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Marshall University Honors College

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Honors Oracle

Marshall University's Honors College newsletter • Nov. 2018

Yeager Book Club gives Honors students chance to interact with President Gilbert

BY HEATHER BARKER

Through the Yeager Book Club, Yeager scholars are given the chance to discuss various books with Marshall University's President Jerry Gilbert during their several meetings throughout the semester. "My favorite part is getting to sit down and discuss books for the sake of discussing what we read," Langley Sonnenberg, Yeager Scholar and junior economics and finance major, said. "None of our discussions are led by critical thinking questions or with any end idea in mind. We just sit around and talk and see where the discussion leads us. It's great that President Gilbert reads these books and is active in our discussions because it helps us to see things from a different perspective based on his life experiences."

The book club came to be in fall 2016 after Gilbert attended a Yeager dinner where he discussed with students both his and their love of reading, Cara Bailey, Outreach Coordinator for the Society of Yeager Scholars, said.

Bailey said students not only have the chance to read for fun, which is often forgotten while in college, but they also have the opportunity

to talk with the president about important issues on campus and in the community.

"Conversation will naturally flow into something else," Bailey said.



“ I participate because I love reading and discussing what I've read and don't find the opportunity to do so outside of this book club. ”

-Langley Sonnenberg, Yeager Scholar

"They might find a connection in the book to a current event or something happening on campus that can relate to, so the conversation will inevitably shift to what's

going on on campus, what the students are doing in their classes. It's a way for the president to get the ear of the student and hear what's happening on campus... The students can sit down with him in a very small group and bring forth their concerns, their ideas and have a genuine conversation where they are heard by the university president."

The president and Yeager scholars read books from all types of categories, including fiction, nonfiction and biography. Titles are chosen by the president or students, depending on the year.

"I participate because I love reading and discussing what I've read and don't find the opportunity to do so outside of this book club," Sonnenberg said. "Last fall, the books we read were focused on Appalachia, and it was interesting to hear how people from the region reacted to the books and how different all of their experiences were. The most enjoyable book we've read is 'Born a Crime,' but the book I couldn't put down and cried over in Starbucks is 'Tuesdays With Morrie.' 'Americanah,' the book we're currently reading, is also becoming harder to put down the farther I get into it."

Honors student co-leader of club aimed at connecting others with research opportunities

BY MIRANDA SMITH

This fall, students have the opportunity to join the Community of Research Practice club. CoRP is run, in part, by Honors College student Julianna Music. Music is a senior communication disorders major who said she is interested in going into research in the field after graduation, which is why she became interested in CoRP.

The club was started around 10 years ago during the fall 2008 semester. The goal of the club is to act as “an informal and safe setting where faculty, undergraduate and graduate students can come to learn the language and processes of research, proposed research ideas and gain support and guidance in conducting personal research,” Music said.

In her role with CoRP, Music reaches out to other students to explain the purpose and goal of the club in hopes of inspiring them to attend a meeting and learn more about how to conduct research. Though many of the students involved with CoRP are communication disorders majors, like Music herself, she said, “All majors are welcome to our meetings if they are interested.”

The club often features fun activities organized by Music and her fellow club members, including a game



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIANNA MUSIC

The Community of Research Practice Club was founded nearly ten years ago and is now run in part by Marshall Honors College student Julianna Music.

of research bingo.

“For the most part, CoRP’s events have been strictly plotted out by the faculty advisers,” Music said.

Under the guidance of these faculty advisers, students join faculty members on research projects or come to share their findings with a group of individuals engaged in similar research projects. The club also encourages students or faculty who are looking for individuals to join their research project to attend. They also hope those who are interested in research but who have not yet conducted a project will come to meetings, since these meetings are intended to educate members of CoRP about the proper ways to conduct research and how to begin doing so, Music said.

These meetings often feature guest speakers who explain some of the steps involved in research in addition to detailing their own experiences with research projects. Robin Riner, an associate professor in the anthropology department, is scheduled to speak at the club soon about her experiences with research as a linguistic anthropologist, Music said.

CoRP meets every Friday at noon in Smith Hall 113. Meetings are open to all, and more information can be found on CoRP’s Facebook page about upcoming meeting topics, Music said.

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Fall seminar showcases Asian music, culture

BY ABI DROPIK

This fall semester, Marshall University's Honors College offered a new and unique HON 480 seminar for students to delve into a topic they may have otherwise not considered.

This HON 480 seminar is titled "Beyond Bollywood: Asian Music Videos" and is instructed by Professor Zelideth Rivas.

Rivas said the seminar allows students to "gain an appreciation for Asian music, learn how to apply film studies to music videos and understand the increasingly larger international market to which Asian music delivers its goods."

The class studies a diverse group of artists, starting in Bollywood and progressing through J-pop, enka and many other categories of Asian music throughout the semester.

The students analyze music videos and assigned readings and then discuss them among the class, connecting the theories outlined in the readings to the videos they observed.

In addition to the assigned readings and music videos, students also find new music videos they can present to their peers in order to lead a class discussion.

Discussion among the class consists of a variety of topics that relate to the artists' lyrics, their fan following or concert popularity and much more. For example, Rivas said, "Students love to talk about how fast the NY BTS concert sold out," but she is more interested in "Got7's latest release of the first K-pop song sung entirely in Spanish." This highlights the diversity in conversational topics present throughout the class discussions.

Rivas immerses herself in the class because she listens to a few of the artists discussed in her own personal time. Some of her favorites are DJ Rekha, a US-based DJ who mixes bhangra with other beats, Faye Wong, who is featured on the soundtrack for

the recently released movie "Crazy Rich Asians," and BeWhy, whose lyrics she said she finds incredible and who she had the chance to see in concert this summer in Korea at the Boryeong Mud Festival.

Rivas said her favorite thing about this class is the use of technology throughout and how it allows students to learn about new areas of Asia.

Along with the unique content, this course provides students with a new way of interacting with material presented in class.

Instead of taking notes by copying written information, this class requires students to take their notes through drawing different doodles rather than words. Rivas said she hopes this class is offered again in the future and she believes it is a good fit for an HON 480 seminar because the class is "interdisciplinary in ethnomusicology, anthropology, politics, film studies and Asian studies," which coincides perfectly with the honors curriculum.

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