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Honors Oracle, December 2016

Marshall University Honors College

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Honors Oracle

Marshall University's Honors College newsletter • December 2016

SGA hosts first Honors town hall

By VICTORIA ENDRES

Members from Marshall University's Student Government Association organized the first Honors College Town Hall to address the questions and concerns of honors students living in Willis Hall.

Two of the Honors College senators from Marshall's SGA, Alex O'Donnell and Steven Straley, arranged the event, which took place Nov. 15.

"We wanted to create a better relationship between constituents and senators," O'Donnell said. "If we don't know about it, we can't change it in the first place."

Attendees voiced concerns about the textbook loan program through Drinko Library. Several students expressed their frustration that the program requires books to be turned in by 11 p.m. For students who have busy daytime schedules, being able to use the books later in the night could make homework more manageable.

Students also mentioned the issue of limited parking passes. Some conveyed their frustration that, despite often seeing many open spots in the parking lots, student parking passes sell out within just a few weeks.

Several students discussed how protests and other events are often not well attended.



VICTORIA ENDRES | HONORS ORACLE

The Honors College Town Hall, organized by Marshall University Student Government Association Honors College senators, Alex O'Donnell and Steven Straley (right), took place Nov. 15.

"I'd like to see more support for activism on campus," resident adviser Hallie Andrews said.

Much of the meeting was a forum for students to ask questions about what SGA does and how to get involved. O'Donnell informed the group that SGA can form committees and lobby

the university to help address problems faced by students across campus.

O'Donnell encouraged students who are looking to get involved to consider running for office, look into the senator apprenticeship program or attend the Tuesday night Senate meetings, which are open to all students.

Steering Committee gives back

By HANNAH HALL

'Tis the season of giving, and the Honors College Student Association Steering Committee is doing just that. On Nov. 10, the HCSA Steering Committee did their part to give back by preparing dinner for the residents and staff at the Ronald McDonald House.

HSCA Steering Committee member Holly Farkosh said

the Ronald McDonald House was a great place to serve and that the experience was enriching.

"It was a lot of fun to get to volunteer with the steering association outside of our normal committee meetings and do something to give back to the community," Farkosh

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Squirrel Invasion!

By LIZ ADAMS

Squirrels have been making their presence known throughout Old Main, appearing in both the president's and University Communications offices. On Nov. 7, a squirrel appeared in a new location — the Honors College.

Cara Bailey, the Honors College coordinator of Yeager Society outreach, recounted her office's invasion from the squirrel:

"I noticed everything on my window sill was on the ground," she said. "I had a small canvas box where I keep tea, sugar and snacks. I pulled my box off the shelf for fear a squirrel might still be inside and three half eaten 'everything' bagels scattered around the box. The squirrel had eaten my breakfast."

Honors adviser Sandra Yentes said she heard a squirrel skittering on the ceiling tiles above her.

"It seemed quite possible that it would break right through the ceiling tile and land on my head," Yentes said. "That was unsettling."

Yentes' biggest tip-off was that papers had been knocked off her desk and some of the items on her desk had been gnawed into.

In response to the invasion, Bailey



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A squirrel munches on a tasty looking snack.

said that a kind, humane animal-lover came to trap the squirrel, but was unsuccessful.

"He couldn't find it, but opened my office window and filled a humane trap with peanut butter and cookies," she said.

Recently, the Honors College squirrel sightings have seemingly come to an end.

"We didn't trap the squirrel, but we no longer hear it or see evidence of its presence," Bailey said. "Hopefully he's in a tree somewhere, snacking on bagels and sipping some Starbucks."

John Marshall biographer speaks at packed Amicus Curiae lecture

By KARENANN FLOUHOUSE

The Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall overflowed with community members Nov. 9 for a special lecture by Jean Edward Smith, the lead John Marshall biographer and former Marshall University professor, who returned to campus to discuss his new biography, "Bush."

"He is one of the preeminent biographers in our country," Patricia Proctor, the director of the Amicus Curiae lecture series, said. "Every time I have heard him lecture he has been fabulous."

Smith's experience as a biographer and the success of his past biographies made him a prime candidate for Proctor's lecture series. He was specially invited for that

night's lecture because of the timing of the release of his new book.

"We plan the lecture series about a year in advance and, at the time, his book had not yet been published," Proctor said, "but he published it in the interim and I thought too many people would be interested in hearing about this to not ask him to come."

The lecture was the place to be for many in the area, with standing room only for late arrivals. All in attendance were rapt with attention as Smith detailed his book.

"I noticed a lot of very young people here and they were

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Students register for spring Honors seminars

By SHELLIE COLEMAN

While students were planning their schedules for registration for the upcoming spring semester, junior and senior Honors students were also vying for early appointments with Honors College advisors to secure their place in the Honors 480 seminars that most interested them.

A few of the seminars being offered during the spring term: "Mathematics on Film," "Games: Winning Strategies, History, and Applications" and "Stigma of Disease" are either entirely new seminars or have not been offered in several years.

Dr. Carl Mummert, co-professor of Mathematics on Film, said the course counts as a film studies credit as well as an Honors credit, and will largely be based on examining how and why mathematicians in popular film are portrayed differently than their biographies suggest. It will also look at aspects of filmmaking and how math itself is represented.

"[The course] seeks to answer why the films are different, in addition to learning about films, mathematicians and their lives," Mummert said.

Students will also create their own documentary about a mathematician and present it during a public showing sometime near the end of the spring.

Also math-inclusive is "Games: Winning Strategies, History, and Applications," taught by Dr. Niese.

The course will examine primarily

Cred	Title	Days	Time	Cap	Act	Rem	Instructor
1	3.000 SpTp: Mathematicians on Film	MW	02:00 pm-03:15 pm	0	14	-14	Carl Mummert (P), Walter
1	3.000 SpTp: Games Strategies & Apps	TR	09:30 am-10:45 am	0	16	-16	Elizabeth Marie Niese (P)
1	3.000 SpTp: Soc of Sci, Knowl. & Tech	TR	02:00 pm-03:15 pm	0	11	-11	Martin L. Laubach (P), Mid Castellani
1	3.000 SpTp: Cult of the Body	MW	05:00 pm-06:15 pm	0	15	-15	Charles O. Lloyd (P)
1	3.000 SpTp: Stigma of Disease	M	04:00 pm-06:20 pm	0	18	-18	Maggie Stone (P)
1	3.000 SpTp: Psych Social Media	T	04:00 pm-06:20 pm	0	15	-15	Brian Edward Kinghorn (P)
1	3.000 SpTp: Hero Villain Healthcare	R	04:00 pm-06:20 pm	0	19	-19	April D. Fugett (P), Britan

SHELLIE COLEMAN | HONORS ORACLE

The complete list of Honors 480 seminars offered for the spring 2017 semester.

board games and teach students how to analyze strategies mathematically, in addition to game design and the far reach of games in other subjects. The final project will include designing a new game or significantly altering an existing game, analyzing its gameplay and then play-testing them in class.

"I always enjoy the engagement and curiosity displayed by my Honors students, so I'm looking forward to lively discussions," Niese said. "I'm also looking forward to sharing math in a very different way than most students experience it."

"Stigma of Disease" is a primarily sociology-based course taught by Dr. Maggie Stone which came about after she co-authored a book chapter on the subject.

The course will examine the effects of stigma on people who have various diseases such as cancer, leprosy and sexually transmitted diseases from external sources and the internalization of that stigma, both historically and in contemporary times. It will also examine how some diseases are stigmatized in the first place.

"I think it's about learning something new," Stone said. "I think it's a way to understand the human experience of being sick and being stigmatized and how we experience being in that sick world."

Other 480 seminars offered in the Spring semester include "Cult of the Body," "The Heroes and Villains of Healthcare" and "The Sociology of Science, Knowledge and Technology."

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said. "Even though the work we did was behind the scenes, we still know that we helped out and the Ronald McDonald House was very grateful."

The members of the committee prepared meals for approximately 20 people, which was an immense service to the staff and residents who typically are responsible for their own meal preparation.

"I think we cooked for about 20 people or so," Farkosh said, "and that was 20 fewer people who did not have to take the time to prepare themselves dinner and they could

focus their energy on their child who was at the hospital."

Ronald McDonald House is a home-away-from-home for families with children receiving specialized treatment from a hospital that is hundreds, or even thousands, of miles away from their own community.

These houses offer family members of ill children a retreat from the hospital by providing a room of their own, kitchen and laundry facilities, and even toys for the kids. Families are only asked to provide a small contribution as imbursement for their stay. But if that is not possible, no one is turned away.

Freshman Yeager Scholars explore D.C.

By JULIANNA MUSIC

Eight freshman Yeager Scholars traveled to Washington, D.C. Oct. 10 for a three-day trip. While they were there, the group toured the city, including stops at the United States Capitol, the Library of Congress and the National Archives.

The students were able to view historically significant landmarks and artifacts while they were on the tour, such as the Washington Monument and the United States Constitution at the National Archives.

Kennedy Snavelly, a freshman accounting major, said the experience was an emotional one for her. "I've never been to D.C. before," Snavelly said. "You see pictures of these things, but once you actually see it in person, it is a life changing experience."

The group was able to make a stop at the Newseum, an interactive museum dedicated to freedom of expression and the first amendment. Langley Sonnenberg, a freshman majoring in accounting, economics, and finance, said the Newseum was one of the most impactful parts of the trip.

"The emotional connection you felt after seeing the pictures at the Newseum made you feel transported to what was happening in that time," Sonnenberg said.

Sonnenberg added that the trip to the nation's capital connected her to what it means to be an American. "It was so emotional to be up close to the Lincoln Memorial," Snavelly said. "I had tears in my eyes."



COURTESY PHOTO

Freshman Yeager Scholars stand in front of the Lincoln Memorial during a trip to Washington, D.C. in October.

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behind me Googling different terminology he was using," Rebecca Childers, an assistant visiting professor at Marshall University, said. "I thought that was a great way for them to learn about what's going on in our country right now and in the past."

It wasn't just Marshall students and those familiar with

Smith's work in attendance that night. Over half the crowd came from Cabell Midland High School.

Don Scalise, a civics teacher at the high school, is notorious for using the Amicus Curiae lecture series as an extra credit opportunity for his students, and this time was no exception. Other instructors for Cabell Midland followed his example and filled the foundation hall with their students.