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Honors Oracle

Honors College

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### Honors Oracle, April 2022

Marshall University Honors College

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# Honors Oracle

Marshall University's Honors College Newsletter • April 2022

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## Places to Study

By AVERI AYA-AY

There are many options to study on Marshall's campus. The first place to study is likely the most common study spot on campus: Drinko Library. Drinko Library has three floors and endless options for studying. Drinko Library tends to be extremely quiet and great for students who are easily distracted. There are many tables throughout each floor as well as private study rooms.

Private study rooms vary in size and range from a one-person room to rooms with a large conference room table. The private study rooms are exceedingly popular especially around midterms and finals, so students should make sure to reserve their study rooms early on the Marshall library website.

Sophie Aya-ay, a St. Mary's Nursing student, often studies on campus and she stated that, "Drinko is my favorite place to study. I prefer the first-floor study rooms. Many nursing students go there to have study groups."

However, for the student who needs some background noise to be able to focus or would like to study with other people in a place other than a Drinko study room, the Memorial Student Center is a great option. The student center also has Starbucks and many other dining options, making it a great place to grab

lunch while studying. The main dining room can get noisy, but there are also tables and chairs on the first and second floor of the main section of the MSC. During the warmer months, students can also utilize the tables outside of the student center or the tables directly outside of the Drinko library to study.

Senior Biology/Anthropology major Blake Hesson states, "I enjoy studying at Drinko library most days or outside in the courtyard on sunny days."

Another great option for students who are using their breaks between classes to study are the tables found throughout many of the academic buildings on campus. The science building specifically tends to have multiple spots to study on each floor as well as tables with umbrellas outside the building. The second floor of the science building near the main entrance has the most tables, but there are also study tables at the ends of each floor as well. There are a few study spots on the third floor of the science building near the start of the bridge to the Biotechnology center and the Engineering building.

Senior Chemistry major Sarah Hoard states, "I enjoy studying at the tables outside the science building or at the tables outside the student center."

# Benefits of Joining the Honors College Steering Association

By EVAN GREEN

When trying to earn Honors College credits, students have a number of different options to choose from, but one of the most flexible and rewarding of these options is the Honors College Steering Association (HCSA). The HCSA is an organization focused on developing and hosting various community service and enrichment events designed to promote the Honors College. Each semester, the association puts on three different events, each with a different goal in mind.

“We start out with an event focused on mental health, then we have a service event, and then we end the semester with a more fun social event,” said Logan Rose, a senior at Marshall who has served as the HCSA’s President for the last two semesters. “This year, we went with a cookie giveaway and chat with the Honors College mental health counselor for the first event, a canned food drive for the second, and a trivia night for the social.”

Aside from the community engagement

and leadership experience, the primary benefit to joining the HCSA is the honors credit that students receive. Regular members receive one honors credit for each semester they spend in the organization, and officers receive two credits.



The organization holds weekly meetings that typically last for less than an hour, and members are expected to attend the three events that are held each semester. The schedule for the meetings is also very flexible, and designed to work

around the other organizations that members may be involved in.

“I needed a few more Honors credits, and I had heard that the Steering Association was a pretty good place to get them, so I decided to add it to my class list next semester,” said Garrett Shields, a current Freshman in the Honors College.

The HCSA has wrapped up their first event for the Spring semester, but their canned food drive is ongoing, with labelled boxes located around campus, and the “Tacos and Trivia” night is scheduled to be held in April, with free food served to attending students, and a number of prizes awarded to the winners of the trivia game.

For students in the Honors College, the HCSA is a great option for a low-commitment class that can help them earn the necessary credits to fulfill the Honors curriculum.

## Staff Spotlight: Dr. Brian A. Hoey

**\*\*\*Throwback Edition! Dr. Hoey is answering these questions as if he is still an undergraduate! \*\*\***

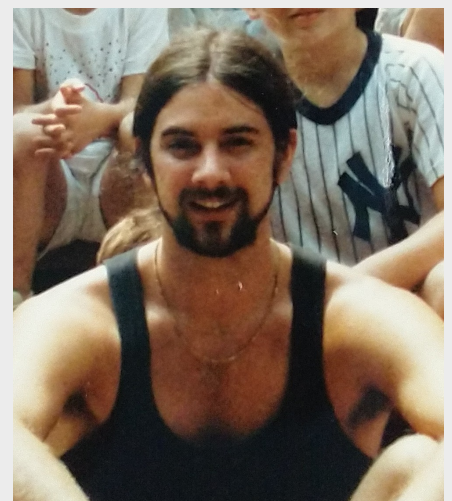
**Major:** Human Ecology

**Hometown:** Newtown, Connecticut

**Favorite Class:** “Ecology: Landforms and Vegetation” taught by Dr. William H. Drury.

**Currently Reading:** Lewis Mumford’s “The City in History: Its Origins, Its Transformations, and Its Prospects” (1961).

**Plans After Graduation:** Spend 1991 traveling overseas on my own, starting with a 1250 mile bicycle tour of the North and South islands of New Zealand and then “backpacking” through Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand with a stop over in South Korea for a final few weeks of exploring before convalescing on the beaches of the Big Island of Hawaii for a couple of weeks on my way back to mainland United States. Then returning home to Connecticut by train from San Francisco for my 5-year high school reunion. After home in Connecticut, taking time to reflect on my experiences on what will be a life-changing year of travel before applying to graduate school with the intent to get my doctorate. Hopefully the trip will help me figure out what my major will be!



*Dr. Hoey, senior year!*

# HON 480 Professor Showcase

By CAMERON WHETZEL

Some of the most interesting courses honors students can take here at Marshall are the Honors 480 courses. In these classes, students can learn about a wide array of topics hand-picked by professors from all the different colleges and departments. These courses give students opportunities to learn about things outside of their major curriculum and allow professors to meet students they wouldn't normally have.

One of the professors who teaches these courses is Patricia Proctor, J.D. Before becoming a professor here, she first graduated from Marshall with a degree in Journalism, and then completed a law degree at the University of Pennsylvania. After law school she spent some time as a law clerk before joining a private practice and becoming a partner. She spent over twenty years in this position and argued numerous cases in both state and federal courts. In 2011, she came back to Marshall to help establish the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy. For the center, she helps to plan its signature lecture series which brings in a variety of speakers to talk on the constitution and law. Proctor is also a pre-law advisor helping students prepare and apply to law school as well as

overseeing the Constitutional Democracy minor here at Marshall.



*Patricia Proctor, via marshall.edu*

Proctor told me her favorite part about being back here at Marshall is the opportunity for her to teach. On top of teaching political science courses, she has taught Honors FYS and now teaches HON 480. She has taught two different special topics courses and now has another she plans to teach in the Spring of 2023. The first 480 course she taught named "Hamilton: Hip Hop

Muse" focused on Alexander Hamilton the historical figure while also tying into the famed musical. The second course titled "Law's Portrayal in Popular Culture: Truth or Fiction?" examines several legal themed films and books to teach students about the legal process and the people surrounding it. The third course she plans to teach will be called "Civil Rights on the Silver Screen" and will look at the civil rights movement through different films and stories. She told me when creating her courses, she thought "How can we convey this information to students without making a mini law school," which led to the use of popular culture to express these ideas. When discussing why this information is so important for students of all majors, Proctor told me "Justice touches everybody because it impacts all of us if our society isn't true and fair."

To finish our interview, I asked Proctor if she had any advice for the students here and she told me two things, "Reach out and engage in the world and learn things you wouldn't normally know," and to "Focus on being happy, feel the confidence to make a new choice."

## Rec Sports Unite Students on and off the Field

By RAFAELALFONSO

Inter-mural sports hosted by the Marshall Rec Center offer an inclusive and entertaining experience according to students on and off the field.

"When I go to watch sports at the Rec, I find the environment to be very friendly," Smara Sigdel, a freshman Biology major in the Honors College, said. "It's nice to see opposing teams cheer each other up and become close."

Sigdel does not play any of the sports offered by the Rec, but still participates by cheering for her friends. She says that she finds simply watching the

games to be entertaining. She has also enjoyed forming a community with other fans that watch the games with her and even with the athletes that play.

Similarly, Jaxon Smith, a biology and chemistry double major in the Honors College, first interacted with Marshall's Rec sports as a fan; however, this semester he plays flag football on the Yeager Bombers team.

"Actually playing them has also been really fun," Smith said. "Although I am not a football person, I enjoyed getting to come together with my friends and learn football even though we lost."

"I like that the Rec sports allow everyone to have fun through exercise, regardless of their athletic experience," Sigdel said.

The Rec does not require participants have any prior experience with the sport they choose. Someone who has never played flag football, volleyball or basketball before could still participate in either of those sports or any of the others offered by the Rec.

When asked what other sports he'd like to see offered, Smith said,

*(continued on page 5)*

# How to Take Better Notes

By BROOKE BURNS

One of the most important aspects of your academic career in college is your ability to take notes that work for you. This can be a struggle for any student in any year as the type of classes you are taking can affect how you take notes. Compiled below is a list of tips and tricks to help you sharpen your note-taking skills.

**Use Color!** One of my personal favorite note-taking methods is highlighting my notes (or PowerPoints, if given) according to how well I know the information. For example, yellow means that I am not familiar with the material, orange means I am somewhat familiar with the material, and pink means I am very familiar with the material. Lilli Ross, a freshman communications major, says she writes

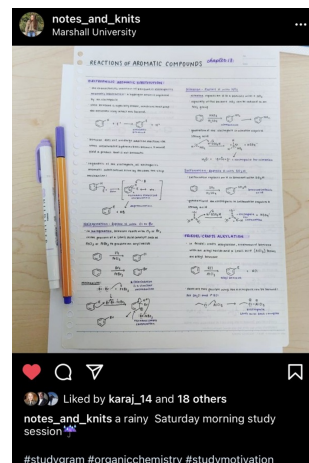
her notes in color according to concepts. Main ideas in one color, examples in another, etc.

**Rewrite Notes!** Kara Joseph, a junior biology and chemistry double major, suggests re-writing your notes while relistening to lectures (if possible). Or, redo problems that were done in class to ensure you understand them.

But most importantly, **Write your notes in a way that you understand them!** If you learn better from ugly notetaking, take ugly notes. If you learn better from pretty, neat and organized note taking, do that! If you learn best by printing out lecture PowerPoints and scribbling on them, do that! Essentially, do what works for you. Experiment with what you know works and with new concepts

to see what works best!

*Still need more note-taking inspiration? Check out Kara Joseph's note-taking Instagram @notes\_and\_knits (pictured below)*



# The 36th annual Student Juried Exposition

By JILLIAN BROWN

Every year in the Spring, students from Marshall's School of Art and Design submit their best artworks for a chance to be featured in one of the most popular art exhibitions on campus: the Student Juried Exhibition. The exhibition is open to all Marshall students in the school of Art and Design and is judged by an outside source, typically a practicing artist or art professor at another university. The juror for this year's show, Danielle Riede, is a professor of painting at Herron School of Art and Design in Indianapolis.

Competition is fierce, with students competing for limited gallery space and one of 10 prizes. Students must bring their A-Game, and this year was no exception. Out of 88 works, only 35 were accepted into the show. The work that Riede chose for the exhibition covers nearly all disciplines offered by the School of Art and Design, from

drawings and 3D sculptures, to photographs and video productions.

“The Student Juried Show is a good opportunity for students to practice being an artist in Academia...not just for an assignment.” Said gallery director Jamie Platt. “It’s an opportunity to see what students think is their best work.”

The amount of work submitted to the exhibition always varies. Last year, only about 50 works were submitted, as opposed to the 100+ submitted the year before.

“Typically, there are fees involved with juried shows,” Platt said on the subject, “Not at Marshall, but with the uncertainty and low morale caused by the pandemic, people just didn’t want to take the chance. Numbers were low across the board, not just at Marshall.”

One thing that was interesting about the

work this year was that it was submitted by a mix of upper and lower classmen. Some of the work selected appears to have been from Foundations classes, which are the entrance-level courses that all freshmen in the School of Art and Design must complete. The fact that many of the works selected, as well as some of the work that won prizes, was from underclassmen is a good indicator of the program and the artists who come out of it.

The show, though closed now, will be available to view on Marshall Galleries' website sometime between now and June first. The website includes guided tours of the exhibitions as well as statements from the jurors and a list of award winners. If you want to see the show now, but didn't get a chance to in person, check out the gallery's Instagram page @marshalluartanddesign for videos and pictures!

## Rec Sports (continued from page 3)

“I wish they did some long distance running or maybe some track events because I’m a runner. I would also love to see some more pool sports as well like water polo.”

To further improve the Rec’s intermural sports, Sigdel suggested that professional teams not be allowed to play so as to keep the games fair and enjoyable for everyone. Smith, meanwhile, recommended that the Rec improve its advertising for its intermural sports so as to involve more

people in the competition.

Time management also presents a challenge for those who participate in Rec sports, according to Sigdel.

“The sports are quite the time commitment,” Sigdel said. “My friends who are involved oftentimes have games up to two times a week at times ranging from eight pm to ten pm. I think that they often make sure to spend their free time doing homework so that they can participate in activities at the

Rec.”

At same time, Smith said, “Rec sports are as much of a time commitment as you want them to be. You can practice a lot and really prepare or go in with very little prep and not spend much time. For me personally, I have evenings free, so it [doesn’t] really affect me since I have time to study in the morning. It does, although, hamper the amount of time I can invest into research for my business class, but I just budget more time on the weekends.”

## The Science of Studying

By J CLINTON WILLIAMSON

Come the last two weeks of the semester, every student must scramble to put together an efficient studying plan that will guide them through finals week. Despite its importance, test preparation skills are not something that are given much dedicated time in classes. An interviewed student studying psychology agreed, saying learning such skills would be “highly useful” to success in academics. Instead of listening to age-old advice on study habits and test preparation (reading in a dead quiet room for hours on end), consider incorporating modern, data-backed strategies into your plans this year:

**Strategy** - Recent studies from Stanford’s psychology department under Dr. Patricia Chen have identified approaching studying with a defined strategy to increase test scores, but what exactly does this entail? To use this in your academic life, consider taking a moment to dedicate your thoughts to what you feel will be on your test and what exact resources will prepare you most for that content. Identifying exactly what you intend to get out of your resources makes further studying using notecards, practice tests, etc.

easier and gives a boost to confidence going into exams.

**Variety** - Multiple studies have revealed variety to be a beneficial addition into study habits. An easy way to apply this to your life is to alternate the rooms you study in, which has been suggested by studies to increase retention of material. Even more alien to most students is the suggestion of some studies to keep long stretches of studying a single subject to a minimum, instead ideally incorporating multiple subjects interwoven into each session. This practice helps you improve recall over time, but experimenters note to make the subjects studied in the same session as distinct as possible from each other.

**Walking Backwards!?** - A recent UK study has shown that the process of backwards motion improves the ability to recall formerly processed information. This implies that walking

backwards before a test could improve your ability to recall material from study sessions. If you feel walking backwards down 3rd Avenue would be humiliating, don’t worry – experimenters found the same effect when participants simply imagined themselves to be walking backwards for a short period of time. Although the mechanism of this process is unclear, science suggests it’s worth a shot!



Overall, study habits must fit you as an individual. The science on these topics is endless, so doing personal research into the topic can pay dividends towards improving the effectiveness of your studying down the road.