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Marshall University Honors College

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Honors Oracle

Marshall University's Honors College newsletter • October 2015

In the spotlight: Honors students take the stage with the Theatre Department

By NANCY PEYTON

Students in the Honors College come from many different backgrounds and bring a wide variety of skills to the table. Four of these students can be seen showcasing their talents at the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse.

Yeager Scholar M.G. Dalton held the lead role in the recent production of "Ah, Wilderness!" directed by special guest Terry Layman, who has done work on Broadway.

"Working with Terry was such a great experience," Dalton said. "He had this sort of creative energy that was so infectious, and he was always so supportive of us and our work as actors. He was really personal and involved with us. It was easy for us to do our best, because he helped us believe we could."

Dalton also said her experience in the role of Richard Miller was interesting because of how strongly she could identify with the character.

"Richard's going through a lot of emotional rockiness and he's struggling with separating out his identity from all the things he thinks he wants to be or thinks he's supposed to be," Dalton said. "It was almost cathartic, in a way, getting to explore a low point that I've moved on from."

Dalton said she enjoys the close connections she has made while being in the Honors College and a Yeager Scholar.

"The sense of community in the Society of Yeager Scholars is what really does it for me," Dalton said. "Especially this year, with a lot of us living

in suites together, the James and Verna Gibson class has grown a lot closer. We're like a family. I couldn't be more grateful to the Yeager Scholarship for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the Marshall University theatre company."

Dalton isn't the only one who feels the close-knit connections made at Marshall. Sophomore Andrew Durst said he feels these connections within the theatre program.

"There are so many things I love about the School of Theatre, like how close everyone in the department is, but also how dedicated we all are to our art," Durst said.

Durst also said he enjoys the academic atmosphere at Marshall, especially within the Honors College.

"My favorite thing about the Honors College here at Marshall is the challenge it presents academic wise," Durst said. "I love being pushed to work harder and have so far loved all the honors courses I have taken."

Junior Stephanie Frasher said Marshall has given her valuable tools she'll need when she graduates.

"As a performer with no prior theatrical experience, I have learned more in the past two years than I could have ever imagined," Frasher said. "The summer after my freshman year I got a job offer to work for The Lost Colony, a Tony Award winning outdoor theatre, under William Ivy Long, who has been nominated for 15 Tonys and won 6 of them."

Frasher also said despite the fact her theatre schedule keeps her from many Honors College events, she's



found ways to integrate the Honors College into her theatre schedule as secretary of the National Theatre's Honor Society, Alpha Psi Omega's Beta Cast.

"Even though I am not able to participate in the events and happenings with the Honors College, I am still helping to get theatre students involved in the Honors programs," Frasher said.

Freshman Abigail Yazvac said she has felt welcomed here as a first-time Marshall student.

"When you're involved in theatre, you have an instant group of friends, which is really great when you're coming into something as a freshman," Yazvac said.

These Honors students, along with the others in the theatre program, will be putting on a production of "A Christmas Carol" November 18-21.



Honors student wins O’Hanlon Competition

By AMANDA GIBSON

Marshall University Honors student and accounting and economics double major Alex O’Donnell won the 2015 Dan O’Hanlon Essay Competition.

The 2015 competition was on the Citizens United vs. Federal Elections Commission Supreme Court ruling. In this case, the Supreme Court ruled corporations have a First Amendment right to unlimited political spending in elections as a form of free speech. Essays were supposed to discuss whether the Citizens United case was correctly decided.

O’Donnell said he felt he wasn’t entirely prepared for this to be the essay topic because of his background.

“I’m a business major,” O’Donnell said. “I knew I had a disadvantage in that area, so when I won I was really shocked.”

O’Donnell won the competition, a \$1000 scholarship and was invited to a dinner with Heather Gerken, a law professor at Yale University, who gave an Amicus Curiae lecture on Citizens United at Marshall in September.

“[O’Donnell] and the other contestants read carefully and analyzed the Supreme Court decision that between the majority opinion and the dissent was probably 200 pages long and challenging to read. Plus, additional materials as well,” said Patricia Proctor, Director of the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy. “But students are getting quite a bit of money with the prize. So, I think its appropriate that they should actually have to work for it.”

O’Donnell said he learned a lot by writing his essay, such as the fact unlimited independent expenditure distorts what elections should be about, and it should be regulated.

“I chose the side that leads to corruption,” O’Donnell said. “It does allow politicians to be skewed by the amount of money.”

O’Donnell said he spent the summer analyzing more than 180 pages of documents for the competition. There was no page limit for the essay, but 10 to 15 pages was the recommendation. He said his essay was 12 pages.

“It requires constant analysis over the summer,” he said.

Proctor said O’Donnell’s experience isn’t out of the ordinary.

“You’re doing something difficult. It’s not easy,” Proctor said. “You’re being judged by judges who challenge everything and I think it’s a very good achievement.”

O’Donnell said the primary organization he is involved with on campus is the Student Government Association.

He is also the conference coordinator for Alpha Kappa Psi, and is involved in the Student Representative Assessment Committee and the Budget and Academic Committee.

O’Donnell said he likes hiking and watching television in his downtime.

He has been involved with the Honors College since his freshman year.

“I really like being a part of Huntington and being involved on campus,” O’Donnell said.

Willis Hall

By RYAN FISCHER

A new residence hall policy has brought Marshall University's Honors College students together into a collective community.

Willis Hall is converting into an Honors-exclusive Living Learning Community, with efforts beginning this semester.

Housing and Residence Life officials on Marshall's campus, like Assistant Director for Academic Initiatives Britt Frye, say they view this as an excellent opportunity for these students to live and learn together.

"Willis is a special community where honors students, high achieving students, can live together," Frye said, "and Willis is moving to be exclusively honors."

Willis Hall is now mostly filled by honors students and staffed by honors Resident Advisers, according to Frye.

Frye also said that the controversial and progressive discussions held within

many Honors classes can extend to the residence halls more efficiently by consolidating the Honors atmosphere.

Nick Kegley, a Resident Adviser in Willis Hall, said the Honors community is calm and quiet by comparison, due in part to the new policies and services.

"They're typically not actually in the building, they're usually out doing other activities or they're just studying by themselves in their rooms," Kegley said.

Kegley also said although the highly active lives of Honors students can lead to their absence in Honors dorms, HRL has developed many programs and activities to build the hall community as well.

Marshall's Housing and Residence Life, in partnership with the Honors College, has refitted rooms for general use, such as a classroom on the second floor that caters to Honors seminars.

Although the policy focuses on gather-

ing only Honors students at Willis, the amenities and events being structured are meant to be accessible to the entire Commons community.

A Faculty in Residence position, which was filled by David Cartwright, was also established by HRL in order to accommodate the extracurricular needs of all Commons residents. His office is on the first floor of Willis Hall.

The program's objective is to introduce a professor into the living space so that all professors are more comfortably accessible as a student resource.

Cartwright said that his practice has evolved greatly due in part to his more frequent interactions with students.

"In that mode that we get into we're not really approachable at all," Cartwright said. "Few people come to our office hours, it's really kind of an isolated life between us and the student. But what this projects wants to engender is a professional relationship between professors and students."

Liz Adams: Yeager scholar,

By KASEY MADDEN

According to their website, Marshall University's Society of Yeager Scholars looks for students with "outstanding intellectual and leadership potential as demonstrated by their breadth of interests, creativity, personal drive, civic involvement and commitment to excellence."

Freshman Elizabeth "Liz" Adams fits those descriptions and more.

Adams said she applied for the Yeager program with several leadership roles under her belt.

"I went to a very small school so there was a lot of leadership opportunities because there weren't as many people to fill those positions," Adams said. "The leadership position I'm most proud of or enjoyed the most was FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) State Vice President and I got a lot of experi-

ence from that, speaking to people and working with people around the state to help benefit FBLA."

Also in high school, Adams created her own knitting business to sell knit headbands she made to her friends.

"I actually had an elderly neighbor that taught me and I just really love it," Adams said.

While at Marshall, Adams is double majoring in two entirely different fields, biomechanics and ceramics, with the goal of becoming an occupational therapist.

"Occupational therapy is helping people regain strength in their limbs and doing everyday activities," Adams said, "so I really want to incorporate art in therapy, and so that's why I want to do ceramics."

Adams said she found out about the

Yeager program after initially applying for Marshall at a college fair at her high school, Wirt County, in Elizabeth, West Virginia.

"I just love traveling," Adams said, "and a lot of the leadership opportunities were a thing that drew me in, because I wanted to continue to be a leader in college."

In her time on campus this fall, Adams has continued to stay involved by joining the rugby team, the knitting club and becoming an INTO conversation partner.

The camaraderie the Yeager students experience is unique, Adams said, as they take seminar classes throughout their college careers together and have the opportunity to live together in the residence halls.

"We're all kind of like a family and

Yeager Scholar: Continued

it's really nice because everyone is so different than each other but we all kind of have similar motives in a way," Adams said. "I learn a lot about different views and different perspectives because we all come

from different backgrounds, but at the same time we share the similar view of leading and helping others."

Through the high involvement of the Yeager program and double majoring, Adams said she stays motivated by

using her time, skills, and talents to help others.

"I just really like helping other people and being an influence in people's lives," Adams said. "I think that's also why I want to do occupational therapy

DeMoss tees up her dream internship

By IAN LOVERN

Ashley DeMoss spent her summer in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. It has sun, sand and more importantly, it's the home of the PGA Tour headquarters. Eleven weeks at her dream internship has further prepared DeMoss to pursue a career in sports marketing.

DeMoss spent the summer working in the marketing services department for PGA Tour, which is responsible for all things related to professional golfers. She said she was responsible for many hands-on creative pieces, as well as social media projects.

"We did a lot of tournament specific projects," DeMoss said. "I got to create flyers, even billboards, to help promote players and tournaments."

DeMoss had been looking forward to this opportunity for several years. Since first discovering the internship in high school, DeMoss said she had been taking the necessary steps to earn a position as soon as she met the age requirement.

"I knew that you had to be junior in college to apply," DeMoss said. "From my junior year of high school on, I knew there were things I could do to prepare. I knew the GPA that I would need, so I worked to keep mine as high as possible. It was in my mind every time that I stepped into a classroom."

DeMoss knew that she would need to be able to stand out against the other candidates. As it turned out, the 24 interns hailed predominantly

from Ivy League universities, and there were even some members from outside of the US. In such a diverse, distinguished group, DeMoss said she felt that she was able to highlight qualities in herself that set her apart.

"I knew that I could perform at the same level as the other applicants," DeMoss said. "I have received a quality education here at Marshall. At the same time, I knew where I could improve. I knew what I wanted to accomplish with the internship. Every time that I had an interview, I told them, 'these are my goals, so how can this program help me.' I think that made the difference for me."

DeMoss credited the Honors College for helping her prepare for the internship with PGA Tour, as well as a potential return to Ponte Vedra after graduation. She said the challenging curriculum brought out the best in DeMoss's work, and she always appreciated the professors' willingness to push her.

"I had professors that pushed me, that's what you don't get in a lot of courses," DeMoss said. "The Honors College professors see that everyone in the class is someone who can make a difference. They weren't afraid to tell me that I was slacking, or that I could do better work. They don't just hand you your honors credits. They make you work for it."

While the Honors College helped



DeMoss in the classroom, she said it was the relationships that she has built through her participation in the college that meant the most during her interview process with PGA Tour.

"I had talked to Dr. Gilpin before the interviews," DeMoss said. "She was always the person I called afterwards to tell how it went. She has been super supportive throughout the whole process."

Overall, DeMoss said she could not have been happier with her time in Ponte Vedra. As a marketing student with a passion for sports, DeMoss could think of nowhere else she'd rather make a career, and her work over the summer was a step in the right direction.

"My ultimate goal is to go back," DeMoss said. "They love to retain their interns. It's the sports world and the marketing world. Golf is just the cherry on top!"



Carpenter matches students with scholarships

By DAVID BOYD

Many college students are constantly searching for ways to help pay for school, and the Honors College has added a new position in hopes to make the quest easier.

Mallory Carpenter has worked for Marshall for the past five years, but this is her first year as Program Manager for National Scholarships. Her position entails meeting with students and helping them through the process of selecting national scholarships that they wish to apply for, even if is a scholarship a student has never heard of.

Carpenter said what she wanted most was for students to know there are opportunities out there for them.

“I think starting early is what’s important,” Carpenter said, “so in terms of starting to plan, starting to think about what opportunities are out there and to realize there are opportunities out there. A lot of the times students think, ‘Well I’m from a rural background or family and I don’t think there is anything necessarily out there for me.’”

Carpenter said this isn’t true and it’s her job to help students find what works for them.

“Especially if you can get in early and

start planning early,” Carpenter said, “I think that you’ll find that there are a lot of different opportunities out there, so don’t rule anything out I would say just because of your background or what classes you are taking or your major or anything like that.”

Carpenter said there is a master list she uses that has a hundred or so scholarships, that not all of the potential scholarships one can apply for.

“I really try to focus probably on about ten that I tend to offer more than any other ones,” Carpenter said, “Because I think in this position you kind of have to focus in on what our students are... most likely to obtain.”

Carpenter said her primary goal is to help students and see them succeed.

“My goals are to get more students applying to national scholarships, and hopefully, for them to win,” she said. “As part of that, I want students to be able to think critically about their goals, their careers, and their relationships with their professors and career mentors. All of that goes hand-in-hand with the scholarship application process.”

A student who wishes to study abroad may already know where they would like to study. Carpenter said if this is the case, they can see the study

abroad office here at Marshall to make sure the credits will transfer, and then visit with her so she can match the student with optional scholarships based on their major and Financial Aid Eligibility.

One project Carpenter has completed in her new position is the creation of a bi-weekly e-mail she calls Fellowship Fridays. If any student wishes, they can e-mail Carpenter and request to be added to this list to receive the Fellowship Friday e-mails. She said this idea was something she learned while preparing for her new position.

“In July, I attended the national conference for people in this field of work,” Carpenter said, “One of the conference presenters, Dr. Megan Friddle from Emory University, spoke about how she does a similar email newsletter for her students, and I really loved the idea. It’s something that a lot of offices do.”

Carpenter can be seen any time, but prefers students to make an appointment. She can also be contacted by phone 304-696-2475 or e-mail mallory.carpenter@marshall.edu. Carpenter’s office is located in the Honors College in Old Main room 230E.

Meet the Honors Oracle Staff

GABI WARWICK, executive editor

Gabi is a senior broadcast journalism major from Martinsburg, W.Va. She joined the Honors College in 2013 and aspires to be News Director of Marshall's student radio station, WMUL-FM.

LEXI BROWNING, layout editor

Lexi is a print and online journalism double major with a double minor in political science and international affairs. She is a native of Milton, W.Va. and entered the Honors College in 2013. She aspires to be a multimedia storyteller for *The Washington Post*.

CLARA MAYNARD, assistant editor

Clara is a public relations major from Chapmanville, W.Va. She joined the Honors College in 2013 and aspires to obtain her masters degree in public relations and doctoral degree to become a professor.

JARED CASTO, social media director

Jared is an online journalism major from Ripley, W.Va. He entered the Honors College in 2014 and aspires to enter the field of journalism after graduation or continue his education.

NANCY PEYTON, staff writer

Nancy is an online journalism and political science double major from Pecks Mill, W.Va. She entered the Honors College in 2014 and aspires to work for *The New York Times* as a reporter.

DAVID BOYD, staff writer

David is an economics major from Williamson, W.Va. He entered the Honors College in 2015 and aspires to be a professor at the Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College after he receives his masters degree.

AMANDA GIBSON, staff writer

Amanda is a print journalism major from Pocahontas County, W.Va. She entered the Honors College in 2014 and aspires to become a newspaper reporter or editor after graduation.

KASEY MADDEN, staff writer

Kasey is a public relations major from Ona, W.Va. She entered the Honors College in 2013 and aspires to go to law school or work for a professional sports team.

RYAN FISCHER, staff writer

Ryan is a print and online journalism double major from the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia. He entered the Honors College in 2014 and aspires to be a reporter and photographer for print and broadcast publications.

IAN LOVERN, staff writer

Ian is a microbiology and religious studies double major from Bluefield, W.Va. He entered the Honors College in 2012 and aspires to work in emergency medicine.

Upcoming events

Novemeber 30 - December 4: Dead Week

December 7 - 11: Exams Week

December 12: Winter Commencement

December 13: Residence Halls Close

December 22: University Closes

December 23 - January 1: Winter Break