I am very excited to welcome each member of the Commonwealth Honors College community to another academic year. I had the pleasure of meeting many new honors students and their families during move-in weekend. On behalf of the faculty and staff, I want to thank you—the close to 640 students who make up the class of 2022, as well as the more than 100 transfer students—for choosing Commonwealth Honors College. I look forward to meeting each of you and I invite you to share your enthusiasm and experiences with the students, faculty, and staff you will encounter in your new living-learning community.

A warm welcome to our returning students, as well as to those joining CHC for the first time. As you move closer to achieving honors excellence, I encourage you to deepen your engagement in our community and participate in many honors activities. Exciting Pizza and Prof talks are coming up, giving you the chance to meet faculty from around the campus, and learn about their research. Advising has already been meeting with many of you, to plan your honors courses over the next few years. Our Writing Coach is holding office hours and is available to help honors students structure their papers. The Junior Year Common Experience course on the 1960s is giving an opportunity for CHC students across different majors to engage in this fascinating decade, and meet a variety of faculty experience on the decade. We encourage you to take the time to engage in all these learning opportunities.

This year marks the return of the thesis or project requirement. In their senior year, all students entering Commonwealth Honors College in the fall of 2018 and after will complete original research or artistic endeavor, with an analytic component. We look forward to the ways that our new students will make their contributions to new knowledge as they move through their academic programs and research.

As we enter this new academic year, I want to reaffirm our collective commitment to building a community of dignity and respect, an Honors community that strives to be inclusive of all. Please know that all are welcome here at Commonwealth Honors College. In this very special place, you will learn, and participate in, the best of what has been created, no matter what your field of study.

Have a wonderful year!

Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina
Dean, Commonwealth Honors College

View Dean Gerzina's bio