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Honors Oracle

Honors College

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### Honors Oracle, April 2023

Marshall University Honors College

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# THE HONORS ORACLE

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HONORS COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

HONORS COLLEGE STEERING COMMITTEE

*By Addison Leaberry*

The Honors College Steering Committee is a student led group that plans Honors College events as well as helps with events such as green and white day. The committee is designated as HON 488, and counts as an hour of Honors credits for members or two hours if you are an officer. Steering committee President Natalie Dauber says, “It is a great way to be an active member of the Honors College as well as help bring your ideas to the college. We are very student led and put all of our events together by ourselves.”

Anyone who is in the Honors College can join the Steering Committee. This can be done by emailing Honors college Dean Dr. Hoey and requesting to be added to the class. The Committee meets once a week to plan events and activates according to the syllabus. If you are interested in the Steering Committee, please email Dr. Hoey (Dean of the Honors College) or

visit the Honors College website.

<https://www.marshall.edu/honors/>

Officers are chosen by election. The positions are president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Dauber says as president she, “runs the meetings, creates an agenda for each meeting, appoint any committees, and communicate with the organization advisor.” Additionally, Dauber says, “Elections take place in April, if you want to run for an officer



Figure 1 One of the dogs from the event, Yo-yo

position you should nominate yourself when the election email comes out. Don't forget to tell your friends to vote!"

April 1<sup>st</sup> was the first Honors College Dog Day out in which Honors College students walked dogs from the Cabell Wayne Animal shelter. The dogs were Yasmin and Charlene (sisters and puppies) and Yo-yo.

The two upcoming events are Trivia which will be April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. and a Picnic to announce the election of the Steering Committee at 5:30 on April 25<sup>th</sup>. While the events are planned for honors students anyone is welcome to attend. Be on the lookout for event announcement emails!

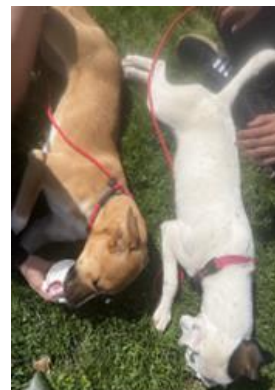


Figure 2 Yasmin and Charlene

## HON 480 PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT-PATRICIA PROCTOR

*By Kassidy Jordan*

One of the course requirements for Honors Students is HON 480. These are upper-division seminars taught by professors across all departments at Marshall. Past and current topics for seminars have been Mything Persons Legends, Russian History and Culture, Cinemoems, and Innovation for Good.

One of the professors teaching an HON 480 course this semester is Professor Patricia Proctor, the founding director of the Simon Perry Center for Constitutional Democracy and Pre-Law advisor for Marshall students. Professor Proctor is currently teaching an HON 480 course titled Civil Rights, Civil Liberties, and the Silver Screen. The course examines the history of civil rights in film and how civil rights and liberties are portrayed in film.

Professor Proctor says one her favorite parts about teaching in the Honors College is “you can be really creative in designing courses that you think will appeal to students, and that also involve subjects you are passionate about.” A course Professor Proctor has taught in the past is Alexander Hamilton: Hip-Hop Muse. This course studies the both the Broadway musical, Hamilton, as well as the life of the real founding father, as well as where the musical gets the

history right, and where it does not. Professor Proctor says she is thinking of teaching this course again in the future, so students interested in that should be on the lookout for future seminars!

Another thing Professor Proctor enjoys about teaching in the Honors College is “interacting with the students.” She says that Honors students are “fantastic students” who are “excited about the



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learning process.” Professor Proctor finds teaching Honors students to be very rewarding for her as an educator. She says that Honors students, in her experience, are often very engaged and hardworking, and are usually very interested in the seminars they are taking.

Professor Proctor usually teaches Political Science courses. When asked why she chose Civil Rights in Film as an Honors seminar, she said, “I have taught courses on how general law is portrayed in movies and in popular culture, and I thought at a time in our country when I believe civil rights and liberties are under attack, that it would be good to focus on where we’ve been, so we can focus on where we’re going and where we want to go.”

Many of the issues covered in Civil Rights and Liberties in Film have been racial issues, such as the 1960s Civil Rights movement, women’s rights, LGBTQ+ rights, immigration rights, and more. Many of the films covered are about real Supreme Court cases and laws put into effect to protect civil liberties.

When asked what she hopes students will learn from Civil Rights, Civil Liberties, and the Silver Screen, Professor Proctor said “Some of our films focus on individuals who have made a considerable difference in life for many, many people, because they’ve been led to stand up and do what’s right. I hope students learn that they can be empowered to do the same thing.”

Professor Proctor also says, “people can make a tremendous difference if they’re willing to be active, if they go vote, if they get involved in the process and speak up for what’s right, and I want students to believe that.”

Professor Proctor hopes that students will see that throughout history, individuals have stood up and made great change. She wants students in Civil Rights, Civil Liberties, and the Silver Screen, as well as all other students across Marshall, to know they can make a difference if they stand up for what is right, saying “I want them to believe that they can be powerful.”



Figure 3 Professor Proctor

## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

*By Wynn Johnson*

Conducting research is a fantastic way to help build your resume and separate you from other students or applicants when applying for postgraduate programs. Research, along with extracurriculars and a good academic record, is often cited by admissions officers as one of the largest distinguishing factors among applicants. Many undergraduate students, though, believe that research is hard to come by and too selective, or that research takes up too much



time. However, these assumptions seem to be incorrect to many students who are engaged in research.

While most think that finding research is difficult, there are resources for those seeking a chance to build their resumes and get hands on experience. Marshall University is a level two research institute, so there are many opportunities for students. First, Marshall has a website specially for students to find research opportunities. The website, which is titled *Research Opportunities for Undergraduates*, details labs with positions open in the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, positions in the College of Business, College of Engineering, Pharmacy School, and more. The easiest way, McGuffey said, was to “always reach out to professors and ask if there are positions available”. Many professors echo this statement and prefer students to reach out personally with knowledge of the lab when asking for a position.

Marshall University has several opportunities for undergraduate students to gain research experience. Elizabeth McGuffey, a junior psychology and health science double major, found research by reaching out to a faculty member. “I reached out to my supervisor, sent her my resume, and asked if there was availability, and next thing I knew I had research!” she said. When asked if research took up too much of her time, she stated that her supervisor was flexible and understood that she was a student first.

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