

Marshall University

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Honors Oracle

Honors College

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The Honors Oracle, November 2023

Honors College

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The Honors Oracle

A newsletter of the Marshall University Honors College

Spring Honors courses intrigue students

by Nolan Duncan

As the Fall semester enters its last weeks, students are considering the classes they will take in the Spring.

With that said, students in the Honors College do have extra requirements they have to fulfill. These come in the form of upper-level seminars. Quick reminder to first and second-year students: it is encouraged that you take first

and second-year seminars, FYS100H and HON200, respectively. These require no special permissions to enroll.

Upper-level seminars and experiential learning courses do, however, require prior authorization from an Honors Advisor before registering. Furthermore, all students are required to take at least one section of Honors 480. From there, they can either

take another section or choose to substitute it with one section of Honors 300 or two sessions of Honors 483. As a refresher, a few of these courses are listed below.

Honors 480 – 201: “Poverty in the US,” taught by Missy Reed and Marianna Linz.

This seminar will examine the causes of poverty and its solutions. Students will learn about the ef-

fects poverty has on the well-being of both adults and children. During the seminar, students will take a close look at poverty in the community, including variables that lead to poverty, keep people in poverty, resources to help, and how some of those resources are difficult for people in poverty to access. The seminar will culminate with a project that students will plan with instructor guidance.

Honors 480 – 202: “Shakespeare & the Classics,” taught by E. Del Chrol and Daniel Normandin.

This course will explore William Shakespeare’s literary engagement with the culture of the Classical world, particularly ancient Rome. Students will study four of the Bard’s Roman texts– the narrative poem Lucrece, the tragedies Julius

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Campus orgs seek student support

by Alissa Davis

Addison Guilliams, a first year PsyD student, serves as the Graduate Assistant of the Women’s and Gender Center.

“My first interaction with the Women’s and Gender center was in undergrad,” Guilliams said. “Last spring semester whenever we had some anti-abortion protesters on

campus, and I went over to the (Women’s and Gender Center) table because it was just nice to see that there was a presence of a supporting entity of Marshall University there.”

When asked what she believed was the most rewarding part of her role, she said, “definitely working with students and being **Jump to SUPPORT, P5**



Addison Guilliams

Honors student makes a home with the Herd

by *Ryann Province*

From job shadowing to interning to serving as an advisory council member, honors student Alexis (Lexi) Steele has done it all.

Steele, a sophomore political science major and aspiring lawyer, was recently hired as an intern for Marshall University's general council, Toney Stroud.

"My [freshman] fall semester, I was talking to my advisor, Cara Bailey, about my plans for the future. I told her I wanted to be a lawyer, and she asked if I had met Toney."

Following a semester-long acquaintanceship, during which Steele shadowed Stroud at his law office weekly, she decided to pursue a paid internship.

"At the beginning of the fall semester of



Alexis Steele

2023, I asked Toney if he would be interested in me having a more permanent position in the office as an intern, and he suggested that I be paid." Today, Steele is a paid intern for Stroud, working

five hours a week.

"I think the biggest thing is really just to communicate with people," Steele said, regarding how she landed her position. "I was really nervous to ask Toney what he thought

about me being an intern, especially me being an underclassman, but there is no harm in asking."

Steele encourages those pursuing internship opportunities to reach out to professors and local professionals whom they admire and look up to.

In addition to interning for Stroud, Steele serves on the advisory council for Marshall University's Society of Black Scholars under the leadership of Maurice Cooley, the recently retired associate vice president of intercultural affairs and current Distinguished Visiting Scholar.

"I was an official member of the society last spring," Steele says, "then, at the end of the spring semester, [Cooley] asked if I'd be interested in serving on the advisory council."

The Society of Black Scholars accepts applications from students in their first year of undergrad or who have not yet completed their third semester. Additionally, you must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.

"Once you register as an African American through Marshall, [Cooley]...looks at your transcripts," says Steele. "After that, you apply; you write a brief essay, go through the interview process, and then, hopefully, you're selected."

The application period for this year is closed; however, if you are interested in joining the Society of Black Scholars, you can learn more at <https://www.marshall.edu/caas/organizations/sbs/>.

When asked for further comments, Steele said, "Go Herd!"

Electives can help broaden mind and round out schedule

by *Morgan Goldsberry*

With the Spring semester around the corner, we all should be looking into which classes to take. Of course, we need to take our major specific classes,

and, for financial aid, you need at least 12 credit hours contributing towards your degree; however, it is recommended that you have 15 hours a semester, leaving room to take a couple of classes for fun! So,

what are some of the fun electives offered here at Marshall? There are so many options, but here are a few highlights:

For all the ladies, there is a women-only self-defense class offering a hands-on

learning experience in defending yourselves against all the creeps of the world. Open to all genders are the volleyball and yoga courses. Want to learn to dance? Or maybe, you've taken dance classes as a kid

and want to get back into it. Well, Marshall has dance classes for both the experienced students and the ones just starting out.

If the arts are more

Jump to ELECTIVES, P4

Embracing Diversity: A Journey into Culture

Blended beliefs bring unique perspective

by *Maria Ramey*

Welcome back to the second edition of Embracing Diversity, where we highlight the significance of cultural diversity! Last month you met the siblings Sage and Smara Sigdel and learned about their Hindu and Nepali background. Now, we are back with another student, Asha Bora, who is going to tell us about what diversity means to her.

Asha Bora is a sophomore Honors student studying biology. Though she was raised in Hurricane, West Virginia, Asha comes from a very unique cultural background. Her father is Indian, and her mother is of European descent. Being from India, her dad was raised Hindu, while her mom was raised Catholic. Her parents' different religious backgrounds meant Asha grew up with a blend of the two. Fun fact: both of Asha's parents teach criminal justice here at Marshall.

Cultural Identity

Because of Asha's unique situation growing up, she has



Asha Bora

experiences with many different cultures. Her diverse environment helped her form her own cultural identity and beliefs.

"I'm not a very religious person in terms of observing religious traditions," she said. "I have my own beliefs, but they don't conform to a specific system— they are a blend of both."

While Asha's beliefs are unique to herself and not strictly traditional, they are still just as important to respect.

Diversity on Campus

When asked about

her view of diversity on campus, Asha mentioned campus organizations, saying, "At Marshall, I would love to see more organizations (focusing on) Asian-Americans. I feel like we have organizations for other groups of color, but not necessarily Asians."

She goes on to talk about Honors College – specifically, people of different ethnic backgrounds that she knows of or has met– and her wish for the program as a whole to do more to highlight and promote diversity.

Student Resources

Something we love to highlight at Marshall is the many resources provided to support intercultural students. While Asha herself does not make use of any specific campus resources, there are many opportunities for those with similar beliefs as her to connect with others in their culture. If you remember, our last guests, Sage and Smara, were also Hindu, and they made use of the vegetarian dining options on campus. If your beliefs are more on the other end of Asha's religious background, as in some form of Christianity, there

are also resources for you! Marshall has an on-campus building that hosts weekly meetings for various Christian denominations.

Until Next Time!

If you are interested in learning more about student diverse cultures and religions, stay tuned for more Embracing Diversity student spotlights in the next edition of the Honors Oracle. In the meantime, if you want to learn more about intercultural resources and diversity here at Marshall, you can check out the office of intercultural affairs webpage at <https://www.marshall.edu/intercultural/events/>

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/>.

HCSA

Caesar and Antony and Cleopatra, and the romance, Cymbeline—alongside his original Classical sources.

Honors 480 – 203: “Drawing and Visual Literacy,” taught by Sandra Reed.

If you are interested in taking this seminar but don't know how to draw or to compose, don't worry— it's designed for you.

Honors 480 – 201: “Mything Person Legends,” taught by Tim Burberry.

This seminar will focus on six “persons,” both from history and the present day, who influenced history and were believed to be real, yet did not in fact exist. Per the title, they are both “mything,” in the sense of helping to provoke real actions, yet “missing” from actual existence.

ELECTIVES

your thing, we got you covered! Want to watch some cool movies and have some awesome discussions? There are film studies classes within the English department that offer just that! Want to get into music? The music department has

Honors 480 – 201: “Civil Rights and Film,” taught by Patricia Proctor.

This course will use films to explore ways the legal system acts as a resource for fairness, as well as ways in which it has posed obstacles to justice. Students will explore how different groups have been treated, focusing on pivotal moments for the rights of women, LGBTQ+, racial and ethnic minorities, and others. This course will also explore civil liberties questions focused on First Amendment protections and the criminal justice system.

Honors 300 -201: Honors Peer mentoring.

An experiential learning course providing peer advisor and leadership training to prepare honors

students. In spring 2024, this course is only open to students who have had experience as far back as Fall 2022.

Honors 483 – 201: TEDxMarshallU Internship in the Honors College.

The TEDxMarshallU Internship in the Honors College is an opportunity to participate in a student-organized and faculty-mentored organizing and planning team for the TEDx-MarshallU event. Roles will include executive producer, event manager, curation coordinator, sponsorships, budgets, purchasing manager, designer, a communications, editorial, and marketing director, and a video and production lead. Students will also create a personal portfolio detailing their experiences to pass to the

next organizing team to help them see how the internship experience can apply to their career development.

Honors 484: “The Honors Oracle Newsletter,” student-led with a staff advisor.

This course offers two sections: 201 and 202. 201 is standard reporting. Students will research a relevant story or topic and write an article for the monthly newsletter. 202 is the editor section. Editors are required to have served as a reporter prior to taking 202. The editors check all articles for proper grammar and comprehensibility— even the article you're reading right now (Whoever edits this, put a funny joke about editing here: “The guy with poor grammar went to prison, but I heard he didn't finish his sentence,” – Ryann,

Editor)! Reporters earn 1 credit hour and editors earn 2. This course can be repeated for General Requirements credit.

Honors 488: “The Honors College Student Association Steering Committee,” student-led with a staff advisor.

The steering committee is the leader of Honors College Student Association activities. This course offers a 201 section (the Member section) and a 202 section (the Officer section). There are 12 members in total, four of whom serve year-round as officers. Members earn 1 credit hour and officers earn 2. This course can be repeated for General Requirements credit.

FALL 2023 ORACLE STAFF

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HONORS COLLEGE

traditional classes as well as ensembles—even for nonmajors!

Are you interested in world religions, or maybe want to learn a little more about them? Well, there are several religious studies classes that might interest you. If you are into mythology, Marshall offers classics courses that

focus on different areas of mythology. Interested in niche historic periods like Nazi Germany? There is a history class for that. What about military history, or maybe military science? Marshall offers those as well. Want to learn how to do your own finances? There are some

classes for that, too!

With so many unique and fun options, one might be tempted to take them all. Just remember to discuss with your advisors what might be the best option for you! You can find these classes either on your academic map or your Degree Works.

SUPPORT

able to provide them services that they need, and even just being there as they go through different processes of receiving healthcare and that kind of thing. I just love working with students, it's definitely the most rewarding part."

In speaking of volunteer opportunities, Guilliams added, "if you want to come, you can help at tabling at events and let students know that this is a re-

source to them— we would be more than happy to have you do that. We also stock some period products around campus with the Aunt Flow period product dispensers and the first-floor bathroom of each academic building, so if you want to go refill products in just a few buildings, that's awesome and we'd love to have that help as well!" Guilliams encourages those interested to reach out to Women's and Gender

"Through my involvement in Friends of MSF, I hope to better serve my community, and educate others on the importance of helping those in need, no matter the cause."

Madison Parsons, freshman biochemistry major

Center Program Director Leah Tolliver at tolliver@marshall.edu for more information on how you can get involved.

Finally, when asked what service within the platform meant to her, Guilliams said, "I find it really important, not only as a woman myself but also being in Appalachia, there aren't really a lot of resources that are forward-facing in the public that support the LGBTQ community or women's health in general, and it is hard to find access to healthcare in Appalachia, especially here in West Virginia. So being able to provide services to our community here on campus and the greater community is super important and something that I am really happy that I get to be a part of."

On Oct. 12, in partnership with the Marshall School of Pharmacy, a Barbie-themed Women's Health Fair was held

in the plaza. At this fair, HPV vaccinations were given, and mental and physical health resources were offered.

Friends of MSF

Friends of MSF is a Doctors Without Borders awareness and volunteering-based organization. In the Marshall chapter, members are tasked with organizing speaking and fundraising events on behalf of Doctors Without Borders (MSF). Members of the chapter have a passion for serving others and work to educate themselves and teach non-members about the work and initiatives of Doctors Without Borders.

Madison Parsons, a freshman biochemistry major with minors in both pre-professional healthcare and biological sciences, is a member of Friends of MSF. She also actively participates in Baptist Campus Ministry (BCM)

and is a member of the Honors College. One of her greatest joys is serving her community.

When asked who the organization is open to, Parsons expressed that Friends of MSF is "open to anyone who is interested, although most of the people who are involved are pre-med students or students who are interested in a career in the medical field."

Parsons described Friends of MSF as being "a great opportunity for students to participate in various activities, serve around the area, raise awareness, and keep up with the happenings of the MSF organization."

Regarding her involvement with the organization, Parsons said, "being affiliated with this program has given me the opportunity to meet so many like-minded people who share an interest in the medical field. It has also given me a chance to participate and get involved around campus. Through my involvement in Friends of MSF, I hope to better serve my community, and educate others on the importance of helping those in need, no matter the cause."

5 EXAM PREPARATION TIPS TO HELP YOU ACE YOUR TEST



START STUDYING EARLY

The best way to ace your exams is to start studying for them as soon as you can.

CREATE A STUDY PLAN

Make sure you have a plan for how you'll approach your studies.





PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

The best way to master a topic is to practice it.

TAKE BREAKS

Take frequent breaks while studying to recharge your brain and stay focused.





GET ENOUGH SLEEP

Make sure to get enough sleep the night before the exam.