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Honors Oracle

Honors College

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### Honors Oracle, November 2019

Marshall University Honors College

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# Honors Oracle

Marshall University's Honors College newsletter • Nov. 2019

## 1920s zeitgeist course connects past to present

By DOUGLAS HARDING

Exploring the essence of the 1920s through a lens encouraging students to draw connections between sociocultural aspects of the decade and the modern era is the intent of a '1920s zeitgeist and popular song' special topics honors course taught by an emeritus professor of Marshall University's classics department.

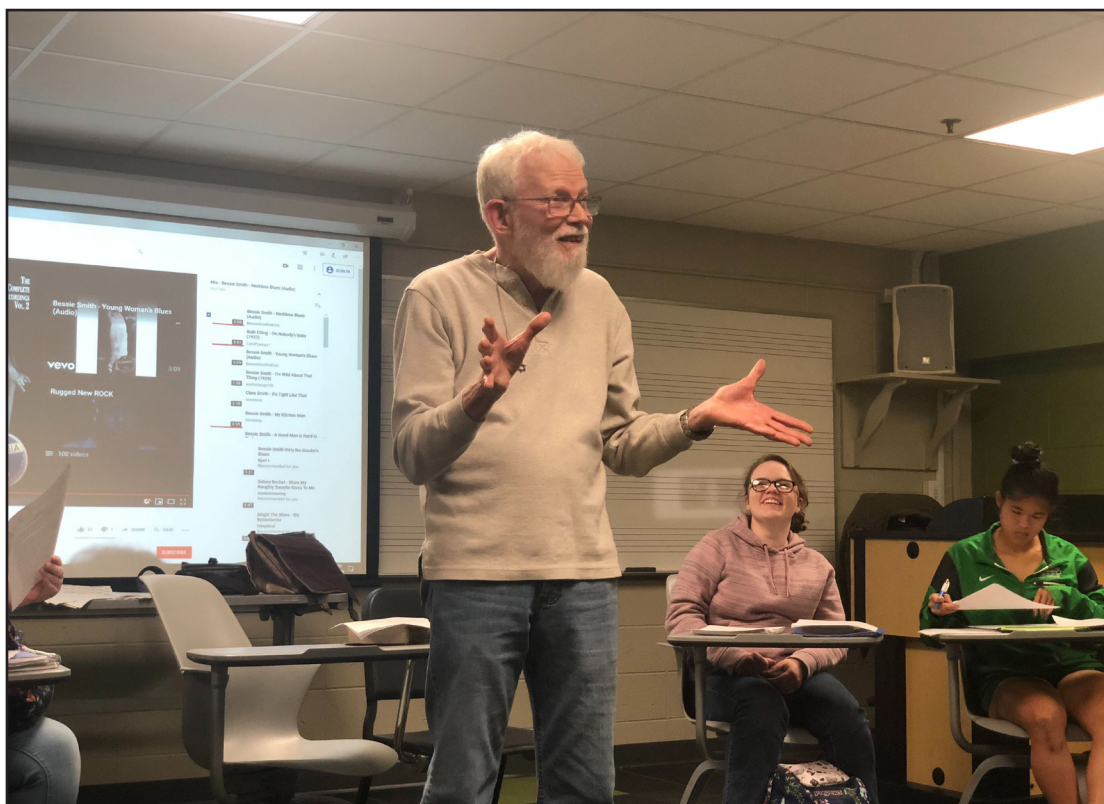
"The course deals with the relationship of the spirit of the times—the zeitgeist of the times—with its music," said Charles Lloyd, professor of the course.

"The modern age begins with the '20s.

Learning about it gives us perspective into what we're doing now and where it all started and what we're involved with."

While the course examines social attitudes and aspects like racism through music, it also strives to educate students about a distinctly formative and influential moment in American history, Lloyd said.

"If we're worried, as I think we are, about the pace of our lives and the



DOUGLAS HARDING

Professor Charles Lloyd speaks to his class at Marshall University.

fact that we can't find the time we need to do things, that we are enslaved to instruments like our phones—this is when all that started," he said.

Lloyd said recently students in the course have examined blues and jazz music and their connections to race-related realities of the times.

"We'll be looking at how white music has borrowed from black music," he said. "The '20s was a time

of severe racism, but at the time, black music was what white people loved to hear. They didn't really like it when black people performed it, but when white people took it over, they loved it very much."

Lloyd said such dynamics are still today relevant to modern American society and culture, partially because the 1920s was an influential time of various significant sociocultural transformations.

"Black music—jazz and the blues—became one of the most important parts of American popular music and has influenced popular music since then," Lloyd said. "The '20s was also when radio started to be widely used. It was a time when things began to happen."

Lloyd said students in the course also

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# Honors College offers counseling services for students

By ABI DROPIK

Because of the importance mental health plays in the lives of students, the Honors College has adopted a counseling program geared specifically toward helping honors students succeed to their maximum potential while making sure they are properly taken care of.

The rigor that Honors College students often put themselves through, because of the high standards they are held to, may cause them to put themselves through more stress than the average student might face, said Dean of the Honors College Nicola LoCascio.

This new program will allow students a chance to have the services of the Counseling Center more readily available to them. Counselors who are aware of the needs of honors students and their adjustment to college life are having an improved success, LoCascio said.

LoCascio said she hopes “making counseling readily

available in a familiar environment will encourage students to talk through any potential issues rather than just trying to go it alone.”

She also said that as long as there is a need for this program, the Honors College intends to keep it available to students.

This program is free of charge for all MU students and takes place in a space on the third floor of Old Main, away from the Counseling Center in Prichard Hall, giving honors students a familiar place to seek help.

In order to make an appointment, students may go to the Counseling Center website at marshall.edu/counseling and access a referral form. When completing this, students should state they are in the Honors College. Students can also schedule an appointment by calling (304) 696-3111 and requesting an Honors College appointment.

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## FAM program welcomes honors students to MU family

By DOUGLAS HARDING

Just over halfway through the semester, Marshall University students have had about nine weeks to assess and explore their experiences with the Friend at Marshall peer mentoring program.

The FAM program was unveiled at the start of the semester to encourage and aid first-year students, including Honors College members, throughout the process of adjusting to life on campus.

Joelle Williams, a first-year Honors College student and public relations major at Marshall, said when she first heard of the program, she felt both

skeptical and slightly intimidated by the prospect of mandatory interactions with someone she had not yet met in person, but she was soon surprised by its effectiveness.

“As both an out-of-state student and member of the Women’s Swimming and Diving team, I was overwhelmed by an entirely new environment, and I struggled to find someone to talk with,” Williams said. “So, I found it comforting when [my FAM mentor] began to email me about my week. She is genuinely interested in getting to know me.”

Williams said the FAM program can be as effective and helpful for

first-year students as they allow it to be through their own interest, participation and dedication.

“I like the program,” she said. “It is what you make of it. I see it as a way of helping freshmen like me assimilate into the Marshall family.”

Williams encouraged first-year students to resist isolating themselves when they feel scared or anxious and to instead utilize available services and resources like the FAM program and mentors.

“Don’t be afraid to reach out,” she said. “This program is a helpful resource and an easy way to assimilate.”

This sentiment was

echoed by first-year English major and Honors College student Tristan Calloway.

“I met with my FAM [mentor] at Week of Welcome, and she was very nice,” Calloway said. “I think that helped me feel a little more at ease to know that there was someone here that I could go to if I needed to talk to someone about anything.”

Both Calloway and Williams said receiving frequent updates and encouragement from their FAM mentors, often through text messages and emails, has been

**See FAM on pg. 5**



# "HONORABLE MENTION"

**KYLIE JOHNSON**

By AMANDA LARCH

**Connection to the Honors College:** Member since Fall 2017

**Class Level:** Senior

**Major:** Biology

**Hometown:** Beckley, West Virginia

**Passions:** Photography, playing the piano, watching sports and making people smile

**A word she would use to describe herself:** Perfectionist

**Involvement on Campus:** President of the Red Cross Club, vice president of the Pre-American Medical Student Association, officer for the Pediatric Entertainment Program, Honors College Association member, Campus Activities Board member, Fun Club member and John Marshall Emerging Leaders Institute graduate

**Community Involvement:** Project Feed Huntington volunteer, Cabell Wayne Animal Shelter volunteer and Marshall Brain Expo volunteer

**Awards:** Dean's List Honors and Phi Kappa Phi Recognition

**Favorite Marshall Memories So Far:** Watching Marshall pull the upset over Western Kentucky in the Conference USA

championship to send the team to the NCAA tournament for the first time in more than 30 years

**Proudest Accomplishments:** Staying in the top 10% of her class while on track to graduate at the age of 20

**Hopes for the semester:** To finish out the semester strong with memories that will last a lifetime



PHOTO COURTESY OF KYLIE JOHNSON

**Know someone you'd like to nominate for "Honorable Mention?"  
Contact [larch15@marshall.edu](mailto:larch15@marshall.edu)!**

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***Are you interested in joining  
the Honors Oracle team and  
earning HON credits?***

**Contact  
[larch15@marshall.edu](mailto:larch15@marshall.edu)!**



# Honors students spend summer in Italy

By MIRANDA SMITH

Studying abroad in Florence, Italy was how some Marshall University students spent part of this past summer. The study abroad opportunity was offered by the College of Arts and Media and was co-sponsored by both the art and English departments, with Hanna Kozlowski, a professor of art and design, and Jill Treftz, an English professor, heading the trip.

The trip was open to all students and began just after the end of the past spring semester, spanning from May 12, 2019 to June 7, 2019, giving students a chance to live in Florence, Italy for about a month.

Students who registered for the trip were able to earn college credit by choosing one or two of the four available classes offered in Florence. These classes included ART 414: Art and Architecture of the Italian

Renaissance; ART 475: Advanced Studio Sequence: Travel Portfolio; ENG 213: Good Poems: Italy in the British Poetic Imagination; and ENG 427: Studies in Authors or Genre: Elizabeth Barrett Browning in Italy.

Two Honors College students, Sophia Celdran and Lily Jurskis, were among those who participated in this study abroad opportunity.

The two found out about the opportunity during their art history class with Heather Stark, when she advertised the upcoming trip to her class. The two were soon interested, and after finding out more about it, they registered and secured their spots.

While there, Celdran took both the art history class revolving around the Italian Renaissance and the travel portfolio class. In the latter of these two classes, Celdran said she chose to focus on astrology

in early Christianity.

In between attending classes, Celdran, Jurskis and the rest of the participating students were able to visit popular attractions around Italy.

“The Duomo, a cathedral in Florence, was one of my favorite parts because it’s unreal that I got to walk past a building like that on my way to class every day,” Celdran said.

“The Venice Biennale was also fairly life-changing, and it’s something I think about almost every day.”

After returning from the trip, Celdran said that she strongly encourages all students to try to study abroad during their time at Marshall.

“I would tell people not to be scared of the price, because scholarships can take care of all of it if you’re willing to put a lot into applying,” Celdran said.

While this same opportunity is not available this coming spring break, students have the chance to explore both Italy and Greece by becoming involved in a study abroad opportunity hosted by the LEAD Center. During spring break 2020, the LEAD Center will take a group of students abroad to explore the most famous sights and attractions in both Italy and Greece, including the Colosseum in Rome and the Parthenon in Athens. The trip will span from March 21 to March 30, 2020.

More information about this upcoming trip, including how many spots are still available, can be found by visiting the LEAD Center’s website at <http://www.marshall.edu/Get-Involved>, while more information about study abroad opportunities in general can be found by reaching out to the Office of Study Abroad located in the Joseph M. Gillette Welcome Center.



## 1920 cont. from 1

recently explored through their readings various connections between current events and politics of the 1920s and those of today.

One such connection is between scandals surrounding President Warren Harding's time in office, such as the Teapot Dome Scandal, and scandals modern popular political figures are involved in today.

"Harding brought with him to Washington a lot of friends and cronies who had not much experience, and he put them in charge of everything," Lloyd said. "Many of the people he put in place ended up in scandals, and the biggest scandal was the Teapot Dome Scandal that lasted for seven or eight years. These scandals are relative to President Trump because many of his people are under investigation or even in jail today."

Isaac Rainey, a sophomore nursing honors student who is taking the course, said making such connections throughout the course seems inevitable.

"Looking back at the struggles in government, in equality and in other aspects of society makes it hard not to draw parallels to current times," Rainey said. "Similar events are recurring in our society, just with a new generation. [It's] almost as if we never truly learned from the mistakes America has made in its past."

Rainey said the course is also fascinating because of Lloyd's unorthodox yet very effective style of teaching and exploring its themes.

"The class has definitely been interesting so far," Rainey said. "Dr. Lloyd will sit down at the piano and play through different pieces of music from the 1920s as we follow along in the sheet music. We even sing the songs as he plays them, [and] earlier



in the semester, he also had us learn how to do the Charleston [dance] in class."

David Schwartz, a senior English and humanities honors student who is taking the course, said he also appreciates Lloyd's unique methods of teaching.

"I think Dr. Lloyd has a way of defying expectations," Schwartz said. "He revealed to us that the 1920s weren't in any way what we thought they were."

Schwartz said he enjoys singing and dancing songs of the 1920s for class participation in the course.

"It feels silly, but actually having to perform the music as a group in class makes me feel the music in a way I never would have felt if I had just sat there listening to Dr. Lloyd play the piano," he said. "Live music by Dr. Lloyd is just another perk of the class."

Schwartz said he also appreciates the course because the material being taught has not been taught in any course he has taken before.

"This isn't content we're getting anywhere else at Marshall," Schwartz said. "It's not something I've ever experienced in my time here, and I don't think I'll experience anything like it again."

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## FAM cont. from 2

a significant factor in their ability to effectively adjust to life at Marshall.

"I really appreciate the emails sent on a regular basis," Calloway said. "A lot of the time, they're filled with updates regarding events going on around campus and just general sentiments of encouragement, which can be really comforting when you're going through a tough day."

As did Williams, Calloway encouraged first-year students to reach out to their FAM mentors when feeling confused or overwhelmed with their studies or other stress-inducing situations.

"I would definitely encourage any freshman to take advantage of the FAM program if they ever feel like they need someone to talk to and help them get accustomed to being at Marshall," Calloway said.