

2-2018

## Honors Oracle, February 2018

Marshall University Honors College

Follow this and additional works at: <http://mds.marshall.edu/oracle>

---

### Recommended Citation

Marshall University Honors College, "Honors Oracle, February 2018" (2018). *Honors Oracle*. 7.  
<http://mds.marshall.edu/oracle/7>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Honors College at Marshall Digital Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Honors Oracle by an authorized administrator of Marshall Digital Scholar. For more information, please contact [zhangj@marshall.edu](mailto:zhangj@marshall.edu), [martj@marshall.edu](mailto:martj@marshall.edu).

# Honors Oracle

Marshall University's Honors College newsletter • February 2018

## Honors students attend Food for Thought dinner, discuss homelessness

By JESTEN RICHARDSON

HON 200 students were encouraged to explore ethical dilemmas, examine their beliefs and engage in meaningful conversations with their peers, during the annual Food for Thought Dinner on Feb. 9 in the Memorial Student Center.

The event, which focused on the topics of homelessness and effective altruism, allowed Honors second year seminar students to discuss pre-assigned readings on ethical issues, interact with fellow Honors College and community members and listen to a speaker with experience in non-profit work, all over dinner.

Rhondell Miller, director of HOTEL INC, a community-based non-profit organization in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and aunt of Sarah Davis, HON 200 instructor and assistant director of enrollment services for INTO, was selected as this year's speaker.

"We always ask for nominations from among the HON 200 instructors," said Susan Gilpin, associate dean of the Honors College. "Sarah Davis' nomination was Ms. Miller, so I called her. She lectures often at Western Kentucky University, and she is passionate about her area. We wanted to explore ethics, and her

work in Bowling Green offers a real-world example."

Miller gave students one point for post-speech discussion by explaining the difference between charity work and development work, the option she prefers. Miller said the difference is

why you became homeless, and again, firmly believing that if more charitable work was done in that manner of looking at the chronic issue instead of just handing it out, we could look at some answers."

Miller also addressed

Take this. Eat this.' There's other ways to do that. We can give people dignity. Food pantries can look at changing ways of being able to give people dignity, so when they come in, they can actually shop for their food."

Miller encouraged the event's attendees to take care in how they talk and think about people who are experiencing homelessness and to treat them with respect.

"I try really hard to never call a person a 'homeless person,' because there is no other population of people that I describe that way," Miller said. "My friends who are rich, I don't say 'my rich person friend.' Being homeless is a situation. It does not define that person. It is a circumstance that they are experiencing right now."

Benjamin Day, a freshman computer science major from Huntington, said he enjoyed the Food for Thought Dinner and that he has a new mentality because of what he learned from Miller's speech.

"This was a nice event," Day said. "I liked it. It was interesting to come out, dress up, have a nice dinner and food for thought,



JESTEN RICHARDSON

### Honors students attend the annual Food for Thought dinner Feb. 9.

that, in charity work, individuals are teaching people that they need someone to do things for them, while in development work, individuals are actively looking for solutions and trying to help people be able to do things for themselves.

"When we're doing development work, we can look at other avenues," Miller said. "We want to look at the chronic issue of

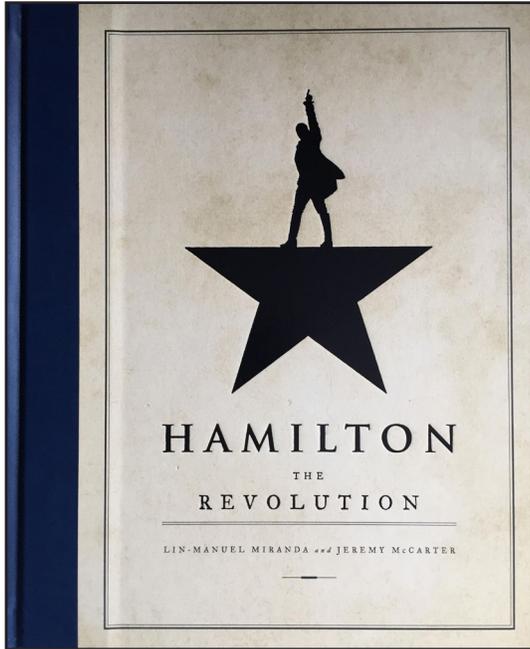
the differences between treating problems such as homelessness and hunger as crises that should be managed and treating them as chronic issues that should be treated with long-term solutions.

"We want to address hunger, absolutely," Miller said. "But I think that in order to move from hunger always being this 'Oh my gosh, you're hungry. Here.

**Continued on page 5.**

# Honors seminar explores the life of Alexander Hamilton in a different way

By JENNA MARSH



HEATHER BARKER

Honors students this semester were given the opportunity to take “Alexander Hamilton: Hip-Hop Muse,” a class which analyzes Hamilton and his contributions to America and Lin-Manuel Miranda’s “Hamilton, An American Musical.”

Often times, deciding what honors seminar to take can be a dilemma. The decision became less challenging for some when a new class arose this semester: “Alexander Hamilton: Hip-Hop Muse.”

This class taught by Patricia Proctor is geared toward students of all academic disciplines. It focuses on Alexander Hamilton’s life story and the forces that shaped him. The class looks at his journey that inspired Lin-Manuel Miranda to tell Hamilton’s story using hip-hop in one of the most well-known Broadway musicals, “Hamilton, An American Musical.”

“I have always loved Hamilton, because I find him inspiring,” Proctor said. “Also, whenever you study one person, like Hamilton, you’re

simultaneously studying the society in which the person lived and the values of that society.”

Throughout the semester, students will be required to read selected texts to help them understand why Hamilton’s work remains important.

Seminar student and junior communications disorder major Julianna Music said, “We’re reading a book that inspired the musical, and the whole class is trying to understand Hamilton’s life a little better and what made him such an inspiring guy.”

Unlike a regular history class, this one focuses on the Broadway musical and how it tells his story.

“Students were interested in the music from the show,” Proctor said. “I think it has awakened a passion and interest in the founding period, which I think is really important.”

Proctor not only wants students to learn about the musical, but she wants students to learn about Hamilton’s contribution to our country.

**Continued on page 5.**

# Work study program offers honors students chance to gain experience

By NATHANIEL PORTER

The Federal Work Study Program allows a few students to work alongside Honors College employees in order to gain work experience as well as some extra funds.

Sophomore Erica Wickham, a health care management major and work study student, said she first found out about the work study offered at the Honors College after she qualified for one through her financial aid.

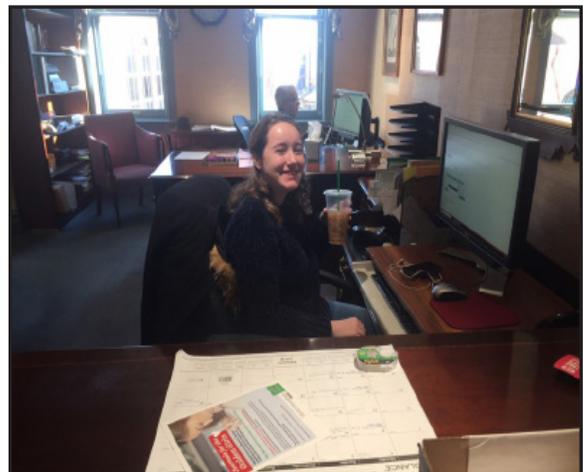
She started her work study her first semester and has continued working at the Honors College office for four semesters. Her daily tasks include making copies, getting mail,

helping her mentors and other clerical tasks.

“I really like all of the intelligent, wonderful women that I work with and hope that working alongside them will inspire me to do and achieve more,” Wickham said.

Wickham also said she hopes to receive a few letters of recommendation once she is finished with her work study.

“I appreciate the



NATHANIEL PORTER

**Continued on page 5.**

Honors student Erica Wickham works at her desk in the Honors College as part of the work study program.

# Study abroad scholarships available to all students

By JESTEN RICHARDSON

Online applications for the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, one of College Magazine's 10 best travel scholarships for college students, are due March 6 for students who wish to use the scholarship for summer, fall and academic year study abroad programs.

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, a program of the U.S. Department of State, helps U.S. citizen undergraduate students who receive the Federal Pell Grant to afford the cost of study or intern abroad programs by rewarding its recipients up to \$5,000.

An additional award of up to \$3,000 is possible for applicants who choose to study any of the 14 critical need languages recognized by the program—Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bangla, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Punjabi, Russian, Swahili, Turkish or Urdu.

Students who meet the scholarship's eligibility requirements (see infographic) and who wish to apply

are required to create an account by following the link marked "Applicant" on <http://gilmanapplication.iie.org>. After creating an account, applicants can complete and submit their application, including the two essays the Gilman Scholarship Program requires, through the web-site.

Mallory Carpenter, Marshall University's program manager for national scholarships, said she encourages students of any major who meet the eligibility requirements of the scholarship to apply for it and that she believes studying abroad can improve a student's chances in the job market once they graduate.

"The Gilman Scholarship is great," Carpenter said. "It's my go to scholarship when students tell me they're studying abroad. If you're going to study abroad and you're on the Pell Grant, there's no reason not to apply; it's just great money. (In) our global culture today, when students are going out into the workplace, if you have a study abroad experience, you have seen more, and you're more

competitive, especially if you're studying a second language or maybe even a third. It's important to have that exposure to other cultures and other customs."

Carpenter also said she is willing to help students who choose to apply for the scholarship through every step of the process.

"I help with every aspect of the application," Carpenter said. "So, if they have just general questions about the Gilman, I'm the person. If they want some help on their essays and they need someone to help sit down with them and brainstorm, or even after they've done the draft, I'll look over drafts and say, 'Have you thought about doing this?' or 'You're missing a comma here.' I taught English for seven years before I took this job. That comes in handy too."

Honors students have been recipients of the Gilman Scholarship in the past, and the most recent winner was Brandy Harvey, a biology and chemistry double major who graduated in

**Continued on page 5.**

## To be eligible for a Gilman Scholarship, an applicant must:

- Be a citizen of the United States;
- Be an undergraduate student in good standing at an accredited institution of higher education in the United States (including both two-year and four-year institutions);
- Be receiving a Federal Pell Grant or provide proof that he/she will be receiving a Pell Grant during the term of his/her study abroad program or internship;
- Be in the process of applying to, or accepted for, a study abroad or internship program of at least two weeks for community college students and three weeks for students from four-year institutions, in a single country and eligible for credit from the student's home institution. Proof of program acceptance is required prior to award disbursement;
- Students are eligible to apply for credit-bearing study abroad programs in a country with an overall Travel Advisory Level 1 or 2, according to the U.S. Department of State's Travel Advisory System. Certain areas within these countries may be designated within the Travel Advisory as either "Do not travel to" (Level 4) or "Reconsider travel to" (Level 3) locations, as such; students will not be allowed to travel to these areas.

# Honors College Student Association sets schedule for spring semester

By REBECCA RHUDY

The Honors College Student Association (HCSA) has set its schedule for this semester with multiple events to give back to Marshall University and the community.

Emma Ellis, president of the organization, and Madison Davis, vice president, said they are excited about the many activities that have been planned.

HCSA is offering another trivia night this semester, which is scheduled to take place on campus in the Don Morris Room of the Memorial Student Center at 5 p.m. Feb. 15.

“We had one in the fall, and it was a pretty big success, so we are going to grow that,” Davis said.

Other events and plans for this spring include the annual picnic at Ritter Park and selling T-shirts to raise money for a community organization and for next year’s HCSA officers and members.

“With selling the T-shirts and doing other things, we want to fund-raise as much as possible,” Davis said. “That way, the group coming in next year will be off to a good start. We want to make sure they do have enough money to hold bigger events. A portion of the money we raise each year, we try to give back a little to the community. Last year, we picked a homeless shelter. We don’t know exactly what project we are going to do this year, but we have tossed around some ideas.”

Ellis and Davis, who are now serving their third semester with the organization, discussed how they got involved in HCSA.

“When you’re a freshman, you have to do honors advising, and during that time, Dr. Gilpin brought it up to me, so I said, ‘Why not?’” Ellis said.

Davis, who is Ellis’s friend and roommate, also decided to become a



COURTESY PHOTO

**Members of HCSA attend the Honors College Tailgate in the fall of 2017 at a Marshall football game.**

part of the association. The two now are working side by side.

“We were roommates and members freshman year, and we are also roommates this year, and we decided to hold office positions,” Ellis said.

Ellis and Davis also described HCSA as being a good opportunity to make new friends. Both are sophomore biology pre-med majors and said they have enjoyed getting to know others who are also a part of the organizations who have different interests.

“Having more connections and more friendships throughout the university that we wouldn’t normally have is something we both have enjoyed,” Ellis said. “We’re both science majors, so usually the only academic friends we have are other science majors. This way, we have more diversity amongst our friends.”

As president and vice president, Ellis and Davis are responsible for several tasks, but they said they have one simple goal they always try to follow.

“We just want to make sure that

we fulfill all the requirements to the best of our ability,” Ellis said.

HCSA events are open to all students, including non-Honors College students.

“Any event we do is for the Honors College, but non-Honors College students are more than welcome to attend,” Davis said. “We actually encourage it.”

Both Ellis and Davis said they are hopeful to bring new ideas to the table for this spring.

“I just like to be as creative as possible and try not to do the same things year after year. Even though we are doing the picnic and that is an annual thing, we are trying to be the most creative and as unique as we can be,” Ellis said.

HCSA consists of 12 members, including four officers and eight regular members.

“If anyone is interested in joining next semester, talk to Dr. Gilpin,” Davis said. “Also, look out for election information.”

### Continued from page 3.

December 2017.

Using the funds she received from the Gilman Scholarship, Harvey was able to study abroad in Ecuador over the summer between her senior year and her final semester.

According to Harvey, during her time abroad, she was pushed in ways she had never known she could be, but she was also able to develop new perspectives on both nature and culture and to learn about the biology of the areas she explored and the best, most descriptive way to take her field notes.

Harvey said she recommends the Gilman Scholarship to other students who would like to study abroad and that she attributes her own academic experience to the Gilman Scholarship.

"The Gilman was absolutely amazing," Harvey said. "It was really the reason why I was able to study abroad. It helped me so much financially that, like, it gave me the comfort of being able to go abroad without having to worry about, you know, taking out more loans or how much my payment would be after I graduate. Without it, I wouldn't have been able to study abroad with the comfort and ease that I did."

Additional information on the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship can be found outside of Carpenter's office, Old Main 230E; by contacting Mallory Carpenter at [mallory.carpenter@marshall.edu](mailto:mallory.carpenter@marshall.edu) or 304-696-2475; or by visiting the site <https://www.gilmanscholarship.org>.

### Continued from page 1.

quite literally. I would say the thing I took the most from this is you want to give a solution and not make a person dependent on you. It kind of brings you some eye-opening revelations about this kind of stuff."

---

### Continued from page 2 (top article).

She acknowledges his work ethic and his passion to learn, which she believes is important for students to know.

Music said the dedication shows by Hamilton can also be motivational to students.

"The more I understand about him (Hamilton), the more I want to be like him and the more I learn about my own values," Music said.

Music said she has enjoyed the class so far this semester, and she looks forward to learning more in the weeks to come. She said she encourages anyone interested in history and/or musicals to take the class.

---

### Continued from page 2 (bottom article).

peaceful atmosphere that allows me to do homework in my spare time," Wickham said. "Also, I enjoy helping set up for and going to different Honors College events."

She said joining the work study program her freshman year helped ease her into her college schedule.

Although the Honors College is not accepting any more students for its work study program currently, openings should appear next semester. Those looking to apply can see if they qualify for a work study through FAFSA.

---

## The Honors Oracle Staff

**Heather Barker**, executive editor

Heather is a junior from Huntington, West Virginia double majoring in print and online journalism. She is currently doing public relations for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Tristate and is copy editor for the Parthenon.

**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.

**Amanda Larch**, layout editor

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

**Jenna Marsh**, staff writer

Jenna is a junior biology major from Barboursville, West Virginia. After graduating, she hopes to pursue a career in medicine.

**Nathaniel Porter**, staff writer

Nathaniel is a sophomore biology major from Huntington, West Virginia. He aspires to start medical school after completing his undergraduate degree.

**Jesten Richardson**, staff writer

Jesten is a freshman from Huntington, West Virginia. 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.

**Rebecca Rhudy**, staff writer

Rebecca is a sophomore exercise science major from Beckley, West Virginia. After graduation, she hopes to become an orthopedic physican assistant.