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## Honors Oracle, September 2018

Marshall University Honors College

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# Honors Oracle

Marshall University's Honors College newsletter • Sept. 2018

## Brian Hoey welcomed as new associate dean of Honors College

BY HEATHER BARKER

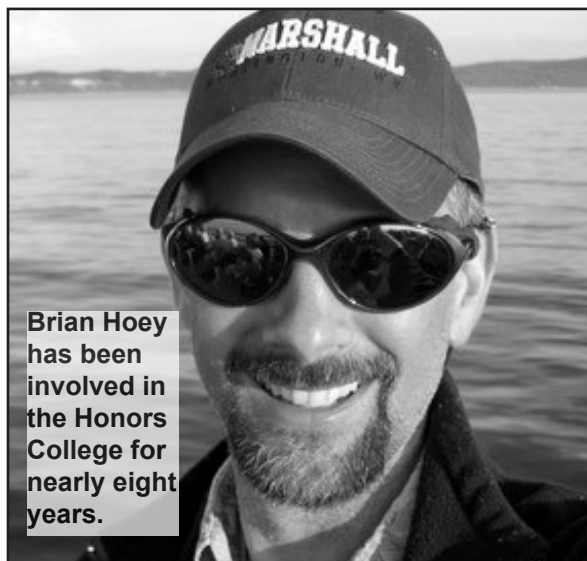
After years of teaching anthropology and honors and Yeager seminars, Brian Hoey has taken on a new role of associate dean of the Honors College, beginning this semester.

Although his doctorate is in cultural anthropology, Hoey said interdisciplinary opportunities, like the ones the Honors College provides, are critical in developing students for careers after graduating.

"Interdisciplinary coursework and the ability to see from multiple perspectives and to shift gears when necessary, I think, is an essential thing for today's economy, and we can really be at the forefront, as a college, in preparing students for that kind of future," Hoey said.

Hoey continues to teach for the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, and he said his previous position as director of undergraduate studies for the department will help him in his approach to his new position as associate dean of the Honors College.

"Although there are different challenges now, I feel well prepared for what I'm doing, and I have a good relationship with people across the university as faculty," Hoey said. "I've always been looking for ways to build relationships with other



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faculty members and disciplines, because that's my nature, and fortunately, at Marshall that's possible that might not be at some other institutions where there tends to be that silo mentality where people don't mix."

About eight years ago, Hoey began teaching the third semester Yeager seminar, which he taught with Dean of the Honors College Nicola LoCascio, who was associate dean at the time. LoCascio said working with Hoey in the past will allow the two to benefit the Honors College in multiple ways.

"He and I have worked together for a long time," LoCascio said. "We can disagree without it being personal, and that's what you need in administration. You need to be able to bounce ideas without taking

offense. I think we have a good working relationship to be able to talk about ideas and see what's going to work best."

Hoey, who is responsible for many aspects of the Honors College curriculum, said he would like to see more faculty from various disciplines begin to teach for the Honors College for students to be exposed to more areas outside of their major.

"I'm responsible for accepting and reviewing proposals for the seminars and developing schedules and

the procedures for bringing together all of the various elements of the curriculum that we need," Hoey said. "So, along those lines, I would like to find ways to improve how accessible that is to different faculty who may not have considered teaching for the Honors College before for various reasons. I want to help faculty who haven't considered [teaching] to better understand what we do and what they might be able to contribute, because, ideally, a truly interdisciplinary college is of the greatest value."

Together, LoCascio said she and Hoey will address some curriculum-related issues facing the college.

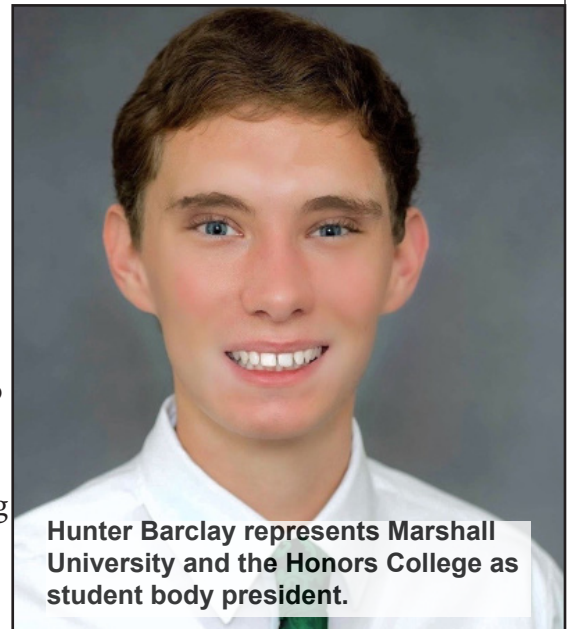
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# Q & A with student body president and Yeager Scholar Hunter Barclay

BY JESTEN RICHARDSON

**Q. What experiences are you looking forward to this year, whether it be for your presidency or just your life?**

**A.** This year is really exciting, senior year. You can kind of see the finish line for graduation, and that's always an exciting aspect. I'm looking forward to representing students as student body president and working with the Board of Governors. They seem like a great group of people who are really receptive to student input. Also, I will be going to Israel over winter break, and I'm looking forward to studying abroad there for about 10 days. And this spring, I'm competing on the Thundering Word Speech and Debate team, so I'm also looking forward to our national tournaments. This year, they're in Santa Ana, California, as well as New York City, so we have an exciting few tournaments this year, and I'm looking forward to just having a full plate, but a plate with many great opportunities.



Hunter Barclay represents Marshall University and the Honors College as student body president.

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**Q. Why did you choose Marshall?**

**A.** Whenever I was looking for colleges, I was looking for a place where I would have a lot of opportunities, and then I also wanted a place where I felt that the atmosphere was very friendly and then also I was looking for an affordable option. When I was looking at colleges, I was looking for something that my family could afford, and I found the Yeager program at Marshall. When I came down to visit the campus it was in March 2015, and it was the weekend of a giant snowstorm, and I thought if I could really enjoy campus when we're covered in ice and snow, then I would definitely love campus when the sun is out and it's a nice day like today [Sept. 7].

But, I was really impressed by the Yeager program. I met Dr. LoCascio and Cara Bailey from the Honors College, and you can tell sometimes when you visit colleges and universities that people are going through the motions of just doing the niceties and trying to be polite, but they were genuine. They knew who I was. They were asking about my hometown, my interests, my major, and I could tell that they had an investment up front, and that was something that really stood out to me about Marshall is that even though it's a large university, you still have people who will know your name, who want to know how your family is doing, and it's still very personal.

**Q. How do you think your experiences as a Yeager scholar have shaped your presidency or prepared you for it?**

**A.** Something about the Yeager program that I think is such an important part is the study abroad component, and what's unique about study abroad is that you can pretty much craft whatever option you want to do for study abroad, and so for me, I wanted to go somewhere that would have a large service component. I chose to go to Arusha, Tanzania, and I went there for three weeks, and I volunteered at an orphanage, and at that orphanage I was teaching math classes. I noticed that whenever I came back to campus, it was definitely a difficult transition, because I had become very close to the other volunteers there and the children I had worked with, and it gave me such a great appreciation for education. I think I also realized that there's so much opportunity in the United States that children in other countries, and students, may not have access to, or it's a very difficult route to access. So, as student body president I want to make sure that students take advantage of the great opportunities available to them and really appreciate the ability to get an education and then making sure that this education is something that is empowering too, because I think in the world there are a lot of issues, —such as malnutrition, not having access to education, safe drinking water— **Continued on page 3.**

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and these are things that I witnessed directly. So, I really want to encourage students to address these issues, and I think that my study abroad experience showed me that sometimes it's easy to stay within the college bubble, but once you get outside of that bubble there are a lot of issues that need to be addressed. As a leader, that's something that, I kind of want to tackle those difficult, big issues that really are outside of this college bubble, and I think encouraging students and organizations to focus on those is something that really kind of motivated me to run.

### **Q. What have been your favorite experiences so far as both a president and a student?**

**A.** As far as being the president, my probably favorite experience, and it wasn't even something that was necessarily related to the student body president role, but it was during WOW week, whenever they had the "We Are Marshall" movie playing in the stadium, and I think that was something that was just such a moving moment. I'd say it's just being a student here at Marshall, being able to watch the movie, and especially as a senior, because once you're a senior on campus, you've created such close ties to the community and the university, and knowing people who were directly affected, had lost their parents in the plane crash, and then just sitting there in the stadium. It's a surreal moment, and it's very humbling to realize the legacy of our university and that it's not just some Hollywood film, but this is about people who I know, people who I care about. That was something that, just sitting there that night, I was like, "Wow. I have become so invested in this university, and it's become invested in me," and it was just a very humbling moment.

And then a moment as a Yeager Scholar was when I was at Oxford University last summer. I had the opportunity to participate in an Oxford-style debate, which is very different from what we do here in the United States, because instead of just having one or two judges, all your judges are the audience. So that was something really incredible to debate at Oxford, which is like known as the debate capital of the world, and being able to be before these internationally acclaimed scholars and here I am like, "Wow. Marshall has prepared me to debate at Oxford." That was really cool, because I realized that Marshall had given me the tools to be competitive against students from Ivy League institutions, in the top universities throughout the UK and even discussing this with students who came from every continent. It was pretty incredible.

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# Honors senior makes strides in research

BY ABI DROPIK

Jenna Zuzolo, a senior biology major and honors student, began her dive into biological research in summer 2017.

Zuzolo worked primarily alongside James Joy, a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, along with Mike Norton and David Neff, and graduate students Austin Humbert and Emily Sester, to aid in the research of different blood-feeding species of flies.

A fundamental piece of their research involved dissecting the fly's cibarium and food labrum and studying the sensory structures within them to see if they could find any similarities between the different species.

The horn fly was the primary specimen Zuzolo studied, and she said she believes this research may be able to reach greater depths by further exploration of its biological structures.

"[The horn fly] fed on cattle, so they affect cattle

production and the emotional state of cattle, which can lead to deficit in the farming industry," Zuzolo said.

She said she is optimistic that, with further research into the sensory structures of the different species of flies, there is potentially a way to prevent them from causing harm to those they come into contact with.

Throughout her research with Joy, and the use of the graduate microscopy course she was enrolled in, Zuzolo was able to use a scanning electron microscope to take close-up images of the flies in order to see two types of sensilla: the mechanoreceptors, which are believed to physically sense the blood when it comes in contact with it, and the chemoreceptors, which are believed to sense chemicals upon contact.

"Although we collected some great images and information about these sensory structures, much more is needed to figure out the true mechanisms behind how these sensilla work," Zuzolo said.

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# Students given opportunity to help improve community

BY MIRANDA SMITH

Honors students this fall who registered for section 101 of the HON 480 course offerings have been given the opportunity to work with other students to address and help improve issues within Huntington. The course, "Huntington: A Smart City," is team taught by Michael Schroeder, a mathematics professor, and Charles Arthur, a political science professor.

The course was largely inspired by the two professors' work with CoRTEX, the Community Research and Teaching Experiences Center, which is housed within the Center for Teaching and Learning in Old Main. Through this center, the two act as facilitators for various community stakeholders, helping to connect them, and any projects they may have, with students who want to work on them. One of the projects that resulted from this facilitation involved a group of math majors working on a data analysis project for the Huntington Police Department. This project addressed inefficiencies with the patrol system used by the HPD and resulted in a new system which helps improve

the department's response times.

However, it appeared odd to the two that there were no criminal justice majors also working on the project since it concerned the police department. This was partially the inspiration for their HON 480 course, which was designed as an interdisciplinary course to encourage students of all backgrounds to get involved in and help the city through community-based research.

"That was the goal of this class," Schroeder said. "To bring together some talented individuals from different backgrounds to work on some of the projects that the city has."

This interdisciplinary focus is also one embodied by the two professors because of their different backgrounds, a fact that proves beneficial, Schroeder said.

"It allows us to approach things from different perspectives," Schroeder said.

Though still early in the semester, the class has hosted speakers such as Huntington Mayor Steve Williams and fire chief Jan Rader, notable for her feature in the 2017 documentary "Heroin(e)," both of

which Schroeder said were municipal stakeholders within the community. Schroeder said the input from these community stakeholders has inspired project ideas for students in the course, who will analyze and observe issues they wish to focus on before meeting to finalize their plans with their professors and create a plan to best address these issues in a way fitting their educational background.

While it is uncertain when the class will be offered again, Schroeder said the two would like to teach it in the future if possible, and that, if not, their efforts would continue outside of the class with the CoRTEX Center.



HON 480 is team-taught by Michael Schroeder (pictured) and Charles Arthur.

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"There's been some long-term problems with making sure our curriculum is valid and worthwhile," LoCascio said. "It is not meant to be a punishment or punitive for honors students to have to do the credit hours, and we want it to benefit them. Problem is a lot of students are coming in with a lot of their gen-eds already done, so we want to try to find experiences that will maybe compensate or take the place of some honors classes, but it's still valid honors worthy work. So, we're looking at what alternatives we have to classes to make it a good experience." Although Hoey has served the Honors College by teaching honors and Yeager seminars over the past few years, he said it is a privilege to continue to serve the college in his new role.

"It's an honor to serve the college, and by serving the college, I'm most directly serving the students, and that is really what my job is about, is seeing to the welfare to the greater good of the entire community of students that we have in the college," Hoey said. "I am here to support you, and that includes the more formal encounters of advising that we have as well as being available to people if they feel they need my help. I don't think there's a need for folks to feel that they are on their own, because I think we can work together as students and the administration."

### **Continued from page 3.**

The research team has submitted an article to The Journal of Medical Entomology talking about their findings and relating them to other completed research.

Along with co-authoring this paper, Zuzolo spoke at a conference sponsored by the West Virginia Medical Entomology Association in Buckhannon, West Virginia, last winter about her project.

During a research day at Marshall University last spring, where many students shared with others their findings on the projects they were involved in, Zuzolo created a poster for her microscopy class based on this research and presented it at that time.

Zuzolo said she believes doing this research allowed her to further her education and advance her skills necessary for lab work, because she was able to practice using different instruments she otherwise may not have had the chance to use in regular coursework.

Her research also allows her to work on solving problems and collaborating with other students and professors, providing her with an opportunity to get a feel for future work that she may be involved in, she said.

In this coming semester, Zuzolo said she is going to continue research on these flies and is open-minded to other research in the future. Her overall goal is to attend medical school next fall with the hopes of specializing in pediatrics.



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## **The Honors Oracle Staff**

### **Amanda Larch | Executive Editor**

Amanda is a junior print journalism major from Hurricane, West Virginia. She is the current copy editor for the Parthenon and after graduating she would love to write for Rolling Stone Magazine.

### **Jesten Richardson | Assistant Editor**

Jesten is a junior print journalism, English and English education triple major from Huntington, W.Va. She joined the Honors College, as well as the staff of the Honors Oracle, in 2017 and aspires to become a high school journalism and English teacher or a professor of either subject.

### **Hanna Pennington | Layout Editor**

Hanna is a junior online journalism major and history minor from Hurricane, West Virginia. She is the current social media manager for the Parthenon and an Honors College social media outreach contributor.

### **Heather Barker | Staff Writer**

Heather is a senior from Huntington, West Virginia majoring in online journalism. She is the Life! Editor for the Parthenon and is actively involved with UMS, a Marshall campus ministry. She is still trying to figure out what she wants to do after graduation but is considering attending seminary.

### **Abi Dropik | Staff Writer**

Abigail Dropik is from Lititz, Pennsylvania and is currently a sophomore at Marshall University. She is majoring in biochemistry and plans to continue on to graduate school. Her passions in life are science, sports, and art. She aspires to obtain a career in the research field post-graduation. She is a member of the Honors College and Women's Soccer team.

### **Miranda Smith | Staff Writer**

Miranda is a writer for the oracle, and a member of the Honors College. She is currently a junior, and studies literary studies, creative writing, and classics, with plans to pursue a Ph.D. in English after graduating.