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Honors Oracle, September 2014

Marshall University Honors College

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The Honors Oracle

Marshall University Honors College Newsletter

September 2014

Upcoming Dates:

October 14: Mid-Semester, 8 weeks end

October 20: Freshman/Sophomore Midterm Grades Due

October 27: Students should schedule appointments with advisors to prepare for early registration

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Meet the New Honors Advisor!

By Erin Boone

Between an honors course load, extracurricular activities and maintaining some semblance of a social life, honors students at Marshall University normally have their hands full. Thankfully, instead of blundering through classes hoping to meet requirements, they have Sandra Yentes.

Yentes is the newest member of the Honors College, filling the vacancy left by Barry Dickerson as advisor for the students of the Honors College.

As an advisor, Yentes's focus lies on the students. She acquaints herself with the honors students by leading group advising sessions for freshman, one-on-one advising for upperclassmen and answering any questions an honor student may have about his or her academic standing.

"A lot of what I do behind the scenes is

checking people's GPAs to make sure they're eligible to be in the Honors College or that they're making good progress," Yentes said.

Before taking her position at Marshall University, Yentes worked as an advisor for students with undeclared majors at the University of Wyoming. Her position was not directly involved in the affairs of honor students, but she became familiar with the workings of an honors program because a majority of students with undeclared majors were honor students.

In addition to advising students, Yentes has an extensive background in helping students develop useful learning strategies and study habits. If any student finds himself or herself struggling in any way with studying tactics or time management, he or she may contact Yentes and set up an appointment to meet with her.

Though Yentes has experience with advising students, this is her first position in direct association with an honors program. She said she has already grown to appreciate and admire the staff and students of Marshall's Honors College.

"I've really enjoyed it so far," she said. "It's a great group of people to work with, just very excellent staff. Overall, it's been a very positive experience."

Though she has only been here a few weeks, she already hopes to see nothing but future success for the Honors College and its students.



Sandra Yentes, new advisor

Yeager Scholars head to Oxford

By Jameson Akins

After two years of the rigorous curriculum, it is long standing tradition for Yeager Scholars to have the opportunity to study abroad during the summer between their sophomore and junior years. This past summer, the class of 2016 traveled to the University of Oxford in Oxford, England. However, this trip was not just a vacation.

"Oxford is both a challenge and a reward for the Yeager Scholars that have just finished their sophomore year... Oxford is the real deal," said Dalton Border.

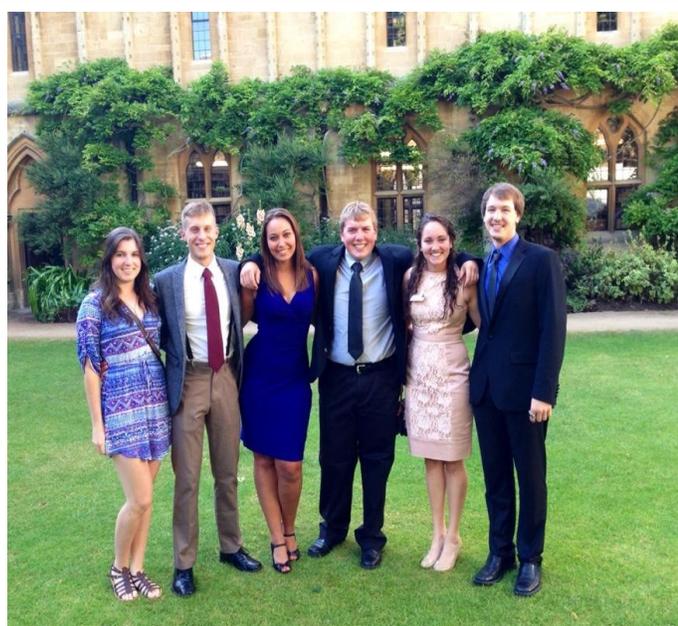
The Yeager Scholars have the opportunity to attend classes in a variety of areas, including Shakespearian Literature, Critical Reading and the History of British Politics while they are staying at Oxford. These types of classes can be a difficult but refreshing break from the various disciplines the Yeager Scholars are used to seeing in their selected majors.

The Yeager Scholars from Marshall University were not the only ones afforded such an opportunity. While

studying at Oxford, the Yeager Scholars were alongside other bright minds of various nationalities, including students from Australia, Germany, and Denmark. This allowed them to experience cultural and intellectual diversity in a much larger scope than a standard university classroom. The Yeager Scholars immersed themselves in the culture through plays, live performances, orchestras and the museums in and around Oxford.

"They were so focused on small communities," said Andrew Hart, a Yeager Scholar. "A lot of different people knew each other even if they weren't working together, and you have all these itty bitty shops everywhere in Europe, and everybody knows the vendor, and the vendor knows everybody and what they want, and it was really cool to see that."

"Oxford is a city, but it's not a big city. You could walk from the college everywhere you wanted to be... I would say it was kind of like



2016 class of Yeager Scholars on their trip to Oxford, England.

Huntington, but in very different ways. I don't know if you could draw direct parallels, but it didn't feel different," said Dalton Border.

The cultural experiences were also varied among the Yeager Scholars as each student is also aided by the Yeager Foundation to select a second study abroad location of their choice. This allowed them to study in another area of Europe that may also have piqued their interest.

Other countries and languages come with their own challenges even if one has already completed upper level language classes. "You don't understand a language barrier until you've suffered from one," stated Dalton

Border in reference to his studies in Spain.

The Yeager Scholars not only grew as individuals, but were able to grow closer as a whole.

"It definitely brought us closer. We got to know each other better, and hang out in different environments and see what each other was like when they're thrown into that situation... we are definitely closer for it," said Andrew Hart.

Their trip to Oxford and various other locations around Europe was certainly an eye opening experience the Yeager Scholars will be able to carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Going Beyond Green and White

By Alexis Kastigar

Upon introduction into college, students are introduced to a wide array of opportunities. One such opportunity is the option to study abroad, which can converge one's drive to travel with university requirements. It can seem like a phenomenal concept, but what are some of the benefits of studying abroad, and what can you take away from such an experience?

Paige Rabatin, a Marshall alumna with her Bachelor's degree in psychology, relayed her love and appreciation for the life-rewarding

experiences she achieved while studying abroad in both Bonaire and The People's Republic of China.

Rabatin participated in a summer study program at Tsinghua University in China that included teaching English to children in rural communities in the summer of 2013. She also visited Bonaire with a tropical ecology class the day of her graduation this past May.

Rabatin's adventures knew no bounds, including a scuba diving session with a 400 pound Loggerhead sea turtle. Rabatin said she developed a profound appreciation for the

world around her that she could not have received on campus.

"I feel that studying abroad is the most beneficial thing you can do in college," said Rabatin. "I met some amazing people I still stay in touch with, had multiple adventures no one else has had, and I learned cultural lessons I would never have gotten in a regular classroom."

She said she also encourages others to pursue the travel abroad program and get ready for the adventures they can find.

"The travels definitely changed me for the better," Rabatin said. "I understand issues in the

world that are really important for everyone right now, including cultural and political issues in China and multiple environmental issues in Bonaire. The more I understand, the better I can interact and communicate with everyone I meet."

"I met some amazing people I still stay in touch with, and had multiple adventures no one else had..."
-Rabatin

Honors Students Bring MEDLIFE to Marshall's Campus

By Clara Maynard
MEDLIFE, a non-profit organization short for "Medicine, Education, and Development for Low Income Families Everywhere" had a chapter established at Marshall University by Honors College students Ana Ramirez and Anna Lefevre last fall.

The organization operates collegiate chapters across the U.S. with a mission statement to improve the overall health and welfare of families and communities in need.

"I've always had a passion for helping others

and a desire to do it on a global scale," Lefevre said. "MEDLIFE gives me an outlet to help in the community and in the communities around the world."

MU MEDLIFE raises money for its national organization and brings various service projects to the tri-state area. Some of these projects include a clothing drive for Golden Girl, a local group home, held last November. The chapter hopes to introduce even more service projects this year.

"We plan on taking volunteer trips to

shelters, partnering up with other medical outreach programs in the area and raising money for organizations dedicated to creating a better life for people in need in our community," Ramirez said.

Members of MEDLIFE not only volunteer within the community, but also have the opportunity to do so abroad. The organization operates mobile clinics in Peru, Ecuador, Panama and Tanzania. Participants spend a week delivering healthcare education and development to rural communities through

these clinics.

Ramirez and Lefevre, along with four other members of Marshall's chapter went on a mobile clinic trip to Lima, Peru this summer.

"It was the most meaningful experience I've ever had. Helping those people made me that much more passionate about what I want to do," Lefevre said.

The chapter will hold its next meeting at 5:30 p.m., on Wednesday, October 1st in Harris Hall 139. More information can be found on their Facebook page, MU MEDLIFE.

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Honors College Junior Reaching Out to Freshmen

By Callie

Snodgrass
Being a mentor to someone is a rewarding experience, and for Alexa Antill, a junior in the Honors College, this is an experience she gets to have every day. Through her job with the Department of Housing and Residence Life, Alexa is an academic mentor to students on campus.

Alexa, who lives on the first floor of Buskirk Hall, is an English major. "Academics have always been really important to me" Antill said, "So I want to help others succeed in academics as well."

According to Alexa, the purpose of an academic mentor is to help freshman students make the academic transition into college by giving students scheduling advice, planning academic programs, and connecting them with academic resources on campus. These resources include



"... I want to help others succeed in academics as well." -Antill

the Writing Center, the Tutoring Center, the Student Resource Center, and Career Services.

In addition to advising, Alexa is responsible for decorating a bulletin board every month and can assist students by enrolling them into the Mentor Connection Program. Any student can choose to sign up and meet with Alexa bi-weekly. During this time, she will check the student's progress and help answer any questions they have. Alexa can also give the students good tips on how to improve their time management and

study skills if they are struggling.

The academic programs, planned by each mentor, are a great way for the mentors to interact with students and for the students to get more information about the program. Two programs Alexa has planned in previous semesters include a Zumba program and a scheduling program.

This semester the number of mentors doubled from last semester, with 16 academic mentors on staff. There is one mentor located in Gibson, Alexa in

Buskirk, and one mentor located on each floor in Towers East. All academic mentors hold office hours in the Towers Learning Center.

The Towers Learning Center is new this year, and it is located in the lobby of Towers East. The center has a mentor on staff Monday-Thursday from 5 p.m.-11 p.m. During these times, any Marshall students can come in and ask for homework help or ask a mentor, including Alexa, any questions they may have.