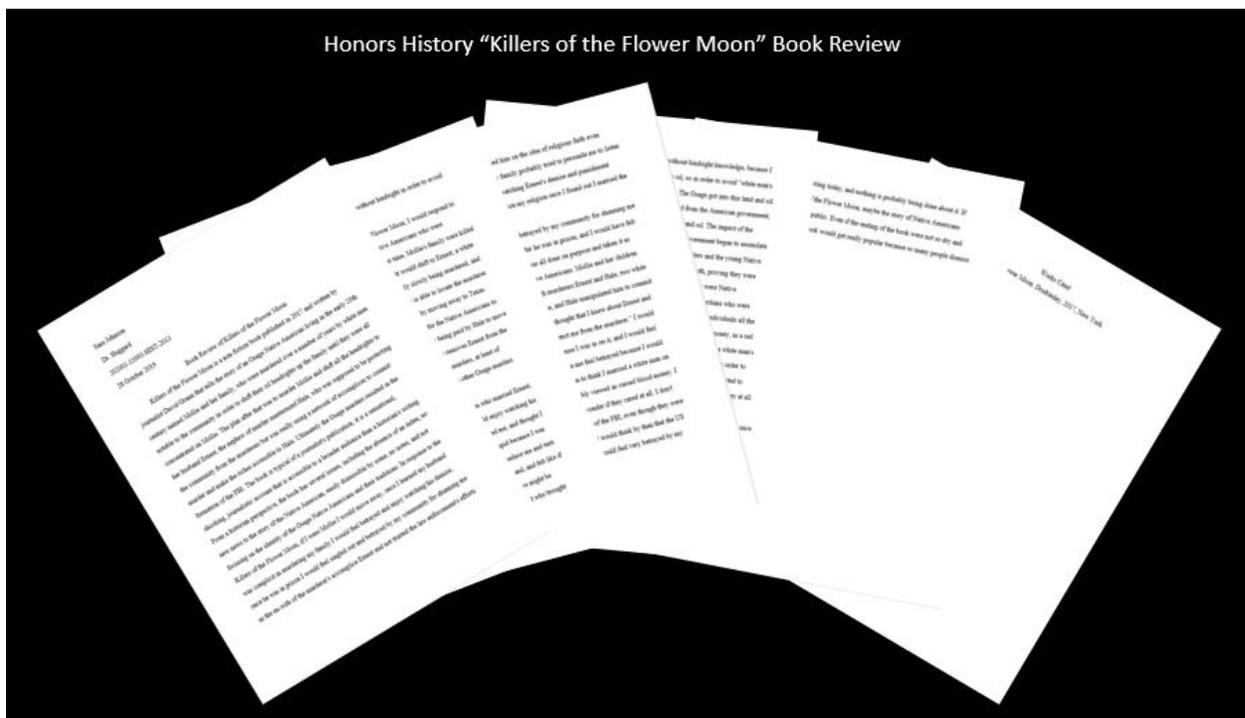
The NWACC Honors Program helped me “demonstrate engagement” through Service Learning experiences with the Sustainability Project.



The Program helped me “explore perspectives” (community, curiosity, and diversity) by putting me at odds with new people. I had a lot of opportunities to get involved in new perspectives of the community outside of the Sustainability Project and even outside of campus, but I was very busy this semester and only participated in what I could.

I explored perspectives in curiosity in Honors Philosophy and Sociology, where we learned several new viewpoints, especially in religion, and I got to see what topics other students were most interested in learning.

When it comes to diversity in perspectives, I considered myself an open minded person until I went to college for the first time. I thought I had grown to be a very open minded person after a few years, but when I got to the Honors lounge, I learned I am still very ignorant. I was talking to some friends about homosexuality, and within a few seconds I learned that I really know nothing about the LGBTQ community. I learned a lot about the LGBTQ community that day, and still have a lot more to learn. I also learned about the Native American community in Honors History with Dr. Huggard. He assigned us “Killers of the Flower Moon” which is a true story about the Osage murders in Oklahoma. We have the Osage River in Northwest Arkansas, so as I read the story, it was very real to me. Below is the book review I wrote for the “Killers of the Flower Moon” by David Grann.



The Program helped me “explore perspectives” in community, curiosity, and diversity by putting me at odds with new people in the Honors Society.

**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?**

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The Honors Society program prepared me for a university by giving me the opportunity to explore my hard and soft skills. I learned that I do not do well in online based classes because I am not very good at time management. My time management improved this semester a lot because I learned I should use alarms and reminders for everything, which is something I will take with me to work and a university. I learned how to use a lot of collaborative media that I have never used before, which will be useful in the workplace and any group projects I have at the university. My teamwork skills improved a lot this semester as well because I had the Sustainability Project for the second semester in a row, and I noticed that it was much easier to work in a group this time. I learned it is always better to voice final decisions a second time because a lot of people seemed confused about what was happening. I assumed everyone followed along with the conversation and heard what we decided, but a few days later I would get a lot of texts asking if an event was happening or when and where. This skill will mostly be useful in the workplace. The Honors program at NWACC prepared me for a university by improving my time management, teamwork, and communication.

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

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One experience I had while a member of the NWACC Honors Society that I'd like to share is my first day in the Honors Lounge. I walked into the Honors lounge not knowing what to expect and walked out with ten new friends. The Honors students are very welcoming. I am a very socially awkward person, but I felt like I could open up to these people and have a new community of friends and fellow students that I could go to at any time for any reason. I talked with students in the lounge for about three hours the first day, and I am not a talkative person. I feel like this society has really improved my social skills in addition to my academic and workplace skills. My first day in the Honors Lounge is a great experience I had while a member of the Honors Society that I would like to share with others.

**Considering all you have written for the above, what advice do you have for new members?**

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My advice to new members is to never change your major and be open to new people and situations.