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## Honors Oracle, November 2017

Marshall University Honors College

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# Honors Oracle

Marshall University's Honors College newsletter • November 2017

## Dean finds home in Huntington

By JESTEN RICHARDSON

Though some students know Dr. Nicola LoCascio, the dean of the Honors College, by her British accent and job title, there is much more to her than that.

LoCascio spent her early life in England, just outside of London, but when she was 14 years old, her family moved to Canada, before eventually settling in Richmond, Virginia. While her family resided in Richmond, at only age 15, LoCascio was off to college.

“The British system starts you off at formal education at four,” LoCascio said. “So, I was two years ahead, as was my sister; we both, in moving out to America, they just automatically jumped us up.”

LoCascio, who attended Mary Washington College of the University of Virginia, was forced to face both cultural differences and the challenges of attending college at such a young age.

“I had a rough start,” LoCascio said. “I went to college as a history major—that’s why I wanted to be a biographer—and

I loved that, and I ended up picking up biology as well, but I went to college when I was like 15, and that was too young. Emotionally, I was not ready for college.”

Despite her initial troubles, LoCascio said she made friends, developed new interests and even met her husband of over 40 years, all while earning her Bachelor of



FILE PHOTO  
Dean Nicola LoCascio attended Mary Washington College of the University of Virginia at the age of 15 and went on to complete her Ph.D. in immunogenetics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Science in history and biology.

From there, LoCascio went on to accomplish other feats, including getting her Ph.D. in immunogenetics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completing several post-doctoral fellowships, before moving with her husband to Huntington.

Though LoCascio and her husband lived in several other states and cities prior to Huntington, LoCascio said she considers Huntington to be her hometown, as it is the place where she has lived the longest.

“Huntington, or I should say West Virginia, has to be physically the most beautiful place I have ever lived,” LoCascio said. “And I like the people. My husband and I had two very young children when we first came to Huntington, and within six months, we felt we needed to have a get together to thank everybody for their kindnesses to us, and that had never ever happened before. People were just very welcoming. It’s been explained to me that

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## New semester, new seminars

By HANNA PENNINGTON

As students finish up the fall semester, they are also preparing their schedules for the 2018 spring semester, which means new options for Honors College seminars.

“Students will sign up for seminars during 15-minute advising appointments that will take place in the Honors College,” Associate Dean of the Honors College Susan Gilpin said.

Eight different seminars are being offered, many of which have

writing intensive or multicultural attributes, which are especially appealing to students. These special courses are offered exclusively to honors students and give an in-depth look at specific topics that ordinary courses may not be able to accomplish.

The seminars range from the world of medicine to Broadway. Some of the courses offered include “Doctors Who Write,” “Alexander Hamilton: The 18th Century Inspiration for 21st Century

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# Honors students march towards success

By JULIANNA MUSIC

Between band competitions, football games and honors coursework, honors students who march in Marching Thunder manage multiple responsibilities throughout the semester.

Honors student T.J. Blankenship plays the tenor saxophone in the marching band. Blankenship is a freshman majoring in forensic chemistry and is in his fifth year of marching in band; being in both the Honors College and the Marching Band manages to keep his calendar full.

After marching for so many years,

Blankenship said he had to learn how to balance school and music.

“One thing you learn to do right off the bat is organize yourself and space things out,” Blankenship said. “I haven’t had a Saturday off since September.”

Sophomore honors student Madison Persinger marches alongside Blankenship in the band. She is a double major in international affairs and Spanish who plays the clarinet.

“Juggling band and schoolwork can get hectic,” Persinger said. “However, being involved with band throughout middle school, high school and college

has really strengthened my time management skills, so I am able to get the job done.”

Marching band counts as a one credit hour class and requires students to be present for football games and other performances, such as the tri-state band competition at Marshall and the Florida International University game.

Honors classes and band classes had some similarities according to Blankenship.

“Sometimes the classes overlap,” Blankenship said. “For music in general, you can discuss culture and ways that music affects people, and in my honors seminar, that’s actually what we’re talking about also.”

Persinger also mentioned the parallel between band and honors.

“I think that both band and the honors classes challenge you to think outside of the box,” Persinger said.

Involvement with both groups requires Persinger and Blankenship to fulfill several duties, such as completing honors hours and participating in band performances and makes their experiences here at Marshall quite distinctive.



COURTESY PHOTOS

**Honors students T.J. Blankenship (left) and Madison Persinger (above) are both in Marching Thunder, Marshall University’s marching band.**

## Study abroad: an opportunity to expand horizons

By EMILY BRAMMER

Studying abroad offers students a way to earn college credit and to explore the world in which they live. It is no wonder, then, that many students think about spending part of their college years in another country. Tatiana Schrader, sophomore biology major, is no different. This past

summer, she received the opportunity to study abroad at the University of Exeter in England through the Fulbright Summer Institute.

Part of what makes the U.S.-U.K. Fulbright Commission unique is that they pay for flights, tuition and accommodations. When students apply, they can choose which one of the courses of

study offered they wish to pursue. Schrader chose to study climate change.

“There is something for everyone,” Schrader said. “When I was over there, we did a lot of hands-on field work, which was something I had never gotten to experience.”

Schrader said the application process was lengthy

but worth it. She was aided by the program manager of national scholarships at Marshall, Mallory Carpenter.

“(Mallory) helped me in every single stage of the process,” Schrader said. “From the beginning, when I thought ‘I don’t really want to do it, it’s too competitive,’ she really pushed me and

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# Professor looks for student discussion in honors seminars

By ANTHONY ALEXANDER

Professor Charles Lloyd teaches multiple seminars for the Honors College at Marshall University, many of which focus on the music from the 1920s and 1930s.

He obtained a bachelor's degree from Marshall and went on to receive a master's and Ph.D. in classics from Indiana University.

"Part of my education was just enjoying music and playing it for others," Lloyd said.

The Honors College seminars that he teaches are very different from regular courses.

"For me, a seminar means that everyone brings something to the table," Lloyd said. "I come in as a catalyst to get the students to talk about things. Students are much more interested in doing the work of a course. They don't look at it as something that is thrust upon them. They

may not find the topic the most fascinating, but they engage in it. If I had to describe them in one word: disciplined."

Lloyd said he draws inspiration for the topics from his studies and interests. After co-authoring "Ruth Etting: America's Forgotten Sweetheart," he developed a seminar focusing on the singer and actress. In another course, he focused on the way women in the 1920s received the films of Rudolph Valentino.

"The discussion-based learning is far easier than other forms of teaching as it lets all students share their ideas and opinions, so it gives everyone a better understanding of the material," Alicia Pelfrey, junior psychology major, said. "Dr. Lloyd teaches class differently than any other class I've taken... He makes the environment extremely open and accepting for anyone who wishes to talk during discussion."

A seminar that Lloyd will be

teaching next semester, titled "The Cult of the Body," compares and contrasts bodybuilding and wrestling with the competition and body worship found in ancient Greece.



ANTHONY ALEXANDER

**Professor Charles Lloyd has taught several honors seminars and will be teaching a course, "The Cult of the Body" in the spring semester.**

## Honors students compete at Trivia Night

By LIZ ADAMS

During the first week of October, honors students were quizzed at the Honors College Steering Committee's Trivia Night in the student center. Over 40 students divided into teams named: Tiny Ricks, Full House, Rockstars, Parasyte, Cyclohexane Chair Conformation, Pikeview, Paige for President and Ed Sheeran.

The format of the trivia night consisted of 10 rounds,

with five questions per round. Topics ranged from science, to pop culture, to the Honors College.

Paige Looney, sophomore from Proctorville, Ohio, was the host for the event. She read the trivia questions to the groups and cracked various jokes along the way. To help with the event, she researched questions for the liberal arts round of trivia and put up many flyers around campus to notify people of the event.

Her favorite part of Trivia Night was when participants became really excited at the end of the event when asked science questions.

"We asked, 'What was the powerhouse of the cell?' and everyone got very very excited—that was rewarding," Looney said.

This is Looney's first year on the Honors College Steering Committee. She said her favorite part of being on the steering committee so far has

been getting to plan events.

"I've met a lot of people because of it and from other colleges where I normally wouldn't meet other people" Looney said.

The role of the Honors College Steering Committee is to act as liaisons between the Honors College and the students, bring the college together and facilitate more cohesion between students within the college.

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# SGA leaders among Honors College

By AMANDA LARCH

Many Honors College students at Marshall University are involved in the Student Government Association.

There are currently 15 honors students in the SGA, including two elected representatives. Matt Jarvis, student body president, is one of those honors students.

“SGA was the first thing I got involved with when I



COURTESY PHOTO

**Student body president and honors student Matt Jarvis speaking at a leadership conference.**

came to campus,” Jarvis, senior economics major, said. “I had a few friends who really encouraged me to stick with it, and I’m so glad I did.”

Honors students interested in becoming SGA representatives must apply to run for the position, and after that, they can campaign. Every individual college on campus is also represented.

Another way to get involved is by applying for at-large seats. At-large seats are for students who are not sure how to run, transfer to Marshall in the middle of a semester or just need a way to get involved on campus. At-large members are still representatives, just not from specific colleges.

“SGA has immensely impacted my Honors College career,” Jarvis said. “Because of

SGA, I’ve had the opportunity to speak with various honors students, work with faculty and be better engrained within the college.”

Madison Davis, senate president pro-tempore, is also an honors student.

“Coming straight from high school, I knew I didn’t want to give up leadership and community service, so SGA was the perfect organization,” Davis, sophomore biology major, said.

Davis is also the Honors College Steering Committee Vice President.

“My favorite thing about SGA is getting to be more active with the student body and faculty,” Davis said. “I love SGA because I get to be a part of a great group of people who strive to make a difference on this campus and

in the community.”

Matt James, assistant dean of Student Affairs, has been involved with SGA for 14 years, since his freshman year at Marshall.

“Our student government is structured like the federal government,” James said. “The good thing about that is there are checks and balances.”

The SGA assigns a senator for every 500 students, but for the Honors College, it works a little differently, since the honors population at Marshall is not as significant as other colleges on campus.

“We needed more than one senate seat in order to give the Honors College an adequate voice,” James said. “Those students are elected by the Honors College by paper ballot.”

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if someone is to dislike you, you have to do something really bad, but they are geared to liking you until you do something to change their minds, where if you go to other places, it’s more a matter of you have to prove yourself to them for them to like you.”

LoCascio began her career at Marshall University as a part-time biology teacher, but in the over three decades she has spent at the university, she has risen through the various teaching positions to become an administrator for the Honors College. LoCascio, who was inducted into her current position after

a period as interim dean, has a positive reputation among her students and staff.

“She’s very personable,” said Jordyn Bryson, a first year Yeager Scholar who plans to double major in mathematics and math education. “She goes out of her way to help you if you need help. She cares about your life. She cares about your family. If anything, she’s just made it a whole lot easier for me to assimilate into the program, I guess, because she actually really cares about everything; not just your academics, but your actual life. I think she’s made the Honors College a very nice place to be.”

LoCascio said she is committed to

her students, and she wanted them to understand that she is still learning as well.

“Well, I’m learning just as much as they are,” LoCascio said. “To be honest, I don’t think anyone grows up saying, ‘I want to be an administrator.’ I fell into that, and I want to make sure that the Honors College fulfills its potential for its students, and so, I learn as much as the students do, and I learn from the students, and I think students need to understand that. Nothing’s set in stone, and our policies are derived from what we believe are the right things, but again, we’re willing to learn from our students.”

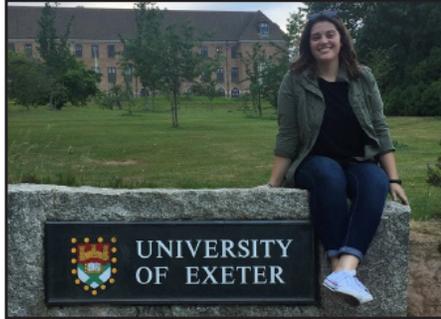
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encouraged me.”

Schrader called it a good cultural experience overall, an opportunity to learn how other parts of the world live and do things as compared to the U.S.

“In general, I think it’s such a rewarding experience,” Schrader said.

“It’s a way to push yourself out of your comfort zone. You’re studying what you want to study, but you’re also immersed in this whole other culture... Anybody who is thinking about it should go for it, 100 percent.”



COURTESY PHOTO

**As part of the Fulbright Summer Institute’s program, Tatiana Schrader studied at the University of Exeter in England this past summer.**

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Hip-Hop on Broadway,” “Psychological Impacts of Social Media” and “Responding to Trauma.”

“These classes are small, and they do fill up quickly,” Honors College adviser Sande Yentes said. Yentes said the most important thing students can do to insure a spot in these exclusive classes is to schedule their advising appointment as soon as they can.

According to Gilpin, a finalized list of these courses along with their location, date and time are available on the Honors College website as well as Marshall University’s list of fall courses being offered. Honors students in good standing will receive priority registration Nov. 2-3.

Yentes said students should meet with their advisers and have any holds taken care of by these dates in order to be eligible for the registration.

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The Honors College Steering Committee holds many events throughout the semester. The next event is the Honors College Tailgate before the Marshall Football game on Nov. 11.

## The Honors Oracle Staff

**Karennan Flohouse**, executive editor

Karennan is a junior public relations and online journalism double major from Barboursville, WV. She plans to go to law school after Marshall.

**Luca Brambilla**, assistant editor

Luca is a sophomore biology pre-med major who grew up in Missaglia, Italy. After getting his bachelor’s degree, he plans to obtain a masters degree in immunology and a Ph.D. in medical research.

**Heather Barker**, layout editor

Heather is a junior from Huntington, WV double majoring in print and online journalism. She is currently doing PR for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Tristate, and will possibly continue working there after graduation.

**Amanda Larch**, staff writer

Amanda is a sophomore print journalism major from Hurricane, WV. After graduating, she would love to write for Rolling Stone Magazine.

**Julianna Music**, staff writer

Julianna is a junior communication disorders major. She’s from Delbarton, WV and wants to pursue a career in either speech pathology or audiology.

**Jesten Richardson**, staff writer

Jesten is a freshman from Huntington, WV. She is currently a print journalism major, though she plans to add a second major of English education. She hopes to teach both journalism and English on a secondary or collegiate level.

**Hanna Pennington**, staff writer

Hanna is a sophomore online journalism major from Hurricane, WV. She enjoys traveling, history and writing and hopes to one day combine these interests after graduation.

**Anthony Alexander**, staff writer

Anthony is from Barboursville, WV. He’s a junior accounting and finance major. In the future, he plans to work in banking.

**Liz Adams**, staff writer

Liz is a junior from Elizabeth, WV and is triple-majoring in biomechanics, exercise science and English. She plans on traveling the world and becoming a physical therapist after graduating.

**Emily Brammer**, staff writer

Emily is a sophomore from Proctorville, Ohio. She majors in history and English with a minor in film studies. After graduation, she plans to go to graduate school and hopefully become a professor of film/media history.