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## Honors Oracle, April 2016

Marshall University Honors College

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# Honors Oracle

Marshall University's Honors College newsletter • April 2016

## Honors seminar asks students to think critically about food

By KASEY MADDEN

College professors teaching a class for the first time may have trouble engaging their entire class.

Professor Zelideth Rivas is an assistant professor in the Department of Modern Languages at Marshall, and embraces student involvement, as she is teaching in the Honors College for the first time this semester. This semester is also the first time her honors seminar, *Eating Identity: Food Culture and Politics*, has been offered.

When the Honors students in Rivas's class speak up, they have one subject matter: food.

To get students talking, Rivas uses a combination of hands-on activities, pop-culture videos and food tastings. Once this semester, her students had questions they wanted to ask a chef, so Rivas went to a restaurant and recorded the chef's answers for the class to listen to.

Rivas said her experience teaching at liberal arts colleges smaller than Marshall influences the way she teaches her seminar.

"I also don't think that they are fa-

miliar with my style of teaching, so it's been really fun to get to know each other and think of ways outside the box," Rivas said.

Junior exercise science major Lauren Campbell said she took the seminar because she enjoys food and learning about it.

"We've learned basically how to look at food in a whole new way," Campbell said. "Not as just sustenance but you're looking at why do you eat this food, your background and your family history and how does that influence the food you eat."

Rivas shared with her class she once wanted to become a vegetarian, but each month would be at the taco truck in her town, eating beef tongue tacos. She said it was not until someone else pointed out to her that she did this because it was a comfort for her in a new city that she realized it had become a comfort food for her.

"I think that food brings us a type of comfort and this is where the term 'comfort food' comes from," Rivas said, "but when we stop and think what



KASEY MADDEN | HONORS ORACLE  
Students in Rivas's class learn how to look at food in a whole new way.

is our comfort food, it's not going to be the same as everyone else, and as we're moving in this class toward thinking about race and identity and class, that's going to affect our food choices."

Rivas said the remainder of the semester will be focused on food justice, food activism and recipe creation. The students' final project will be to create a recipe based upon how it reflects their identity.

Rivas said she welcomes taste testers for the final project presentations on Tuesday, April 26 from 4 p.m. to 6:20 p.m., location to be determined.

## Spring into priority registration

By AMANDA GIBSON

Honors College students will be able to register for classes beginning midnight April 7 through April 8.

Students in their second year or above automatically received priority registration. First-year students who came in for fall advising last semester will automatically get priority registration as well and were not required to make an advising appointment this semester.

Ecology and evolutionary biology major Stephanie Woodrum said priority registration allows her to get the classes she needs.

"I actually get the classes I need so that I don't have to

wait around three semesters to get one class," Woodrum said.

Honors College academic advisor Sande Yentes said students with priority registration, whether they register at midnight or the next morning, are only part of a handful of students who can register who may want the same class.

"The thing for students to keep in mind is if you're trying to get into an athletic training class, or an accounting class or something, you've got the pick of the crop," Yentes said.

However, Yentes said honors courses are different than

## Priority Registration Continued

regular courses because they are more in demand during the priority registration period.

“If you’re trying to take an honors class, everybody who is wanting to get in that class has priority registration as well,” she said.

Yentes said honors courses can fill up fast, so the closer students register to midnight, the better their chances are

of getting into an Honors course.

Students who want to write for the Honors Oracle, serve on the Honors College Student Association Steering Committee or take an Honors 480-level seminar must have signed up for advising appointments, as they have to be manually added to the classes.

## Life as an honors resident advisor

By HANNAH HALL

There are only a handful of individuals on Marshall’s campus who understand what it is like to balance the coursework of being an honors student and the demands of being a Resident Advisor (RA).

Third-year student Casey Hudock has been an RA in the First Year Residence Halls’ Honors Living Learning Community (LLC) for the past two years. On top of that work, she is also majoring in exercise science, and keeping track the extra coursework from her honors classes. Hudock said being an RA can be a lot of work.

“Being an RA is more time consuming than people think,” Hudock said. “There’s a lot of behind the scenes work with all of the meetings we go to, and we do bulletin boards and door decorations and planning programs and also just handling any incidents that could occur.”

Hudock said her different roles require her to be creative when it comes to time management.

“As an honors student,” Hudock said, “usually you’re taking more classes and harder classes, especially being a health professions major taking a lot of big science classes. So, you definitely have to know how to manage your time well.”

Director of Resident Life Derek Genco said keeping up with the Honors College requirements and thriving as a RA is a lot of work for students who juggle both.

“They are awesome students, as well as having to be awesome workers and

RA’s as well.” Genco said. “The workload is considerably larger just from talking to students in the Honors College and talking to honors RAs. If you can do it, all the praise in the world to you, but it’s some work.”

Hudock said there are many differ-

about things that will interest them and draw them out.”

As an RA in an Honors Learning Living Community, Hudock said she has seen first-hand the benefits of living in this kind of environment.

“In an LLC, you’re living around people who have the same classes as you,” Hudock said, “so it’s super easy to get together if students have the same FYS class and they are doing a project. Also, being able to talk to other people and get tips about classes and professors is really easy.”

Honors freshman Hannah Fetty is a resident in Freshman North’s Honors LLC. Fetty said that living in an Honors LLC is beneficial as well.

“The Honors LLC is definitely quieter than other floors,” Fetty said. “It’s nice being surrounded by other

students who want to challenge themselves by being in the Honors College. When you get together with other people on your floor, you know that they’re going to be focused on whatever you may be studying.”

Hudock said she strongly encourages her residents and any honors student to complete the Honors College curriculum.

“The Honors College is a really good opportunity for people if they can stick with it,” Hudock said. “Being in the Honors College gives you an opportunity that other students don’t have. I definitely encourage all of my residents to stick with it.”



HANNAH HALL | HONORS ORACLE  
Hudock’s bulletin board welcomes honors student in Freshman Year North Honors LLC.

ent aspects of being an honors RA, including challenges that might not be present when working with non-honors students.

“There’s a lot of times that we have to do honors specific programs,” Hudock said. “We had a pizza party for honors registration night, and we’ve had an ice cream social for the honors kids to get to know each other. We also collaborate with Willis, the other honors residence hall. It’s hard working with honors students sometimes. They are the ones that tend to focus on school so it’s hard to get them out of their rooms and involved in what’s going on. When we plan programs we really have to think

# Honors student leads Works In Progress event

By KYRA BISCARNER

Junior communications disorders major Heidi Dennison has always wanted to help people. For her internship through the Anthropology Department, she had to develop a way to help students and faculty. To do this, she said she decided to bring back the Works In Progress events.

“Part of my role in my internship was to help students and faculty prepare for conferences and to polish their work,” Dennison said. “I thought that the Works in Progress events would be a good way to do that.”

According to the event’s website, the Works in Progress events were initiated by anthropology professor Dr. Brian Hoey in 2012. He said the event was created to help in the drafting process for presentations.

“Back in 2012 I brought a group of students to the Southern Anthropological Society conference,” Hoey said. “I knew that they needed to polish the presentations as they were working on them. We could’ve done that, just the group of us alone, but I thought ‘Well wouldn’t this be a

good chance to have them present in front of an audience and learn from that experience?’”

This is the fourteenth session of the Works in Progress events, and Hoey said he believes the program has been very successful so far.

“I know for a fact that the people who have done it have gone on and done important things and presentations,” Hoey said.

Dennison said she shares Hoey’s beliefs about the success of the Works in Progress events.

“People who have attended have been really helpful to the presenters,” Dennison said. “So it’s been really beneficial and we’re looking for more people to present at our future sessions.”

Anyone interested in participating in or helping with Marshall Works in Progress events can contact Dennison at [marshallwip@gmail.com](mailto:marshallwip@gmail.com).

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## Meet the Honors Oracle Staff

GABI WARWICK, executive editor

Gabi is a senior broadcast journalism major from Martinsburg, W.Va. She joined the Honors College in 2013 and aspires to be a broadcaster at Rooster Teeth.

JARED CASTO, layout editor

Jared is an online journalism major from Ripley, W.Va. He entered the Honors College in 2014 and aspires to enter the field of journalism after graduation or continue his education.

CLARA MAYNARD, assistant editor

Clara is a public relations major from Chapmanville, W.Va. She joined the Honors College in 2013 and aspires to obtain her masters degree in public relations and doctoral degree to become a professor.

NANCY PEYTON, social media director

Nancy is an online journalism and political science double major from Pecks Mill, W.Va. She entered the Honors College in 2014 and aspires to work for The New York Times as a reporter.

KYRA BISCARNER, staff writer

Kyra is a freshman broadcast journalism and internal affairs major. She joined the Honors College in 2015 and aspires to be an international correspondent for a major news network.

AMANDA GIBSON, staff writer

Amanda Gibson is a junior print journalism student from Pocahontas County, West Virginia. She has been in the Honors College since 2014 and has been a staff writer for “The Honors Oracle” for two semesters. Amanda hopes to become an editor for a newspaper or magazine after graduating college.

HANNAH HALL, staff writer

Hannah Hall is a freshman elementary education major at Marshall University. She entered the Honors College in 2015 and is involved in the Honors College Steering Committee as well as BCM.

KASEY MADDEN, staff writer

Kasey is a junior public relations major and a marketing minor. She has been in the Honors College since 2013 and has written for the Honors Oracle since 2015. Kasey still isn’t sure what she wants to be when she grows up, but is considering going to law school. In her spare time, you can find her interning for University Communications.