



TUA Human Services Honor Society News

Greetings from the Vice President!

This semester brought about a lot of changes for our school: new students to ODU, changes in COVID-19 protocols for the campus, and new members and officers in TUA. Although we all had to deal with various changes throughout the school year, we still kept our minds focused on our studies to finish out the year strong! Some of our members are seniors that are graduating from ODU, who have worked very hard, despite their various challenges, to reach that monumental goal. While they will be missed, we send them all best wishes in the next phases of their lives. Other members have been newly inducted into our honor society, which is a testament to the dedication they have placed in earning exceptional grades in their courses. TUA was able to host a heartwarming induction ceremony/graduation celebration for our members and their guests, and the compassion felt from family and friends was definitely felt throughout the program.

As current Vice President, as well as a new inductee into Tau Upsilon Alpha Honor Society, I am very excited about what is on the horizon for our organization. Working with my colleagues on the TUA Executive Board has been very rewarding and motivating to ensure I do everything I can for those in this prestigious society. I want to thank current President Jeffrey Martin, Secretary Heather Disbrow, and Chapter Advisor Dr. Radha Horton-Parker for all the help, encouragement, hard work, and creativity they have brought to continue making TUA the best it can be, as well as for helping me in my role. You are a dynamic group of individuals.

As we prepare for our next semester, we are working on planning different events, displaying more of a social media and campus presence, looking to fill additional roles on our Executive Board, and hoping to induct many new members into the Tau Upsilon Alpha Human Services Honor Society. We look forward to a wonderful new semester!

Sincerely,

Miriam Gourdine, Vice President of TUA

TUA Human Services Honor Society Spring Activities

By Heather Disbrow, TUA Secretary

During the Spring semester, the Beta Gamma Chapter of the Tau Upsilon Alpha Human Services Honor Society continued to work towards our goals of excellence and service. We joined together in virtual meetings to discuss areas of development and to brainstorm opportunities for growth. We learned that while TUA members may be separated due to distance, we are united in our efforts to promote and reflect the TUA missions: to honor academic excellence; to foster lifelong learning, leadership and development; and to promote excellence in service to humanity. Members, including Gary Preston and Jeffrey Martin, were excited to partner with the Human Services Association in an official capacity by supporting and participating in the Valor Run on March 27, 2022. The Valor Run raises funds which directly go towards college scholarships for students whose mothers have actively served in the military since 9/11. TUA members generously gave their time to actively assist in the race, while others donated money, helping to raise \$1,594.

We want to highlight the amazing human services work undertaken by members while representing TUA. While distance made it a challenge to collaborate on service initiatives, TUA members generously gave of their time and efforts to create positive changes within their communities in the human services field. Vice President Miriam Gourdine volunteered her time serving as the program coordinator with the NATASHA house, which is a rehabilitation home for homeless mothers and their children. She also generously offered her volunteer services this Spring providing haircuts and hairstyling with 4 Oaks Day Center, a center for the homeless community. This center allows homeless people to be able to come during the day to bathe, get a meal, and just spend the day in a safe place. In addition, Miriam reflects the TUA values of excellence and service as a board member of the LiveLovePaint Foundation which is an organization that encourages creative expression in children.

Bonnie Murphy completed a human services internship this Spring with Therapeutic Alliance, LLC as a Behavior Technician providing ABA services to children diagnosed with ASD. She also worked with Volunteers of America helping the homeless population providing case management. Heather Disbrow, TUA Secretary, volunteered 80 hours this semester at the International Rescue Committee in Charlottesville, VA. She spent this time as a Case Aide and resettlement volunteer, completing activities such as recording case notes, shopping for groceries for incoming refugees, and driving clients to health care appointments. It is inspiring to see the impact TUA members have had within their communities. As the semester draws to a close, we are hopeful to continue to make progress towards our missions and make plans for an impactful future. We have included some photos showing our members hard at work engaging in community service.

Here are a few of our TUA members in action!



Vice President, Miriam Gourdine at the NATASHA House



Secretary Heather Disbrow, at the International Rescue Committee

During Spring 2022, we were honored to hold an induction ceremony and graduation celebration for members. At this ceremony, we were pleased to induct the following new members:

Gary Preston *

Miriam Gourdine

Colleen Bilderback *

Bonnie Murphy

Sarah Witt

*** (Indicates no photo was available)**



Pictured from left to right: Miriam Gourdine, Bonnie Murphy, and Sarah Witt

During the event, we also honored the following Spring and August 2022 graduating members:

Jen Boulware

Jenny Funes

Melissa Yates

Kaelyn Wagner

Sarah Witt

Colleen Bilderback

Bonnie Murphy

Family, friends, and colleagues were invited to honor and celebrate our inductees and graduating members over Zoom. We had a wonderful ceremony and were able to honor each of these members. As this semester ends, we look forward to making new plans for the Fall 2022 semester to continue to provide excellence in service to humanity.

Please see below the heartwarming photos of some of our TUA graduates, along with their loved ones who helped them succeed! Congratulations and may your futures be bright!



Pictured from left to right: Sarah Witt, Melissa Yates, and Bonnie Murphy