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Honors Oracle, October 2014

Marshall University Honors College

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The Honors Oracle

Upcoming Dates:

- November 6-7— Early Registration
- November 7— daVinci Lecture- Dr. Ahmed Ragab
- November 10— Advanced Registration Begins
- November 22— Residence Halls close
- November 24-29— Fall Break
- November 30— Residence Halls Reopen
- December 1— Classes Resume
- December 5— Last Day of Classes

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Marshall University Honors College Newsletter

October 2014

Honors College Student Knows That "Love Works"

By Callie Snodgrass

Taylor Pitkin, an Honors College junior, has a hectic schedule. On top of being in what some may consider her most difficult year of nursing school and working as a nurse extern and tutor, she has found time to help others in her community.

Pitkin founded Cabell-Lincoln College Crew (CLCC), a service club, last semester. The club was started with the intention of getting college students involved in helping out in their community.

Pitkin said she was inspired to start CLCC after participating in the Cabell-Lincoln Work Camp for nine years.

The Cabell-Lincoln Work Camp was implemented by two pastors, with the goal of helping people in need in Cabell and Lincoln counties. Each summer, the camp selects a certain number of service projects to take on, and the volunteers help to complete them. Projects include anything from underpinning trailers,

installing insulation, painting walls and porches, to replacing floors.

One of Taylor's original goals in starting CLCC was to get more people involved in Work Camp, because the West Virginia group of volunteers was always the smallest group at camp. She wanted a few Marshall students to help out, and ended up getting six students to help this summer. "

The CLCC has 10 members, but Pitkin would love for the group to grow. Upcoming service projects include sanding and painting a porch and working on a floor project in Hamlin.

In August, CLCC saved an elderly lady in Huntington from being forced to pay a fine by mowing and cleaning up her yard.

One of the members of the organization, Shyla Cogar, said she enjoyed being able to help.

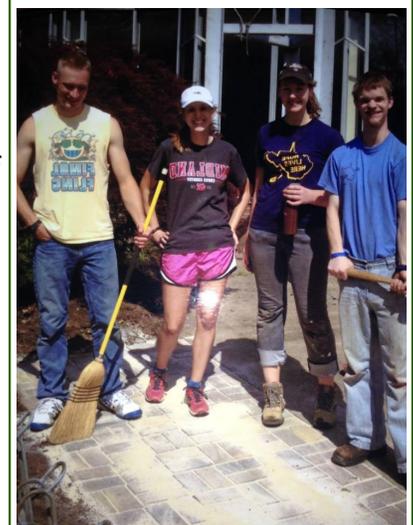
"She wasn't able to do it herself," said Cogar, "so it was a really rewarding experience."

Pitkin said the unique aspect of the club may help with the involvement. "College is a time

when students are focused on their own goals," Pitkin said. "So for something different, college students are very willing to help."

If anyone is interested in joining the club, there is a Facebook page for the club, called Cabell-Lincoln College Crew. There aren't weekly meetings, but Facebook is being used as the main medium of communication with everyone's busy schedules.

Students do not need prior service experience to join, because there will be an emphasis on learning new skills, working as a team, and becoming more involved in the community.



CLCC Members helping to clean up.

Honors LLC Hosts Annual Pumpkin Carving

By Clara Maynard

The Honors Living Learning Community hosted with their annual pumpkin carving at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16 in Harless Dining Hall. The college hosts the event for Honors faculty and students every October around midterms.

Jessie Swiger, a senior Honors College LLC Resident Adviser, helped organize the event.

"It's a great way for

students to meet the faculty and other students," Swiger said. "We have freshmen mixing with seniors and it's a good way to get to know one another, and everyone likes to carve a pumpkin."

Students were able to customize their own pumpkins, enjoy Halloween treats, and relax during a high-stress time of the semester.

Chase Dye said he enjoyed taking a break

from his studies to attend the event.

"I've been busy a lot this week working on papers and exams," Dye said. "It's a great way to relieve stress and have fun."

Students cleaned out their pumpkins by themselves, cleaning out the seeds with spoons. After the dirty work was done, they had a chance to begin to design their pumpkins, adding their own personal flair to

express themselves.

Caitlin Graham said she came prepared with her own supplies.

"I'm making 'Trick or Treat' with ghosts," Graham said. "I brought along my own stencils."

Amanda Schwartz said she chose to design a tree for her pumpkin.

"I'm very excited, I came last year as well and had a lot of fun," Schwartz said. "I enjoy getting to take the pumpkins back to our dorms and make them festive."

Honoring Academic Excellence

By Erin Boone

Marshall University's Gamma Beta Phi Society hosted its 33rd annual induction ceremony on Sunday, Oct. 19. The organization, a Marshall's honor society and community service group, expanded to include 31 new inductees.

Before these students were able to join the society, they were required to meet certain academic criteria. In addition to having completed at least twelve hours of college credit, Gamma Beta Phi students must have a GPA of 3.0

or higher.

Family and friends of the inductees gathered in the Don Morris room of the Memorial Student Center to support the new members. Sabrina Tabassum, president of the Gamma Beta Phi Society and a member of the Honors College, welcomed students and guests to the ceremony.

Vice president Jenna Saltsgaver gave a brief description of the society, which included recognizing and encouraging educational excellence, promoting development of leadership ability and character, and fostering education through service projects. New inductees were presented by the

Gamma Beta Phi chapter advisor, Patty Carman.

Saltsgaver said that the ceremony had a successful turnout.

"We had a lot of new inductees," Saltsgaver said, "and a lot of new members, and I think it went really well."

Saltsgaver herself was inducted into the society her sophomore year at Marshall University.

"It's really neat because I remember sitting in the crowd and seeing the people sitting up there inducting people," Saltsgaver said. "It's cool to be one of those people now. I came in not knowing a lot about the society and I've learned so much." New

member Amber Bryant, a freshman from Logan, W. Va., spoke of the benefits of being part of the Gamma Beta Phi society and why she would encourage others to work hard academically for potential involvement in the society.

"It looks good on records and transcripts," Bryant said. "I like that we have community service events."

The Gamma Beta Phi Society's focus on academic excellence and community service offers unique opportunities and invaluable experiences to its members. They hope to be able to continue their service to the Huntington area for many more years.

A New Perspective of 9/11

By Josh Nelson

Assignment Editor

Professor Jane Hill is

pioneering an honors seminar that mixes true tragedy with academia. Her course, "The Post 9/11 Novel," encourages students to take a look at the devastation of Sept. 11, 2001 through a literary lens.

Topics that Hill has picked to focus on include responses to universal questions such as how humans process and understand strong emotion and what art's role is in the process of making meaning from such historical and culturally impacting events.

Although Hill is the Chair of Marshall's English department, she said her position doesn't influence her class.

"This is not an English class," Hill said. "This is an honors seminar about a particular topic."

Hill said she finds the extensive amount of literature on the event peculiar.

"It is incredibly unusual that an event like this happens and then has close to twenty books written about it within the same decade," Hill said. "Not only have these books been

written, but there have also already been critical texts written about these novels. Normally, it takes about ten to twenty years."

Due to the swift publication of numerous books, Hill said she believes students are responding to these texts so quickly not only because we are living in the information age, but also because people are interested.

"It was such an unsettling event that we are seeking to make sense of it," Hill said. "It helps to have a story that makes sense of it for us."

Some of the stories covered in the class are *Falling Man* by Don DeLillo, as well as *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer. Other novels Hill picked gave different perspectives on 9/11, such as the perspectives of white American men to women to Arabic-American youth during the years surrounding the event.

Rajia Hassib, a graduate student at Marshall University and native of Egypt, is due to release a book next year that treats this very

topic. Toward the end of the semester, Hassib will be holding a question and answer session with Hill's students about her writing processes as well as the topic of 9/11.

Hill's students are working on a project that is modeled partially after the Holocaust Museum. The students keep a journal that resembles a passport in which they document how each novel conjures empathy.

Codi Mohr is a senior in Hill's seminar. Although Mohr is not an English major, she said this seminar has been useful to her.

"I think it's really cool to take [a seminar] like this," Mohr said. "It's something that we're all so familiar with. We all know happened for the most part. But we look at what it did to the nation, what it did to the American dream, and take it on from different perspectives. It's a lot of reading sometimes, but it's 100 percent worth our time."

Samantha Parkins, a junior communication disorders major, said she's had an eye-opening experience in Hill's seminar.

"It's brought to me a

completely different perspective on 9/11 and how the event has shaped us," Parkins said. "I mean, obviously there are so many books written about it and I hadn't even thought of that. It's just brought a completely different perspective than what I grew up with as a second grader when the event happened."

With the passion Hill says she holds for the class and its content and the way students are receiving the class, Honors students may look for this seminar to be offered again in the coming years.



"It was such an unsettling event that we are seeking to make sense of it."

-Hill

Wilson Pursues Postgraduate Studies “Across the Pond”

By Alexis Kastigar

Kyle Wilson, a well-known former Resident Advisor and Marshall alumni, has never had an issue with stepping off the beaten path. While he was at Marshall, he seized an opportunity to have an internship with the Maryland State Police in their forensic science lab, where he excelled beyond expectations.

By the time he graduated, he was a familiar face around the Honors College and Marshall Chemistry department as a proactive student and member of Alpha Chi Sigma, Marshall's professional chemistry

fraternity. Now, Wilson has taken a step that has flown him across the Atlantic and landed him almost four thousand miles away.

As a first-year graduate student, Wilson has settled in Bournemouth, England where he attends Bournemouth University, pursuing a Master's Degree in forensic osteology. As such, Wilson has had to adapt to a few idioms and oddities of normal life that are uniquely English, including finding his way around the grocery store, but he says that our mother country is not so different. “I still can't navigate or find anything at the grocery store,” Wilson said. “And there are so

many phrases that are tripping me up, but I am definitely learning. However, in general it isn't too different from average American life.”

Upon taking such a leap to pursue his postgraduate education in another country, Wilson hopes this experience will help him in obtaining his dream job as a forensic investigator working on disaster or cold case body identification. However, Wilson's relocation was not an entirely seamless one.

Wilson said that his summer was often filled with the stress of getting his financial aid and travel documents in order, and now he faces the daunting idea of not being able to

return to America for an entire year.

“I don't know how to explain the emotion [of being in England],” Wilson said. “But during the first couple of weeks it would hit me when I was alone and I just have to sit down and be like ‘this is real, this is happening, you did it.’”

Wilson's drive has opened doors for him academically, and he says seeing his hard work pay off has been rewarding.

“It was a yearlong process-- of applying and getting financial aid in order and stressing out all summer about my student visa-- I still cannot fully grasp that I have made this happen,” Wilson said. “It was all a dream and now it's real.”

Athlete and Scholar: Will Shaffer

By Jameson Akins

College athletes have a hard enough time balancing their schedules around practice, homework, competitions, and classes. For Will Shaffer, member of the cross-country team, this task is even more challenging as a student in the Honors College at Marshall University.

Shaffer is a member of the Marshall University Cross Country team and has recently finished his sophomore cross-country season. Not only is Shaffer a member of the Honors college, he is an engineering major, which can make

things particularly difficult in keeping up with the class requirements to maintain a good standing in the Honors program.

“I've always wanted to challenge myself a little more,” Shaffer said. “I was in honors classes in high school and wanted to put myself with the upper level students and surround myself with people that are smart. [These students] can help me become more intelligent, work harder, and have more motivation to succeed.”

Because Shaffer's training routine has challenged him to prioritize his time, he has learned to

manage his homework under tough time constraints.

“With athletics everything is regimented,” Shaffer said. “I don't have a planner where I write everything down, but I know each day when I get up at this time I have to do this, and that time I have to be here. It's not like I have four hours to get this homework assignment done; I've only got an hour, and I need to sit down and do it now.”

The extra time and energy Honors students and college athletes put into their education does

have its advantages: By having such a tight schedule, Shaffer is sometimes limited in his class schedule choices. However, Shaffer's involvement with the Honors College gives him the option

“I like the Honors program because you'll never get a bad professor, which is probably my favorite aspect of it,” Shaffer said. “I don't feel that my classes have been necessarily harder than a regular section, but the professors are really good at what they do, and how they teach.”

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Advice on Advising

By Kristen Young

With the spring semester approaching, students in the Honors College are beginning to schedule their academic advising sessions. Sande Yentes, academic advisor in the Honors College, described a few changes within the Honors College when it comes to registration.

Freshman and students in their first year with the Honors College are required to attend a group advising session. During this time, an academic advisor will help guide them on their next scheduling decisions and help them get the credits they need to earn in order to get honors credit.

Yentes said she recommends individual appointments instead at any point throughout the year.

“Students would be wise to make individual appointments,” Yentes said. “Not only for advising, but to make sure they are on track as well. Students can make sure their requirements are being filled for honors credit.”

Honors students are

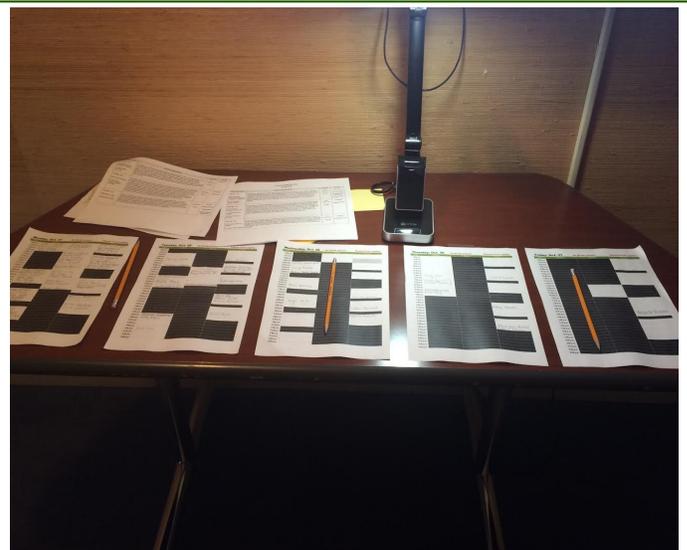
required to complete two additional seminars before they can graduate with honors credit. Individual advising sessions are required for upperclassmen seeking seminars, but freshman are encouraged to make an individual appointment as well.

“Not only are individual sessions beneficial for making sure students are on track, but making sure they get into a seminar,” Yentes said. “They can only do this through an individual

session.”

Individual Sessions may be scheduled with Honors College staff members Sande Yentes, Susan Gilpin and Britani Black. Sign-up sheets are in the Honors College hallway, enabling students to pick a time that is convenient for them.

The second group advising session is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 30 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:10 p.m. in Corbly Hall room 117. An additional group advising meeting will take place on Friday, Oct. 31 from 11:00 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. in Old Main room 230.



Students quickly filled the sheets for individual advising. The earlier an advising session is, the more likely students are to get into the seminar they want.