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Marshall University Honors College

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Honors Oracle

Marshall University's Honors College newsletter • March 2018

Yeager Scholar finalists converge at Marshall

By JENNA MARSH

Twenty-one high school students converged on Marshall University's campus March 2-4 for the final round of the 32nd annual Yeager Scholarship selection.

High school students with a 3.5 un-weighted GPA, 30 ACT score and extensive leadership and extracurricular attributes applied in the fall of 2017. Once their applications were reviewed, the chosen students partook in a phone interview. After the phone interview, 21 students were invited to participate in Yeager Scholarship Finalists weekend.

"Yeager Finalist

Weekend is a recruitment effort, an interview and a campus visit all rolled into one," Cara Bailey, Yeager Scholar outreach coordinator, said.

Each finalist is required to participate in an immersive weekend full of activities. On Friday night, the students checked into the dorms on

campus and then went to a dinner where they had the chance to get to know the other finalists, staff and current Yeager Scholars.

"The finalists get to experience life as a Marshall student," Bailey said. "They are

mock seminar to familiarize themselves with Marshall's Yeager seminars. They also had lunch with Honors College faculty, students and the deans of several colleges.

"Marshall appeals to me because of opportunities like

this program," Yeager Scholar finalist Alexis Conley said. "Also, all of the students seem so nice and there is just a sense of community and family."

Yeager Scholar finalists were at Marshall University for only over two days, but experienced a taste of the life of a Honors College student.

"I enjoyed the speed dating where all

of the finalists rotated at dinner and we had two minutes to talk about ourselves," Yeager Scholar finalist LeTrae Wilborn said.

Two to three weeks after finalist weekend, students will receive their decision letters and eight students will officially become part of the Yeager Scholarship program.



COURTESY PHOTO
Yeager Scholar Finalists, pictured with Marshall University President Jerome Gilbert, visited the campus March 2-4.

sons and daughters of Marshall for that weekend."

On Saturday, each finalist had four interview sessions with interviewers who are knowledgeable about the Yeager program, Marshall University and the city of Huntington. In addition, students participated in a

Honors student athlete balances busy schedule

By REBECCA RHUDY

Junior Peyton Miller gets a kick out of being a Marshall University student athlete.

Miller, an international affairs major from Jackson, Ohio, has played soccer for Marshall, but she also has been a member of the Honors College for the past three years.

She began playing soccer at an early age and said she is excited to see what the rest of her time at Marshall will look like.

“I have been involved in soccer for probably about 18 years,” Miller said. “I got involved in a rec league at my elementary school and just fell in love with the game.”

Soccer takes up a large portion of her time, but Miller said being involved in soccer and being a part of the Honors College has helped her learn valuable skills.

“I think both being a college athlete and being a part of the Honors College really teaches you discipline,” Miller said. “It really teaches you time management skills and how to discipline yourself.”

Miller said she chose Marshall among several other potential colleges for the soccer program and the other opportunities at the university, including the Honors College.

“For me, I visited about 30 colleges for soccer,” Miller said. “Marshall was the first one I visited. I met with a lot of coaches, and I just kept comparing every school to Marshall and kept comparing the coaches to our coaching staff. I just couldn’t get it out of my head, so I ended up picking Marshall.”

While Miller said she has learned important skills throughout her time playing soccer at Marshall and being a part of the Honors College, a few setbacks came along her journey.

“I tore my ACL two years ago, and I think that really helped to emphasize how important soccer is to me,” Miller said. “I recovered really quickly because I was really disciplined in my

recovery, so it took about six months. I tore it during the summer and had to sit out a fall season.”

Miller’s injury halted her playing time, but she said she continued to grow through that experience.

Miller said she plans to attend law school in the fall of 2019 and said her time playing collegiate soccer has played an important part in her preparation.

“For me, I think soccer has impacted my life, in that it has made me a much more disciplined person,” Miller said. “I think that, especially playing in college, it has made me set up for where the rest of my life will seem much easier in comparison.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Peyton Miller, junior Honors student, takes time to practice her soccer skills.

Track team, Honors College helps to develop student's organization skills

By REBECCA RHUDY

Heidi Heiniger not only throws javelin for the track and field team at Marshall University but she also throws herself into her collegiate work as being a part of the Honors College.

Heiniger, a junior biology major, has been a member of the track and field team for Marshall University and has been a part of the Honors College for the past three years. She said track has been an important part of her life for a very long time.

"I have been involved with track itself since middle school, like sixth grade I think, but I started throwing javelin my freshman year of high school," Heiniger said. "I have been doing that since, and that is what I am here for."

Heiniger said she became interested in track after seeing her older sister compete.

"My sister tried it when she was in high school, so I thought I would try it, too," Heiniger said. "I just stuck with it from there."

Being involved in track and field has taught Heiniger organizational skills and discipline, she said.

"Track has made me a lot more organized," Heiniger said. "I have to focus on both that and school. I have learned discipline. You have to go to practice and try really hard if

you want to be good."

While Heiniger has learned these valuable skills, she described the difficulties that are involved as well.

"The hardest part about being involved in track and being a part of the Honors College is getting everything done," she said. "You have to schedule classes and make sure you are meeting all of the requirements for everything. You have to also have time for practice, so that fills everything up. However, I think the most beneficial part is that, in the Honors College, you're held to a higher standard, so you have to do well and balance everything in order to be able to succeed."

Heiniger is originally from Kansas and said that choosing a university so far away from home was exciting.

"Marshall isn't close to home, so I knew I wouldn't see the same things that I always have," she said. "It was a new adventure."

The track coaches, specifically the throwers' coach, and the new possibilities are what made Heiniger choose to further her education and track opportunities at Marshall, she said.

"The throwers' coach really made me choose Marshall,"



COURTESY PHOTO

Heidi Heiniger, junior honors student, poses for her official track team photo.

Heiniger said. "I thought it was interesting. I really like the friends I get to make on the track team, and I enjoy the places I get to go. I haven't ever really been on the East Coast, and we get to go a lot of places there, which is really cool. I was also really drawn in by the overall atmosphere of Marshall. I simply thought I would have a lot of great opportunities here."

Upon graduation, Heiniger said she plans to return home to help her family with their farm.

As for track, Heiniger said she has high hopes for the rest of her time at Marshall.

"First, I want to be sure I do well in conference," Heiniger said. "This year I hope I can make it to NCAA pre-lims and advance from there to the finals held in Oregon. I am excited to see how everything plays out."

Marshall Yeager Scholar has writing published in three journals

By JESTEN RICHARDSON

Yeager Scholar Victoria Endres has had three pieces of writing published in three online journals over the past three years.

Endres, a literary studies and creative writing double major from Saint Albans, West Virginia, said she first had her work published in 2016, during her sophomore year. Her first published piece of writing was a creative nonfiction essay, titled “Mirror, Mirror,” which focuses on the difficulty of moving on from negative experiences and emotional abuse and was included in Volume 2016 of the creative nonfiction journal Thoreau's Rooster.

According to Endres, “Mirror, Mirror” was the result of “a moment of emotional outpouring and nervousness before a date freshman year.”

In 2017, Endres’ creative nonfiction essay “Skinny,” a piece that focuses on both body image issues and the harm that people (in this case, a librarian) can unintentionally cause one another, was published in The Manhattanville Review, an online literary and art journal.

According to Joel Peckham, a professor of the Department of English who has had Endres as a student in one of his creative writing classes, “Skinny” expresses a “very real issue in American culture”— the power of the “gaze” and how the way



COURTESY PHOTO

Yeager Scholar Victoria Endres has recently had three pieces of writing published in various literary journals.

“other people look at us” can “come dangerously close to defining how we see ourselves.”

Peckham also said that “Skinny” differs from Endres’ most recent publication, a poem titled “Tattoo,” which is about overcoming abuse through covering up old scars. Endres herself noted the difference between her poem “Tattoo,” which was published in January 2018 in Issue No. 8 of the online journal Underscore Review, and her previously published work.

Endres said that though her other two published pieces are as accurate as she could recall them from memory, she took creative liberties with her story in “Tattoo,” adding physical scars for the poem’s speaker to cover.

“‘Tattoo’ is more

complicated, as the scars I refer to weren’t there,” Endres said. “Getting a tattoo in itself was for me I think a way of moving forward. The person I talk about (in the poem) never wanted me to get a tattoo, so it was partially a way to reclaim myself, my independence.”

Endres said that besides being inspired by the experiences that she has had in her life, she likes to focus on certain themes in her writing.

“One thing I really like to explore is the intentionality of cruelty or abuse,” Endres said. “I don’t think the people I discuss (in her work) were intentionally trying to hurt me or anyone else, but that doesn’t mean they didn’t cause unintended and long-lasting

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Fall 2018 Honors College seminars available now

By NATHANIEL PORTER

This upcoming fall semester, many new seminars will be available to honors students. These classes allow students the opportunity to learn about an engaging subject, whether it relates to their major or not.

“We will be offering eight seminars in the fall, three of which will be writing intensive, that all vary in discipline,” Associate Dean of the Honors College Susan Gilpin said. “Some of the seminars are more focused on current events, while others are removed from current affairs and are more historical in their approach.”

All students looking to graduate from the Honors College are required to complete at least two honors seminars before graduating. Students also may take seminars to count for general honors hours.

“Ms. Yentes will send messages to students in groups by seniority, inviting them to sign up for

an advising appointment,” Gilpin said. “You have to meet for an advising appointment to schedule an Honors 480 seminar due to the restricted class size.”

According to Gilpin, most students choose to take their honors seminars later, usually during their junior or senior year. The seminars have a relatively small class size and are based more on discussion rather than lecture.

“The seminars are intended to model graduate work,” Gilpin said. “The setting is highly interactive, and students prepare outside of class to be able to do something with the material in class, whether through discussion, debate or some other activity.”

In order to register for a seminar, students must attend advising, which will take place March 28-April 2. Links to the advising calendars and descriptions of each seminar can be found online at www.marshall.edu/honors.

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harm. Complicating our idea of how abuse and even eating disorders work is something I’m really interested in. Real life isn’t black or white; there are no good guys and bad guys. People are more complicated than that.”

According to Endres, writing personal nonfiction is challenging, because of both the self-evaluation and self-discovery involved, but it can also be rewarding. She said this also holds true for publishing personal nonfiction.

“I think publishing nonfiction, especially personal

nonfiction, is one of the hardest things you can do,” Endres said. “You’re sort of exposing all these really personal things from your past to anyone who wants to read them. It’s nerve racking. However, I will say that there is this certain sense of pride and confirmation that you’re on the right path that also comes with it.”

Peckham said he is not surprised that Endres is experiencing success, because she has many of the qualities that it takes to be a successful writer.

“She’s talented. She’s

very, very bright. She’s got a very, very strong work ethic,” Peckham said. “The average literary journal accepts between two and five percent of what gets sent to them, so if you think about the amount of rejection you have to face as a writer, work ethic is important. Victoria is a strong person and that’s going to help her as well.”

Endres’ work can be found online at Thoreau’s Rooster, The Manhattanville Review and Underscore Review. Her fiction piece “Birthday” will appear in Marshall’s literary journal, Et Cetera, this Spring.