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Honors Oracle

Marshall University's Honors College newsletter • Dec. 2019

Special topics course explores importance of images

By DOUGLAS HARDING

For the first time at Marshall University, 15 students spent the semester completing an honors seminar course originating from the School of Art and Design.

"I'm really excited for the school to be offering a seminar," Professor Sandra Reed, faculty member of the School of Art and Design, said. "I think it's a really important part of students' education."

Special topics courses present special opportunities for students as well as unique challenges for professors, she said.

"For special topics courses, each professor brings their life's work and their knowledge into a special learning experience for honors students," Reed said.

She said a particular challenge of teaching honors seminars is that each course must be multidisciplinary.

"I couldn't just teach a drawing class," she said. "I didn't want to just teach a drawing class. I wanted to teach a class that situates drawing within communi-

cation and the making of meaning."

Reed said she began the process of offering her Drawing and Visual Literacy special topics course more than a year ago. Each special topics course can be offered to honors students up to three times, Reed said.

Reed's Drawing and Visual Literacy course was taken at full capacity for the fall 2019 semester, and she said she hopes to teach it again for the next two years during the fall semesters.

"I'd like to teach it the maximum number of times possible," she said. Reed said that while drawing is a major aspect of completing the course, it is designed to be effective for students of all backgrounds and with varying experience creating art.

"Drawing is a way of knowing the world," Reed said. "And to know the world is really important for students involved in medicine, psychology, business and dietetics."

Reed said her course explores the topic of visual literacy in a way that is



PHOTO COURTESY OF SANDRA REED

unique to most art courses. Instead of focusing on studying historical images, Reed said her students focused on the creation of their own personal works of art and how to most effectively portray their ideas and information through those works.

"We addressed visual literacy from a different perspective," she said. Drawing and visual literacy are both ways for students in every field of study and from all backgrounds to more

effectively understand and communicate with the world and their surroundings, she said.

"To be able to take in information from the world around them is absolutely essential," Reed said. "To me, it's another way of accruing knowledge. Students who are intimidated by drawing or who miss how complex the images are in the world around them are truly empowered when they realize these things."

Graduation Spotlight: Courtney Powers

By MIRANDA SMITH

Marshall University will host its annual winter commencement ceremony to honor July, August and December 2019 graduates on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 10 a.m. at the Big Sandy Superstore Arena.

Several Honors College students will be recognized during this lineup including Courtney Powers, a senior who is set to receive a bachelor's degree in secondary education with an emphasis in mathematics.

Powers began her time at Marshall in 2016 and took three years of classes before then beginning her student teaching at Cabell Midland High School this past spring semester. During her time as a student teacher, Powers was

chosen as the first student teacher to take part in the Teacher in Residence (TIR) program in Cabell County. The program was put in place to pay student teachers to fill vacant positions in cases where no certified employees are available, and Powers is teaching Algebra I and Honors Geometry.

"Teaching at my alma mater has been a dream of mine since I graduated high school," Powers said. "My first semester teaching on my own has had its ups and downs, but I could not be more blessed to work for and with the amazing people at the Cabell County Board of Education and Cabell Midland High School."

Powers credits the opportunities made available to her through her involve-

ment with the Honors College with helping her on her path to accomplish these educational and career achievements.

The Honors College seminars, including Robert Ellison's Sermon Studies and Death and Its Aftermath taught by Robin Riner and Christina Franzen, allowed Powers the opportunity to think critically and encounter theories and material she would not have gotten from classes within her major.

"I highly recommend HON 480 courses to anyone and everyone who wants their thinking to be challenged or wants to be more involved in the community," Powers said.

During her time at Marshall, Powers was also

able to become involved in several on-campus organizations, including the Baptist Campus Ministry (BCM) where she served as secretary. She also met students from many different backgrounds during her time as a student, becoming friends with many of the students involved in the INTO program.

As graduation nears, Powers has reflected on her time here at Marshall, noting that she will take many things with her including her improved writing skills, her friendships and the multicultural awareness she gained through honors seminars and her interactions with students from other cultures.

"Perhaps the biggest and most encompassing piece of wisdom I have gained in all of my classes is how to communicate and interact with other people," Powers said.

This knowledge has allowed her to become more confident when speaking in public, something which is imperative to her role in the classroom, in addition to allowing her to become better at interacting with people whose beliefs may differ from her own, Powers said.

After graduation in December, Powers said she plans to finish out her first year of teaching at Cabell Midland High School.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COURTNEY POWERS

Courtney Powers and friends from Marshall's Baptist Campus Ministry and INTO students pose at an event.

"Honorable Mention"

Iram Kingson

By JESTEN RICHARDSON

Connection to the Honors College: Member since Fall 2017

Class Level: Junior

Major: Pre-Med Psychology

Hometown: Huntington, West Virginia

Passions: Interacting with kids, any way she can positively impact lives (like volunteering and helping others)

A Word She Would Use to Describe Herself: Vibrant

Involvement on Campus: Co-president of the Muslim Students Association, member of Fun Club, Marshall Rec Center employee, Marshall University tour guide, member of Honors College Steering Committee, Uni peer mentor

Community Involvement: Volunteer at Cabell Huntington Hospital, Project Feed Huntington volunteer

Awards: Dean's List, October 2019 Employee of the Month at the Marshall Rec Center

Favorite Marshall Memories So Far: Being part of the Marshall and Huntington communities, working at the Rec Center and meeting people, all of the people she has met and the bonds she has made

Proudest Accomplishments: Getting a full ride to college, being valedictorian in high school, being a good big sister to her siblings

Hopes for the Semester: To get straight A's, to enjoy free time and do fun things before medical school, to make good memories

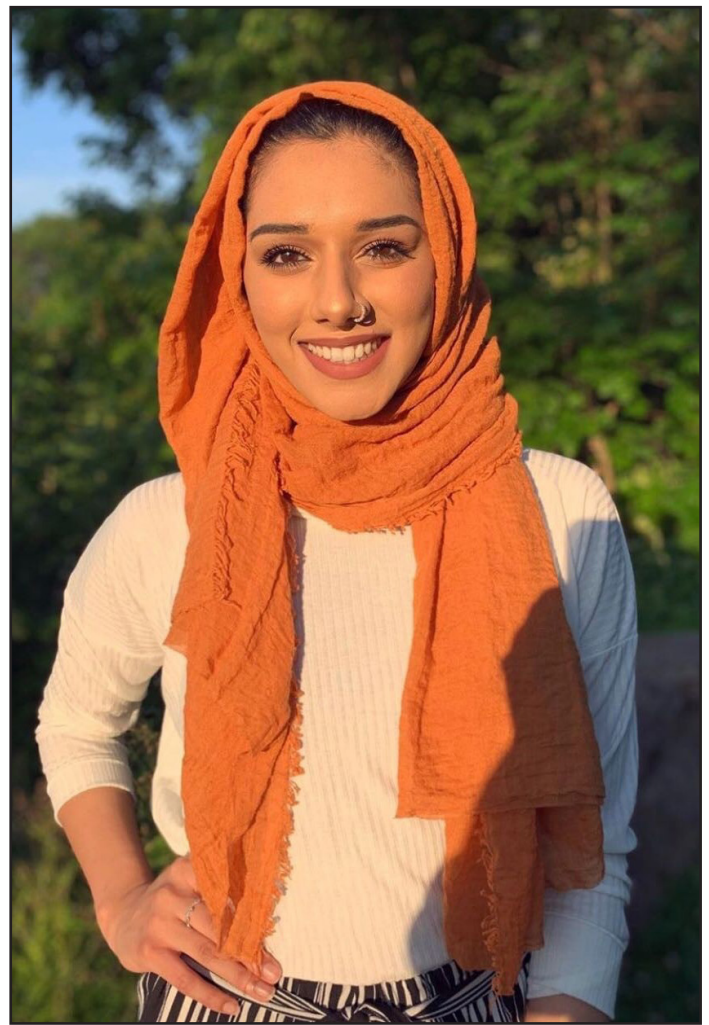


PHOTO COURTESY OF IRAM KINGSON

Know someone you'd like to nominate for "Honorable Mention?" Contact richardso164@marshall.edu!

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

Contact
richardso164@marshall.edu

Applications open for paid internships

By ABI DROPIK

The department of history at Marshall University has had several paid internships this fall and will continue to have more in the spring of 2020, with help from the Endowment for the Humanities and Clio. David Trowbridge, an associate professor in the department of history and the director of African American Studies,

“

They can work from any location and can conduct research using online sources, telephone calls and interviews and email communication with local historians, libraries and archives.”

— David Trowbridge

takes care of the applicants for each semester.

Clio is a nonprofit website and application that helps to connect people to nearby history every day. This website is free for its users and helps to supply them with information about historical sites across the United States. The information provided by Clio is reliable and comes in many different forms. According to Trowbridge, each Clio entry and revision done by the interns will be reviewed and published under a

Creative Commons license.

In order to apply for this paid internship, students should send a one-page cover letter and writing sample to Trowbridge by Dec. 15. When creating a cover letter, students should mention their familiarity with Clio and the goals of the grant provided, which are, “connecting people to nearby museums, monuments, his-

toric buildings and other landmarks throughout Appalachia,” Trowbridge said.

Up to six interns will be selected for the spring semester, based on the applications submitted. Clio began at Marshall University and is now used by more than 100 universities and institutions, but this specific internship opportunity that Marshall stu-

dents are given is unique.

Not only does the website and application supply the user with information, it also has walking tours and trails for any location, allowing the user to explore the history of the town they are in rather than just reading about it. These walking tours may include the ability to listen or read about specific buildings and landmarks and the history behind them.

“The website and mobile application picks up a user’s location and guides them to historical and cultural sites

near them,” Trowbridge said.

Clio includes 31,000 entries, almost 600 walking tours and 20-30,000 users a week. This abundance of information allows the project for Marshall students to help provide the public with information across the entire country.

These interns are working for Clio by creating and editing entries that relate to Appalachia and share its history. Interns are working on average 12 hours per week throughout the semester they are selected for and earn a stipend of \$1,000 for their work.

Not only do these interns help Clio, they also are gaining the opportunity to receive feedback on the work they produce along with creating a portfolio of their published work and three hours of upper-division undergraduate or graduate credit.

Interns are able to have a flexible schedule.

“They can work from any location and can conduct research using online sources, telephone calls and interviews and email communication with local historians, libraries and archives,” Trowbridge said.

In an informative email from Trowbridge, he said that the constant editing, creations and improvements made by these interns will enable the website to be more efficient for its users. They also are given the ability to make Clio entries more unique by including interviews with local historians or other professionals in the pieces they work on. The interns are meant to be able to work independently and to have strong writing skills.

Individuals interested in this internship can contact David Trowbridge at david.trowbridge@marshall.edu.