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## Honors Oracle, November 2016

Marshall University Honors College

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# Honors Oracle

Marshall University's Honors College newsletter • November 2016

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## Honors College pumpkin carving a success, raises funds for United Way

By SHELLIE COLEMAN

Fall is more than just in the air, it's in the hallways and windows of Willis Hall.

Students from the Honors College carved pumpkins on the evening of Oct. 20 and simultaneously raised funds for United Way.

Associate Dean of the Honors College Dr. Susan Gilpin noted how well it went.

"Students were having such a good time," Gilpin said. "The students really love it, and they really participate. Some get really creative with it, and some carve two."

Gilpin also expressed gratitude toward the Honors Resident Advisors.

"The Honors College is really grateful to the RAs for making Honors housing for the students such a good time [with these events]," Gilpin said.

The Honors College has been hosting a pumpkin carving annually for the last five years, according to Gilpin, but this year was unique in that it doubled as a fundraiser.

Casey Hudock, Honors RA for Willis Hall, also described it as a success.

"Pumpkin carving went really well. We had over twenty residents attend," Hudock said. This was Hudock's third year putting on the program as an RA.



HONORS COLLEGE

**Honors students carve pumpkins Oct. 20 to have a good time and raise funds for United Way.**

The money was raised in a couple different ways. During the Honors Pumpkin Carving event, residents had the option to enter their pumpkins into a competition which used change jars for voting. The pumpkins were displayed in

Willis Hall, and the winner was awarded a gift basket.

A penny war between the two Honors LLC advisors was also started the week of Oct. 24. The penny war involved res-

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## Honors students compete in Marshall speech and debate tournament

By KARENANN FLOUHOUSE

Honors College students in Marshall's speech and debate team, the Thundering Word, just finished organizing and competing in the Chief

Justice Invitational Tournament, which was held at Marshall University on Oct. 29 and 30.

This was one of many tournaments

that university students from across the country attended to qualify for the national tournament in the

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# Shakespeare scholars speak at Yeager Symposium lecture

By VICTORIA ENDRES

Marshall University welcomed John and Kelly O'Connor for the 30th annual Yeager Symposium Oct. 13.

John O'Connor is a professor at Cornell University and lectures at Westminster College in Oxford during the summer. Kelly O'Connor is an accomplished performer who teaches at Montgomery Blair High School. Together, they currently direct plays at Montgomery Blair.

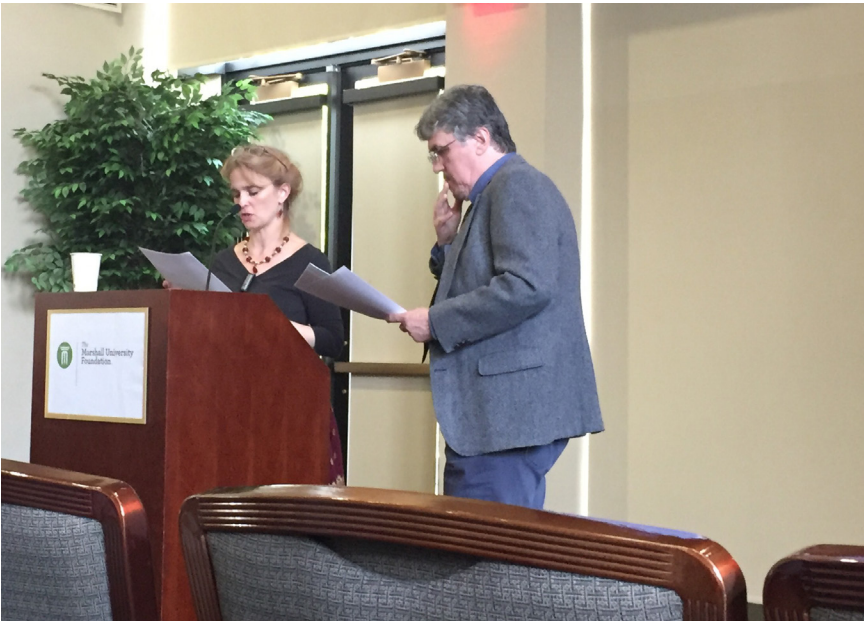
The lecture, titled "Shakespeare 400 Years On: In States Unborn and Accents Yet Unknown," discussed the lasting impact of Shakespeare's works.

The O'Connors explored the evolution of artistic interpretation of plays like "The Merchant of Venice," "The Taming of the Shrew" and "Richard III." Some of these unique interpretations involve being influenced by world events, flipping gender roles and using languages other than English.

Kelly O'Connor told the audience Shakespeare is so impactful because his plays have "infinite capacity for reinterpretation."

John O'Connor agreed, saying "the new meanings people find in Shakespeare seem endless."

Junior Yeager Scholar Rebecca Turnbull said the teaching style of the O'Connors has influenced her under-



VICTORIA ENDRES | HONORS ORACLE

**John and Kelly O'Connor speak at the 30th annual Yeager Symposium Oct. 13.**

standing of Shakespeare's plays.

"The way they teach Shakespeare shows you that it's okay to find new meaning in these plays and in other important works," Turnbull said.

Another Yeager Scholar, theater major MG Dalton, agreed with the O'Connors' idea that the actors in Shakespeare plays drive the interpretations.

"(Actors) who can find the real

world in Shakespeare are what give the works meaning," Dalton said.

The event was sponsored by D. Kenneth and Margaret Wolfe and organized by the Yeager Wolfe Class of 2017 with an introduction from senior Chandler Milam.

The O'Connors ended their lecture by saying Shakespeare "is not dead yet, and we'd say he'll be around for another 400 years at least."

# Honors student athlete goes the distance

By JULIANNA MUSIC

Heidi Heiniger is a sophomore Honors student from Sabetha, Kansas who is majoring in biology. In addition to being involved with the Honors College, Heiniger participates in the women's track and field team throwing the javelin.

Balancing education and competition is one thing, but balancing those with the Honors College is another. Heiniger said she deals with managing both responsibilities by keeping a structured schedule.

"I am a very organized person," Heiniger said. "I use strategies like making lists and keeping a planner, which helps a lot. The planner helps me to know when I have to

be places. It is a pretty detailed calendar that has all my practice times and due dates."

Taking on the rigor of the Honors College and participating in her sport have not prevented Heiniger from reaching her goals. She won second place in a Conference-USA meet last year, throwing the javelin as a freshman.

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COURTESY PHOTO  
**Heidi Heiniger.**

# HCSA plans new Honors activities

By HANNAH HALL

The Honors College Student Association Steering Committee is actively providing new and exciting opportunities for students to get involved on Marshall's campus.

This semester, the Steering Committee has brought a number of new and interesting opportunities to Honors students.

On Sept. 29, the Steering Committee presented a program called "Fun Things to do with Your Summer." Eight different speakers discussed opportunities for students, such as participating in the MEDLIFE mobile clinic in Ecuador, spending the summer doing neuroscience research and studying abroad at the University of Oxford or in Florence, Italy.

"The event was definitely a success," said Kristen Brown, Steering Committee president. "We were all really happy with the amount of

students who came out to listen to the speakers and learn about some exciting opportunities they may not have known about before."

The Steering Committee also hosted a "Roaring 20's" dance on Oct. 26 in the Don Morris Room. The event was planned as an extension of this year's homecoming theme, and the Steering Committee brought in a Zumba instructor to teach two choreographed, burlesque-themed numbers to students.

Steering Committee secretary Mykaela McDorman said she wanted to expand student involvement with the event.

"We really wanted to provide a program that would speak to everyone and get others more excited to not only be involved, but to be involved in what the Honors College and, more specifically, the Student Association Steering Com-

mittee is doing," McDorman said.

Other events are also in the works for the Steering Committee. It is currently selling Honors College T-shirts, long sleeves and crew necks that are available for all honors students to purchase. A portion of the profit from the shirts will be donated to United Way.

In addition, Steering Committee members have discussed participating in several community service events, such as "Project Night-Night," which benefits local homeless children, or other programs that are geared towards helping the impoverished in the community.

For those interested in getting involved with the Steering Committee, meetings are held every Thursday at 4 p.m. in the Honors Study Lounge on the third floor of Old Main. Meetings are open to any Honors student.

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spring. Qualifying for nationals requires the competitors to final in at least one event in a qualifying tournament.

The competition was open to novice and varsity speakers, however only first-year team members from the Thundering Word, including sophomore Liz Adams and freshman Luca Brambilla, competed in the tournament.

"This is one of the most interesting times of the year for speech," Brambilla said. "A lot of people have had a lot of time to practice and, therefore, they've mastered them."

Most of the students on Marshall's team participated in the many speech events, including impromptu, informative and extemporaneous speeches. Participating students were asked to plan and create their own speeches with their own themes, while also testing their abilities to create speeches at a moment's notice. There were also sections of the competition that allowed students to demonstrate their skills in interpret-



LIZ ADAMS | HONORS ORACLE

**Hunter Barclay holds a trophy after a speech and debate competition.**

ing and presenting prose.

"There's a certain method of choosing what we would like to talk about in our speeches," Adams said. "Whether it's something that personally affects us or we feel should be

addressed in a public manner."

Returning members, like Hunter Barclay, ran the rest of the tournament alongside the team's coaches.

"We're bringing in all these people from different universities and showing them what Marshall has to offer," Barclay said.

Careful planning was required to balance the Honors College workload with debate team studies. Students met weekly as a team to practice together and with coaches to learn the material. In addition, each student had weekly individual practices with their coaches.

It was also important for the students to find time to practice individually. Adams, for example, reads her speeches aloud while knitting or watching television.

"It's trying to make the most out of every second that I have," Adams said.

Despite the challenging time commitment, Adams said she and her fellow debate team members love being a part of the Thundering Word.



# International students bring new ideas, cultures to Honors program

By LIZ ADAMS

This year, several different international students are part of the Honors College. For Sonia Chandi and Luca Brambilla, being a part of the Honors College has given them both a unique perspective of their studies as international students.

Sonia Chandi, a junior from Canada, is a biology pre-med major who plans to become a neurosurgeon.

“My favorite thing about Marshall is the atmosphere,” Chandi said. “With the history of this school, there’s a certain passion that students have for the Herd and the university in general. You don’t just see this passion when the whole crowd is cheering on the football team, you see it all around campus amongst the students involved in various Marshall clubs and organizations. It really makes me appreciate the school and the opportunity I’ve been given to come to this school.”

Considering that most students in the Honors College attended American high schools, international students have gone through a different educational system. This can affect the way they view college.

“I feel that high school in a different country prepared me extremely well for college,” Chandi said. “In my first year of college, I had learned most of the material covered in my introductory courses in high school in Canada. This made my transition into college a lot smoother.”

Besides being an Honors College student and involved in various clubs and organizations, Chandi also likes exploring Huntington. Her favorite restaurant in Huntington is the Marshall Hall of Fame Café because of its “Herd Spirit” and “Coopie” desserts.

Another international student within the Honors College is freshman Luca Brambilla from Italy. He is a biology pre-med major with minors in philosophy and chemistry. He plans on traveling the world and becoming a forensic scientist.

Brambilla enjoys the atmosphere Marshall University provides.

“I feel like part of a big family,” he said. “Even though this is not my country and I did not know hardly anyone before coming here, I just feel like part of an academic community and I have never felt that before.”

Brambilla said he felt prepared for his college education due to his Italian high school’s well-rounded education.

“I was an exchange student in West Virginia for one year so I understood the American school system before I came,” Brambilla said. “Both experiences merged together have helped me to be fully prepared for this experience.”

Even though this is his first semester of college, Brambilla is involved in various clubs and organizations.

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COURTESY PHOTO  
**Sonia Chandi, a junior from Canada, is a biology pre-med major who plans to become a neurosurgeon.**



LIZ ADAMS | HONORS ORACLE  
**Luca Brambilla, a freshman from Italy, is a biology pre-med major with minors in philosophy and chemistry.**

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idents from both halls adding pennies to their own jars, but silver coins and bills to the opposing wing’s jar, with silver coins or dollar bills subtracting from the wing’s total “votes” while driving up the amount available for donation to United Way.

United Way is a nonprofit organization serving communities worldwide and, in addition to carving pumpkins, a portion of the proceeds from selling Honors College shirts will also be donated to United Way.

Order forms for these shirts, which are both short and long-sleeved, will be due by Nov. 11 and are available in the Honors College and on the Honors College website.

**Continued from page 2.**  
tions, including the Thundering Word Speech and Debate team, Herd4Christ, Keramos Ceramics Club and Marshall University

World Council.  
He said his “experience so far at Marshall really has been the best decision ever.”

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Heiniger said there were benefits to taking on both challenges.  
“I feel like I am more challenged in the Honors College,” she said. “Being on the track team really helps me with my discipline.”  
Heiniger’s achievements on the field and in the classroom have been acknowledged with awards and other recognitions.



## Meet the Honors Oracle Staff

**JARED CASTO**, executive editor  
Jared is an online journalism major from Ripley, WV. He entered the Honors College in 2014 and aspires to enter the field of journalism after graduation or continue his education.

**NANCY PEYTON**, assistant editor  
Nancy is an online journalism and political science double major form Pecks Mill, WV. She entered the Honors College in 2014 and aspires to work for The New York Times as a reporter.

**AMANDA GIBSON**, layout editor  
Amanda is a junior print journalism major from Pocahontas County, WV. She has been in the Honors College since 2014 and hopes to become an editor for a newspaper or magazine after graduating college.

**VICTORIA ENDRES**, staff writer  
Victoria is a sophomore literary studies and Spanish major from St. Albans, WV. She wants to travel the world teaching English as a second language after graduation.

**JULIANNA MUSIC**, staff writer  
Julianne is a sophomore pre-communication disorders major. She is from Delbarton, WV and wants to go to graduate school to become a speech pathologist.

**SHELLIE COLEMAN**, staff writer  
Shellie is a sophomore pre-med biology major from Rosedale, WV. She would like to eventually be a cardiovascular surgeon, but is open to doing research. She would also love to do art for a living.

**LIZ ADAMS**, staff writer  
Liz is a sophomore from Elizabeth, WV. She is a biomechanics and visual arts double major. She plans on traveling the world and eventually becoming an occupational therapist with art.

**HANNAH HALL**, staff writer  
Hannah is a sophomore from Weston, WV. She is an elementary education major. After graduation, she plans on teaching, but is open to whatever the Lord calls her to do.

**KARENANN FLOUHOUSE**, staff writer  
Karenann is a sophomore from Barboursville, WV. She is a public relations and online journalism double major. She plans on going to law school after Marshall to become a constitutional lawyer.