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## The Honors Oracle, October 2023

Honors College

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# The Honors Oracle

A newsletter of the Marshall University Honors College

## HCSA Officers Spotlight: President and Vice President

by *Alissa Davis*

One component of membership in the Honors College is a dedication to service. One group tasked with leading this effort is the Honors College Steering Committee, led by President Ben McElroy and Vice President Ally Welch. The Steering Committee comprises a group of Honors students who meet weekly to organize Honors College and campus-wide



**McElroy**

events with the goal of bringing Honors College students together. President Ben McElroy, sophomore, is involved in an array of campus activities. McElroy serves as a resident assistant (RA)



**Welch**

in Willis Hall, the president of Rotaract Club, a senator for the College of Science in the Student Government Association and vice president of the Criminal Justice Association. He is also the

head coach of a travel baseball team called "The Hounds."

According to McElroy, service involves "helping others and making a difference in your community." He explains that service not only shapes the organizations you are a part of but also impacts those around you. He states that the student lead HCSA is especially inspiring because "nobody has more power than one," teaching its members

people-skills as well as laying the groundwork for the development of great work ethic.

As president, McElroy performs a variety of responsibilities, including coordinating meetings. "There is usually an itinerary for what we need to do, so we usually discuss what event we need to plan [and] when we are going to do it," he says, "I help...lead the conversation, with all

**Jump to HCSA, P4**

### INSIDE

Student Spotlight: Hoey shares Irish summer experience

Five keys to success at Marshall

Updates on Title IX

Students focus on community service



## Embracing Diversity: A Journey into Culture

by *Maria Ramey*

Here at the Marshall University Honors college, we take pride in our diversity. We believe it's important to shed light on students' unique cultural backgrounds and provide them with the resources they need to feel comfortable and supported on campus. Today,

we have two siblings, Smara and Sage Sigdel, here to share with us their experience of being minorities at Marshall University and in the Honors College.

Smara and Sage Sigdel are Nepali with a Hindu background, although they want to emphasize that their interpretation of Hinduism might



Smara and Sage Sigdel are siblings and both members of the Honors College.

not be conventional. Smara explains

that in her family, **Jump to DIVERSITY, P5**

## Student Spotlight

# Honors student experiences Ireland

By Ryann Province

Are you curious about culture and humanity? Do you have any interest in studying abroad? Does a summer of digging up bones appeal to you? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you might get along well with sophomore anthropology major and honors student Kyleigh Hoey.

Hoey spent her summer overseas at Blackfriary's Archaeological Field School in Trim, Ireland. The five-week program sent her and a select group of peers

to a dig site where they earned university credit while excavating human remains.

"I found out about this experience through the Dean of the Honors College," Hoey says, "The Honors College makes it really simple to find opportunities."

While Hoey learned about Blackfriary's Field School through Honors College Dean Dr. Brian Hoey, she encourages other honors students to reach out to the Office of National Scholarships in Old Main 230E for information on simi-



Kyleigh Hoey, a current sophomore, spent her summer working at Blackfriary's Archaeological Field School in Trim, Ireland.

lar experiences.

In addition to her escapades abroad, Hoey

serves as President of Marshall University's Anthropology

Club. Her current responsibilities include recruiting, club communication, activity planning, club representation, advertising and "eventually, delegating tasks to other officers." Hoey says Anthropology Club members can expect "field trips, host guest lectures [and] movie screenings" in the near future.

To learn more about the Anthropology Club, email Hoey at [hoey1@marshall.edu](mailto:hoey1@marshall.edu) or attend a weekly meeting on Fridays at 3:15 p.m. in Old Main B14.

## New Title IX coordinator in place at Marshall

by Morgan Goldsberry

Title IX is a federal law that protects students and faculty from gender and sex discrimination. Our Title IX office has recently made some changes to its policies and hired a new director.

The new Title IX Coordinator, Jessica Rhodes, is in Old Main 324. Title IX is for students and faculty of all genders and sexual orientations who experience sexual harassment, sexual/



Jessica Rhodes is Marshall's Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX office is available for all students and employees who experience sexual harassment, domestic misconduct or discrimination.

domestic misconduct or discrimination.

For a complaint to fall under Title IX, it must have occurred between two students, a student and a faculty member or between two faculty members. Marshall's Title IX office provides resources to both parties until the case is closed. These resources include counseling, changing on-campus work or school schedule, campus escort services and more.

Three things can happen during the Title

IX process after it has been reported. There can be a complete dismissal, an informal resolution or a formal resolution.

A complete dismissal only happens if the complaint does not fall under the Title IX policy. An informal resolution requires both parties to agree and discuss the terms of said resolution with the Title IX Office.

A formal resolution involves an investigation and a formal report. This can lead

to a hearing (which has a process of its own) and results in a formal decision made by the Title IX investigator, case manager, and coordinator. The decision made by this committee can be appealed; however, the appeal officer makes the final decision.

For more information, please contact the Title IX office at [titleix@marshall.edu](mailto:titleix@marshall.edu) or file a report at [marshall.edu/titleix](http://marshall.edu/titleix).



# Five keys to success at Marshall

By Nolan Duncan

With the first half of the semester behind us, an advice column may seem too late or not helpful. Dear readers, I would like to propose a more glass

## ADVICE COLUMN

half-full mentality. From personal experience, I know that some readers may not catch up as fast as others. For them, I hope this list will serve as a breath of fresh air; a moment to perform a routine status check. For faster-paced readers and upperclassmen, let this be a reminder of what you can do to prevent a potential mental collapse in the middle of Buskirk Field.

### Use your resources

College is stressful. At times, it can feel like hitting brick wall after brick wall. Marshall University helps counter that through a variety of student resources, the most important being your student email. It's the primary method that professors will use to contact you, and the best way to ensure that your messages and questions are received by those involved with



The Honors College has several spaces for studying, including a lounge on the third floor (pictured above) and a workspace on the second floor with computers and charging stations.

the university. I recommend that from here on out, you use it for all things university-related, including reaching out to your advisor. Your advisor will be instrumental, from recommending classes to take to navigating what you want to study. Additional resources include therapy and other health support and a writing and speech center that can assist with essays and speeches.

### The Honors College

Being a member of the Honors College grants you extra benefits. Firstly, you get access to the Honors College printers for free; the only requirement is that you bring printer paper. Tying into the advisory ser-

ed classes in place of courses I knew I'd struggle with thanks to those write-offs. Finally, if you are worried about your financial situation and paying for college, Honors College has a variety of scholarships you can apply for.

### Use Tutors

One thing many of us have in common is that we have been held to a higher standard in terms of academic success; thus, you may have the mentality that tutoring is only for those who are failing. This mentality will be your downfall, as being an honors student does not mean you are perfect. I recommend you view tutoring as a tool that can amplify your success. You may not need the support this semester, but you cannot predict the future.

### Manage your Time

This is a simple, yet paramount piece of advice. To succeed, you must be able to manage your time wisely and learn to prioritize. I am not telling you to give up fun; rather, I am suggesting you learn to strike a reasonable balance. Make a schedule. Plot

out when you want to tackle specific assignments. Carve out time to have fun.

With the "real world" and impending responsibilities of "adulting" around the corner, the last thing you need is to burn yourself out.

### Enjoy life

You cannot predict the future; however, you can hone in on your desired path. College is a chance to learn about yourself. Do not stay in your dorm 24/7 (the hermit life looks good on no one). Conversely, not devote 100 percent of your life to schoolwork. Join a club, talk to people on your floor, or start working out.

Consider participating in a few university events. Housing hosts a few events throughout the year, and HerdCon, Marshall's pop-culture convention, is held in the spring. We also have sports year-round. If you cannot find something on campus, then travel around Huntington. If there's one thing I know for sure, it's that Marshall University is the perfect place to find your herd.

# Service meets success for Honors students

by Alissa Davis

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

– Mahatma Gandhi

To start off the school year, the College of Education engaged freshman education students attending Week of Welcome in a service project involving filling up backpacks with school supplies for third graders attending Central City Elementary School. The third graders received school supplies and notes of encouragement to start their school year.

Natalie Cross, a freshman Social Studies Education major, most enjoyed “writing sweet notes for the kids.”



The Marshall University College of Education service event at Central City Elementary School connected third graders with school supplies.

Cross, a student from out of state, felt especially inspired seeing the outpouring of love for the community’s youth. It is no surprise that it can be stressful deciding or attempting to get involved on campus as a first-year student, but in asking Cross her thoughts she said, “I loved getting involved so quickly be-

cause it has helped me meet so many wonderful people.”

She is also a member of the Chi Alpha campus ministry and a member of the Honors College steering committee.

Across campus, Eva Rhodes, senior, is the Student Manager of the Marshall University Food Pantry.

When asked about her role, she said, “I’ve been here over a year, and the number of changes that have happened and the people I’ve encountered make this role incredibly important to me. When I started with this organization, we were averaging around 35 households a month, which equates to around 75 individuals a month.”

In an astonishing comparison to those numbers that best illustrates the results of dedicated service, Rhodes stated that, “As of the month of August 2023, we served 150 households a month, which equates to around 450 to 500 individual souls being fed.”

Rhodes is a Dietetics major with a minor in Psychology and she has been the manager of the food pantry since August of 2022.

Rhodes was proud to say that “this position has been an amazing experience and has helped me grow tremendously as an individual in my personal, professional, and academic life. I am forever grateful for the opportunities this position has granted me.”

She went on to describe her aspirations to become a dietitian and how her interests in community nutrition and gaining an understanding of “specific guidelines and safety procedures” have tied

**Jump to SERVICE, P5**

## HCSA

of the members equally giving our insight...”

McElroy considers the most rewarding part of the job to be the committee environment, emphasizing the importance of maintaining it. “I do my best to make sure that everyone has a say.”

He looks forward to all that HCSA may accomplish and encourages all students to get involved on campus, specifically HCSA, as he looks forward to all

the HCSA might accomplish.

Vice President Ally Welch describes service as “always being willing to lend a helping hand.” She sees service as the true conduit for change, claiming without it, “we can never expect change and growth within ourselves and those we serve.”

As Vice President, Welch retains oversight and control of marketing, including all HCSA social media. “I also create the

syllabus for the HON 488 course that steering committee members may register for, alongside our wonderful advisor, Miss Cara Bailey,” she said.

Welch also says she is “excited to see our steering committee work together to see our vision come into fruition... Our committee meetings seem to reflect similar views in creating more involvement and opportunities within our own Honors College. Getting the word out

about opportunities within the college is also super important in stimulating growth and engagement... We also understand that creating these events and opportunities requires more manpower.”

She added that HCSA President McElroy is working to increase the usual enrollment size of the Steering Committee in the coming semesters.

When asked what she has enjoyed most about working on the

steering committee, Welch said, “Getting to lean into my creative side in working on the graphics for the Instagram. Our page is @marshalluhcsa if you’re not following us already.”

Welch is proud to be involved in many activities outside of HCSA, including Omega Phi Alpha. She describes the organization as “an independent community service-based sorority, open to all gender identities and students on all walks of life.”



**DIVERSITY**

Hinduism is about understanding the connection between all things and how your actions reflect on you.

“You are everyone else, and everyone else is you. We are all one in the same and need to respect everybody,” Smara explains.

The Sigdels also stress the importance of their Nepali identity because people often assume that they are from India. Nepal has its own distinct culture which, although similar to that of India, is not the same. While Nepal is also

much smaller than India, Smara mentions having met many other Nepali students on campus and in the Honors College.

**Diversity Among Peers**

When talking about diversity within the Honors College, Smara and Sage emphasized the importance of meeting other students from diverse backgrounds. Sage recalls feeling welcomed by students who shared their culture as well as students from other backgrounds. The Sigdels both agreed: many of the students

they’ve met at Marshall were eager to learn about Smara and Sage’s culture and share their own as well.

**Intercultural Resources**

There are a wide variety of resources all over Marshall University’s Campus for students of diverse cultural and religious backgrounds. For Smara, Sage, and many other Hindu students, the meatless dining options are very popular. Smara explains her family does not eat certain meats, and some of her Hindu friends don’t

**This is Just the Beginning!**

We at the Honors College are always looking for ways to support minorities, encourage diversity, and appreciate the diverse cultures of our Marshall students, faculty, and communities. If you want to learn more about diversity at Marshall University and here in the Honors College, make sure to check out the Honors Oracle newsletter every month for more student spotlights. In the meantime, be sure to check out the events being held by the Office of Intercultural Affairs at <https://www.marshall.edu/intercultural/events/>.

eat meat at all. Having vegetarian options on campus is important to many students like the Sigdels, and so far, they have not been disappointed.

Smara and Sage are pleased with the diversity on campus

and in the Honors College, saying that Marshall appreciates culture in many ways such as “the intercultural festival, different religious and intercultural clubs, and programs such as the series you are writing.”

**SERVICE**

in with her aspirations for her future career.

If you are a “people person” like Rhodes and would like to make meaningful connections with those in your community, get involved in a campus organization, or simply enjoy volunteer work, the Marshall University Food Bank is an excellent opportunity to serve your community.

Rhodes concluded in saying “The pantry would not be able to

help the number of students and community members that we do now if it weren’t for the help from the Facing Hunger Food Bank, as well as our outstanding volunteers who are absolutely dedicated to the wellbeing of the pantry and its patrons.”

For all inquiries into volunteer work, food pantry access and food pantry hours, please call 304-696-2776, email [foodpantry@marshall.edu](mailto:foodpantry@marshall.edu), or visit Marshall Food Pantry on social media.

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