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# THE ORACLE



THE HONORS COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

November 1, 2024

## Fall Break Revitalizes Honors Students Amid Demanding Midterms

By: Ally Welch

This semester, Marshall University launched a "Fall Break" for students. This break was strategically scheduled during the eighth week of classes on October 10-11, to give students a much-needed break after midterms. Previously students did not have a break between Labor Day and Thanksgiving week. The new initiative aims to provide a necessary breather for students and is especially beneficial to those with heavier course loads and other commitments during the semester.

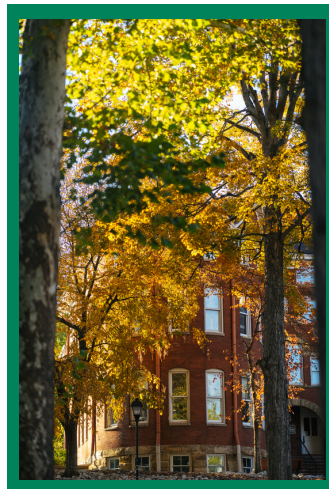
Coralyn Jones, an honors student majoring in Biological Sciences, expressed how this break has positively impacted her academic experience. "I appreciated the fall break overall because I felt that it helped from tests being spread out over a few weeks," said Jones. Her feedback mirrors the sentiments of many students who found the break essential in managing their academic responsibilities more effectively. For Honors College students, the break has been a critical pause, allowing them to regroup and strategize for the rest of the semester. The intense demands of the honors curriculum often leave little room for downtime, making this new mid-semester break a welcome relief. The benefit of spreading out tests and assignments over a longer period has helped ease the pressure that typically comes with midterms approaching.

Reagan Clagg, an Honors College Senator, also shared her experience, highlighting the importance of the break for her overall well-being.

Fall break allowed me to catch up on work for all my classes and get some extra rest. I really appreciated having those extra few days to recharge and get back into the proper mindset to finish out the semester," said Clagg.

This perspective emphasizes the value of having time to rest and recover, which is crucial for maintaining both mental and physical health.

The introduction of Fall Break at Marshall University reflects a broader understanding of the effect that prioritizing students' mental health and well-being can have directly on academic success. By providing students with a moment to pause and recharge, the university acknowledges the intense demands placed on students, especially those in challenging programs balancing other commitments such as the Honors College curriculum. This break not only serves to help students improve upon their academic performance but also to promote a balanced and healthy approach to their education, giving students time to rest and recover while also getting a chance to reevaluate their study habits before tackling the rest of the semester.



Photos By Brock Burwell

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT FEATURING PROFESSOR CHRISTINE INGERSOLL

By Ryann Adkins

As registration approaches for Spring 2025, many students are beginning to consider what classes we should register for to make the most of the upcoming semester. Whether that be Honors courses, major requirements, or a fun elective, we're all looking for classes that will help us to build important skills, and the best professor to teach them.

This edition's spotlight is focused on one such professor, Christine Ingersoll, who spoke on her academic and personal interests, ties to the Honors college, and the classes she plans to teach this Spring.

Professor Ingersoll teaches in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications in the College of Arts and Media. As such, she typically teaches courses on advertising and design, as well as first-year and upper-level seminars for the Honors College. These classes offer students practice in creative thinking and problem-solving that they can advertise on their resumé.

"So many [students] are incredibly proud of what they create by the end of the semester and quickly go on to create designs outside of the class with their new skills," said Professor Ingersoll about one of her design courses. Professor Ingersoll's academic interests coincide well with the skills she teaches to her students. "My primary academic interest is creating innovative educational products that reach beyond the traditional classroom," said Professor Ingersoll. Her personal interests, however, include riding gravel bikes and adventuring with her two dogs.

This Spring, Professor Ingersoll will be teaching five courses that she recommends to students of all majors who wish to develop their skills in critical thinking, design, and branding for their careers. This includes one section of FYS 100H, focusing on "design thinking to identify effective solutions to civic or social problems chosen by the students," said Dr. Ingersoll. At the end of this course, "students [will] have an artifact that proves their ability to utilize design thinking and can claim practice in several contemporary soft skills ..." said Dr. Ingersoll.

She is also teaching several department courses: JMC 241, JMC 260, JMC 383, and JMC 361. Though these classes focus on digital design and advertising, they prove useful to anyone wanting to build their portfolio of branding, creativity, and communication skills.

"Everyone is welcome and can find value in taking [these courses]; [they] will often have students from all over campus," said Professor Ingersoll.

So, when you're deciding what classes to take this Spring semester during priority registration (on October 31st), consider enrolling in one of Professor Ingersoll's courses to broaden your horizons and prepare yourself for your career with these innovative skills.

Website: <https://www.christineingersoll.com/>

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For a look at previous student's work in an upper-level Honors seminar taught by Professor Ingersoll, "The Book Beautiful", please visit

<https://thebookbeautiful4.wordpress.com/>.



Ingersoll, C. (n.d.). Christine Ingersoll. Marshall University. <https://www.marshall.edu/jmc/profile/christine-ingersoll/>

## SPRING 2025 PRIORITY REGISTRATION

By Maria Ramsey

Spring priority registration is just around the corner, which means it's time to start planning your classes for next semester! As an honors student, there are a few key things you'll want to prepare for to make sure your Spring 2025 is a success.

### Mark Your Calendars!

First things first—save the date! On October 31st, 2024, at 7:00 a.m., registration opens for all honors students. This will be your chance to snag a spot in competitive classes before registration opens for the rest of the student body. Don't miss it!

### Meet With Your Advisor

It's important to schedule meetings with both your major advisor and the Honors College advisor. They'll make sure any holds on your account are lifted and confirm you're on track to meet the requirements for the upcoming semester. This is a key step to making sure you are prepared when registration day arrives!

### Review Honors College Requirements

Take time to review the honors course requirements to make sure you're on track. Have you taken FYS 100H yet? What about HON 200? Maybe you've completed both and are moving on to upper-division seminars. Wherever you are in your college journey, it's important to keep your eye on the prize and ensure you're fulfilling all of your core and general honors credits.

### Helpful Resources

While advisors are here to support you, it's essential to take charge of your academic journey. Stay ahead of the game by doing your own research and seeking guidance from your mentors. To help you on your way, here are a few valuable resources to consider:

[Honors Advising Curriculum Worksheet](#)  
[Spring 2025 Honors Courses](#)

### Good Luck!

As you gear up for a successful Spring 2025 semester, remember to save the date, do your research, and never hesitate to reach out for guidance when needed. Here's to another exciting semester full of growth and opportunities!

## WELCOME HOME: HONORS COLLEGE HOUSING!

By Jayln Armstrong

### A Home Away From Home

Moving away from home is a big transition for many college students. Coming to a new school, a new city, or maybe even a new state can be a huge change for a young adult just leaving high school. The Honors College tries to make this transition easier for its students by providing the opportunity for Honors College Housing.

### Options, Options, Options

There are multiple options for Honors College housing for Honors students. There is an Honors floor in the First Year South Residence Hall, as well as an entire Honors building (Willis Hall) in the Marshall University Commons Complex.

Honors college student Trinity Martin, who also happens to be one of the RAs on the Honors floor in First Year South, gave a statement about her experience as both an RA and resident of Honors Housing.

"As one of the RAs on the Honors College floor in First Year Housing, I've seen the residents here thrive. My favorite part about being an RA is seeing how the residents make decisions that are benefitting their futures which have been influenced by the Honors College through the peers they've met in housing or the classes that have inspired them." Said Martin.



## WELCOME HOME: HONORS COLLEGE HOUSING! CONTINUED

She also stated that she believes “because of living on the Honors floor in the First Year Residence Halls, the residents have a sense of pride when it comes to being in the Honors College. They have an Honors home they feel welcome in.”

### Finding Your Home

If you are an honors student who hasn't taken advantage of Honors Housing, remember to consider it for next semester. While only freshmen live in First Year South, Willis Hall is open to all year levels. Honors students can sign up to live in Willis Hall during regular room selection in February. Be sure to check your email for more information from Marshall University Housing and Residence Life! Honors Housing is a great opportunity for students to surround themselves with like-minded peers and helps form a sense of community within the dorms.



Photo of Logo from Emily Roush,  
Housing and Residence Life  
Outreach Coordinator

## CALLING ALL FAM!

By Zenna Zwohl

The minute you get to campus, you already have a Friend-At-Marshall (FAM!) ready to help you face the challenges ahead. FAMs understand that the transition to college can feel a little intimidating and are always there to help. Your FAM will be there for you throughout your first two years here at Marshall. Transfer students—don't worry! You will also be assigned a FAM no matter what year you are.

### What exactly is FAM?

FAM is a Peer Mentoring program that puts new students in contact with a caring sophomore, junior or senior who will help you get adjusted to campus, answer any questions you might have, and point you to any resources you might need. You can contact your FAM by email, text, phone, virtually or in-person.



### Who is My FAM?

This year, FAM has 42 peer mentors on staff. You can find who your FAM is by going to Navigate360 through Marshall's website and looking at your student success team. If you have still had trouble finding it, you can also do a search through your Marshall email for past messages from your FAM. Link to Navigate360: [Find My FAM!](#)

### What do FAM Peer Mentors do?

FAM Peer Mentors hold office hours, like professors, in hopes to engage, interact, and form relationships with students. They also send out regularly scheduled emails and texts as a way to check in on students and tell them about any fun events happening soon on campus. They also plan their own events such as: squish mellow bingo, Paint and Sip's, and yard games, etc. The great part about those events is that they don't have to be your FAM! While they try and cater events to their specific student, everyone is always welcome to join in on the fun.

## CALLING ALL FAM! CONTINUED

### Honors FAM Spotlight

Blake Fry serves as a Freshman Peer Mentor to STEM students.

Blake is from Barboursville, WV, and is a Civil Engineering major. Blake is dedicated to helping new students get adjusted to campus, answering any questions they might have at any point or leading you to any resources you may find useful. If your FAM is Blake, you can contact him at fry105@marshall.edu.

If you are still not sure who your FAM is, please contact mong1@marshall.edu or casey54@marshall.edu



Photo of Blake Fry

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT ON ABBI

### CARNEY

By Chloe McCarty

Abbi is majoring in English and Secondary Education with an emphasis in English and is minoring in Creative Writing.

She is extremely involved at Marshall. She is a part of the SGA (Student Government Association) in which she serves as a senator for the College of Education and Professional Development and the Senate Education and Outreach Coordinator. She is also a part of the College Democrats of Marshall University and the Student Advisory Council for her college. Something worth noting is an aspect of Abbi's role as Senate Education and Outreach Coordinator in SGA is to oversee the Apprenticeship Program.

This program is aimed to "cultivate great leaders for today, tomorrow, and the future [and to] ensure each apprentice is well-prepared and adapted to be a campus leader." Said Abbi. This semester, with her in charge, the SGA welcomed its biggest group of apprentices.

Abbi also emphasized how being an honors student has shaped her time here as Marshall, as well as the amazing opportunities she has been granted through the Honors College.

She was incredibly grateful for her ability to have been in the Honors College over her years here. "Being in the Honors College has really benefitted me in figuring out what I want to do with my life," said Abbi. "I have also met so many great people through the Honors College, most of my friends are from the Honors College." She said that her connections from the Honors College helped her get more involved on campus and join organizations.

An interesting opportunity she was able to take part in, thanks to the Honors College, gave her a busy summer.

"Last spring, I applied for the Creative Discovery Research Grant through the Honors College, and I won it," she said, "I was given \$4000 as a stipend and took some of the money towards researching Appalachia. I visited places that were important to me growing up and then I wrote memoirs." She wrote 11 memoirs and submitted them for publication.

The best part about this grant is that it isn't just for Honors students, any student can receive it. There are two separate grants, one for Summer and one for Fall. The process is quite simple, it requires the

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT ON ABBI CARNEY CONTINUED

student to submit a research proposal to a faculty member, who will then become their advisor. Then, they will apply for the grant as a mentor and student.

Another opportunity Abbi has enjoyed was getting to know the faculty and professors in the Honors College. “The Honors College faculty is amazing,” she said. “One of the reasons I came to Marshall and join the Honors College was for Cara Bailey.” She mentioned how the Honors faculty helped Abbi through rough semesters and advocated for her. “I forgot to schedule a meeting with her, and I hadn’t scheduled my classes yet. I went to her and asked for help. She sat down with me and helped me schedule everything,” Abbi said.

Abbi’s experience with the Honors College and the numerous opportunities and support available should be an example for all Honors students. Any student can be just as successful as Abbi has been and come out of college knowing that that made an impact with the help of the Honors College.



Photo of Abbi Carney

## WORDS THAT WIN: *INSIDE THE THUNDERING WORD*

By Joshua Hardesty

Many students are completely unaware that Marshall has its very own speech and debate team, the Thundering Word, despite a string of successful seasons. While the team tries to stay relatively small in size, their recent wins—and speeches—are consistently stunning. The Thundering Word coach, Dennis Taylor, highlighted his interest in fostering student success and preparing them for communication in the real world.

“The focus of the Thundering Word is to assist students in developing and using their voices to communicate with a focus on the significant public issues of the day,” said Taylor. He listed the five categories of events to emphasize its versatility for students with different strengths: traditional public address, limited preparation speech, interpretation, limited preparation debate, and prepared debate. This wide range of options ensures that each student can find something that works for them.

The Thundering Word also has historical and relevant ties to the Honors College. Coach Dennis Taylor expanded on this in an interview. “Historically, there has been a very strong connection between the Honors College and the team. In fact, the founding director of the Yeager Scholars Program was Dr. William Denman, the team’s former speech and debate coach. Over the years, a disproportionate number of team members have come from the Yeager Scholars program and the Honors College,” said Coach Taylor.

One such Yeager Scholar on the team is Justin Gainer. His focus is mainly on public address speeches, but he has expressed an interest in pursuing debate as well. In an interview, Gainer expressed what the team means to him.

“The Thundering Word has inspired me to research information in a variety of subjects,” said Gainer. When asked what he liked most about the team, Gainer singled out how the team’s structure includes teamwork that fosters growth in students.

One of the key principles the Honors College consistently stands on is the importance of being well-rounded. The Thundering Word provides students with the opportunity to take a deep dive into learning communication skills, logic, and reasoning.



## WORDS THAT WIN: *INSIDE THE THUNDERING WORD* CONTINUED

If you're interested in joining, know that the team is not just for Communications or English Majors. In fact, there are a large number of STEM Majors on the team. Justin Gainer is a Chemistry Major, for example.

"The Thundering Word places academics first, which directly aligns with ideals of the Honor's College. The team knows we are students first and foremost," said Gainer. He also recognized the importance of being well-rounded in education and expressed appreciation for the opportunity for learning that comes with competing on the speech and debate team.

## INNOVATION DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

By Harrison Barnett

If you've been in Huntington for a long time, you've probably noticed a few changes where Hal Greer joins 4th Avenue. This is all part of Marshall's plans for a new innovation district. This proposal involves a large number of new buildings, a parking garage, and new townhomes for sale. The Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation, which opened last spring, was the first project to implement this strategy. So far, the brand-new business facility has been the campus's highlight. The new facility includes a number of new classrooms, think tanks, an auditorium, meeting spaces, and other amenities. What comes next? The new Institute for Cyber Security is set to open in 2026. This new innovation district will not only bring an update to our school's buildings and programs, but will also promote the city of Huntington.



Photo from WSAZ News Site



The debate team gearing up for their first online tournament of the season. From L to R: Michael Harvey, Ben Chambers, Jayden Sullivan, and Mason Wheeler.

## MEET THE STAFF

*The Honor's Oracle Fall 2024*

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