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Marshall University Honors College

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Honors Oracle

Marshall University's Honors College newsletter • April 2017

New scheduling process for seminars

By HEATHER BARKER

Scheduling for fall classes means new Honors seminars to choose from, but this semester it also means a change to the scheduling process.

During the week of March 28-31, students wishing to take a seminar in the fall could use youcanbookme.com to schedule advising appointments with the Honors College, but the change comes in the form of how a student is placed in each seminar.

“We add students’ names in the order of which they come for advising appointments to the seminars,” Associate Dean of the Honors College Susan Gilpin said. “Those students will receive a piece of paper and, during the priority registration period, they take it to the registrar’s window and the seminar will be added to their schedule.”

The first 12 students to sign up for each seminar during their scheduled appointments with the Honors College will be guaranteed spots. The remaining students who want to take a seminar will then be put into an alternate pool where a few more students will be allowed to take each seminar.

“Each seminar will have more than 12 students in it, but we will guarantee seats to the first 12 students who ask for them and then, beyond that, students’ names will

HON480-101 <i>The American Presidency</i>	M-W-F 11-11:50 a.m.	Dr. Damien Arthur, Dr. Michael Woods	This course introduces students to the historical and institutional complexities of the American Presidency. It offers a broad overview of the office of chief executive, emphasizing its historical development, institutional responsibilities and expectations, and formal and informal powers.
HON480-102 <i>Sermon as Text</i>	M-W 2-3:15 p.m.	Dr. Robert Ellison	In this class, we’ll study texts and audio/video recordings of a variety of sermons: Jewish, Christian, Islamic, humanist, freethinking, and even atheist.
HON480-103 <i>Thrones and Roses: George R. R. Martin and William Shakespeare</i>	T-R 11-12:15 p.m.	Dr. Timothy Burbury	This course will examine the ways in which Martin and Shakespeare comment on the Wars in their works. Even die-hard Game of Thrones fans may not realize that George Martin’s series A Song of Ice and Fire is indebted both to Shakespeare and to the conflict known as the Wars of the Roses.
HON480-104 <i>Vampires, All Too Human</i>	T-R 12:30-1:45 p.m.	Dr. Kristen Lillis, Dr. Walter Squire	In this course, we will consider literary and cinematic vampires from a variety of cultures. We will examine how and why societies categorize certain peoples as less than equal or other than fully human while at the same time desiring something from those demonized peoples. Finally, we will evaluate how vampire films and fiction reveal potential sites of resistance to structures of power.
HON480-105 <i>1920s Popular Culture: Gender Tensions, Fan Mags, and Screen Idol Rudolph Valentino</i>	M-W 5-6:15 p.m.	Dr. Charles Lloyd	This course offers two perspectives on 1920s women’s lives, caught between eroding Victorian values and scary flapper independence. You will investigate 1920s movie fan magazines for clues about how women viewed themselves through the strong sensualities film idols like Valentino aroused and watch Valentino first hand on the screen, analyzing his powerful allure.
HON480-106 <i>Spanish Arts of the 16th- 20th Centuries</i>	T 4-6:20 p.m.	Dr. Slav Gratchev	This course offers a panoramic overview of Spanish arts throughout the XVI-XX centuries. The course by its very nature is the interdisciplinary study that combines in itself the inquiry into Spanish arts, music, and film in historic context.
HON480-107 <i>Biology and Science Fiction: A Historical Approach</i>	R 4-6:20 p.m.	Dr. Victor Fet	This seminar brings together biological research and science fiction writers from Victorian England to Communist Russia focusing on the decades between 1890s-1930s.

HEATHER BARKER

A list of the Honors seminars offered for the fall 2017 semester. A full list of descriptions can be found at the Honors College website along with a list of other honors courses for the fall semester.

go into a pool,” Gilpin said. “We’ll do our best to make sure everyone who wants a seminar gets either first or second choice, with priority going to the students who need it most because they’re trying to graduate.”

In the past, according to Honors College Advisor Sande Yentes, students have gone to advising meetings without knowing their full schedule, causing the process of adding students to semi-

nars to be complicated.

This semester, however, Yentes asked all students to come prepared with a full schedule of classes to guarantee a spot in a seminar.

“We’re trying to streamline the process so that students aren’t just guessing at whether they’re going to be able to get into the seminar,” Yentes said. “Meetings start March 28. March 27 is the day that the schedule has to be available to students, so

we’re going to give everyone that day to put their schedules together and figure out which seminars will or won’t work for them.”

Gilpin and Yentes suggested students sign up for advising meetings as soon as they were available.

“The sooner people get their appointments, the better shot they have of getting a seat in a seminar,” Yentes said. “We’re really going to **Continued on page 4.**

Meet the Honors College graduate assistant Britani Black

By LUCA BRAMBILLA

The Honors College is a tremendous place run by caring faculty and staff devoted to the well-being and academic excellence of students at Marshall University. Among the handful of members includes one graduate assistant who stands out for her unique background and future career field: Britani Black.

Originally from Huntington, Black initially attended Marshall University as a forensic chemistry major, but switched to psychology almost immediately, as she found out that it was what she truly wanted to pursue.

Upon graduation she enrolled into Marshall University's psychology graduate doctoral program and later started working as an assistant at the Honors College.

"I found a home in the psych department," Black said. "It's been about nine years that I've been here at Marshall. I am actually part of the Psy.D. program. It's essentially a clinically doctoral program in psychology."

Aside from representing the Psychology Department, as part of the Honors College staff Black has the opportunity to teach some of the most interesting Honors seminars.

She is currently co-teaching with her dissertation advisor, Dr. April Fuggett, "The Heroes and



COURTESY PHOTO

Britani Black is the Honors College graduate assistant and is studying psychology. She is currently co-teaching with her dissertation advisor, Dr. April Fuggett, "The Heroes and Villains of Healthcare," also nicknamed the "Comic-Con" seminar.

Villains of Healthcare," also nicknamed the "Comic-Con" seminar.

"Most of my research has actually been on pop culture," Black said. "I am looking at how pop culture influences psychological themes and vice versa. We have done some research on how comic books depict mental health and illness."

In addition to this class, last semester Black taught for the third time another seminar developed around psychological themes in popular fiction. Kaitlin Hackworth, an Honors College student who already enrolled in two seminars taught by Black,

said such classes were very interdisciplinary and connected to most majors.

"My favorite aspect of Ms. Black is that she understands the college life," Hackworth said. "Where she is currently in graduate school, she understands that we are constantly stressed and she worked hard to make sure that we were always learning something new, but also making sure that we were not too stressed."

According to her students, Black was extremely successful at bringing into discussion different topics and overlooked perspectives, so that everybody had a chance to contribute.

"We read books like 'The Martian,' 'Maze Runner' ... books that are popular at the time of the class," Black said. "I have had very good feedback, attendance and good people enrolling."

Although at the beginning of her experience at Marshall she never considered teaching as a future opportunity, a series of chance events led her to be in charge of two seminars, an unexpected experience that she said she thoroughly enjoyed.

"It all worked out very well," Black said. "I am getting ready to go on an internship next year. I am going to the University of Kentucky and I am going to be in their Counseling Center for a little bit over a year. I will not be able to teach as much next year, but I would like to come back and teach at some point."

Although she is preparing to branch out of the Huntington area and bring her talent with her, Black stressed the importance that the Marshall University and the Honors College community have had in her academic life.

"I never felt isolated here at Marshall," Black said. "Especially here at the Honors College, because Dr. (Nicki) LoCasio and Dr. (Susan) Gilpin are really good at encouraging you."

"She is a great professor
Continued on page 4.

Meet the work study students at the Honors College

By LIZ ADAMS

This semester, there are three work study students working for the Honors College. Heather Hale, Erica Wickham and Maddie Hinzman all have been great assets to the Honors College this year through their work.

Heather Hale is a freshman majoring in broadcast journalism. She plans on being a news anchor sometime in her future career. She is a member of Sigma Sigma Sigma.

Her favorite thing about working at the Honors College is that “everyone

here is so nice and it’s always quiet.”

Her favorite flavor of ice cream is Chunky Monkey.

Erica Wickham is a freshman who is currently undecided on a major, but has started pre-nursing and is considering healthcare management.

She has been working in the Honors College since September 2016 and said she has really enjoyed it so far. Some of her jobs around the Honors College include assisting students, making copies and PDFs and helping with whatever comes up.

Her favorite kind of ice cream is cookie dough.

Maddie Hinzman is also a freshman and is majoring in K-6 Special Education. She has worked at the Honors College since the fall semester.

“The ladies I work with are awesome,” Hinzman said. “They are very helpful and understanding.”

Her favorite flavor of ice cream is cookies and cream.

These students will continue to work at the Honors College for the remainder of this school year.

Yeager finalists spend weekend on Marshall campus

By KATELYN GILLIA

The weekend of March 3-5, the Huntington campus of Marshall University was filled with prospective Yeager Scholars. As the third and final part of the Yeager Scholarship selection process, potential Yeager Scholars came to stay on campus for their last interviews, as well as to interact with each other and current students.

Before the students ever come to campus, they must first undergo a rigorous application process.

First, they must meet the many high academic standards to be eligible. They must also submit an online application with accompanying test score and three reference letters.

Once these applications have been reviewed, phone interviews are set up with Yeager interview teams to get a feel of how the students will fit with Marshall University.

After the first two steps, the finalists for the few Yeager Scholar positions are brought to campus on a Friday night and stay in the dorms to



COURTESY PHOTO

Yeager Scholar finalists, pictured with Marshall University President Jerome Gilbert, visited Marshall’s campus March 3-5.

get a feel for the campus. For many of them, this is their first time visiting the campus, and for all of them, this is their first time meeting with the Honors College faculty in person.

On Saturday of the Yeager Finalist Weekend, activities start at 7:30 a.m. and continue until 10 p.m.

These activities include face-to-face interviews with members of the faculty, staff, community leaders and Yeager alumni.

In addition to the interviews, students participate in a mock seminar, which is observed by the faculty and

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Fall scholarship opportunities upcoming

By ALLY LAWHON

As the end of the spring semester approaches, students have many opportunities to apply for fall scholarships.

If students are interested in receiving emails about tips, deadlines and application requirements for scholarships, they can send an email to Malory.carpenter@marshall.edu with "Fellowship Friday" as the subject. This will subscribe the student to a bi-weekly newsletter.

Most of these fall scholarships

have deadlines for September, so students have the remainder of the spring semester and summer to work on applications. There are scholarship applications for a variety of programs.

The United Kingdom scholarships fund a graduate school experience in the UK. The Gates-Cambridge funds a graduate study at the University of Cambridge. This scholarship is for any program, and it looks for academic merit, leadership and public service experience. There is also the

Marshall Scholarship and the Rhodes Scholarship.

Other scholarship opportunities include the Fulbright Scholarship, Hertz Fellowship, and Knight-Hennessy Scholarship. The Fulbright funds a year of study, research or funds a year to teach English overseas.

If students are interested in more information on the scholarships, they may follow the Twitter account @MUNatSchol, or go to www.marshall.edu/nationalscholarships.

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expect students to be better informed about whether or not they're actually able to be in the seminar before they come in."

Fall seminars include: "The American Presidency" taught by Dr. Damien Arthur and Dr. Michael Woods, "Sermon as Text" taught

by Dr. Robert Ellison, "Thrones and Roses: George R. R. Martin and Shakespeare" taught by Dr. Timothy Burbery, "Vampires, All Too Human" taught by Dr. Kristen Lillvis and Dr. Walter Squire, "1920s Popular Culture: Gender Tensions, Fan Mags, and Screen Idol Rudolph Valentino" taught by Dr. Charles

Lloyd, "Spanish Arts of the 16th-20th Centuries" taught by Dr. Slav Gratchev, and "Biology and Science Fiction: A Historical Approach" taught by Dr. Victor Fet.

A full list of descriptions can be found at the Honors College website along with a list of other honors courses for the fall semester.

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and will do anything to help you," Hackworth said.

Over the next year, many of her current and past students, along with the rest of the Honors College staff will miss her and will be looking forward to welcoming her back upon completion of the internship.

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staff. To prepare, students read up on the topic, different each year and a closely kept secret until the weekend, in order to help generate discussion.

"We aren't looking to see if they've got it," said Dr. Nicki LoCasio, dean of the Honors College. "We are just trying to see how they react to the environment. We want them to ask questions."

Two to three weeks after the end of the weekend, students will receive their decision letters. This year, eight students will be admitted as Yeager Scholars, bringing the program up to 32 students.

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