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Honors Oracle, September 1998

Marshall University Honors College

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Honors News

Marshall University

Vol. VI, no. 1
September 1998

Comments from the Editors

It's a beautiful afternoon on Marshall's campus . . . cloudless sky, fresh grass, and a light breeze. So, where are the Honors students? At the fountain, on the lawn, on the court . . . ?

No— we're sweating in an un-air conditioned, dark, secluded, dirty, dorm room STUDYING! No, we're not bitter — after all, only 12 more

weeks until finals!

Welcome back! At least you have the Honors Newsletter!

Our names are Kathleen Sandell and Molly Bassett. Kathleen is a junior International Affairs/English major, and Molly is a sophomore Spanish/Classical Studies major. We're excited to be informing you of Honors events

this year like Yeager Symposium and the "What's It Like?" series.

So, look forward to seeing this newsletter in your mailbox, and may we suggest reading it outside your dorm room?

Kathleen Sandell
Molly Bassett
Co-Editors

Comments from the Chair

I am delighted to be returning to the Honors Program after taking a year's sabbatical leave to work on a book about T. S. Eliot and collaboration. While I thoroughly enjoyed the period of intense reading, writing, and reflection, I did miss the interaction with students that makes teaching so much fun. So it is with great pleasure that I welcome back our upper-class honors students and offer a special welcome to our incoming honors students, including our more than eighty John Marshall Scholars, a record number!

While I have had the opportunity to meet many of you during formal meetings or in visits to your Honors 101 classes, I hope you will stop by my office in 230 Old Main to say hello. Mrs. Woodward and I are always available to answer your questions about the program or Marshall University. Please call, email, or visit in person so we can help. During registration, of course, all John Marshall Scholars

are required to visit our offices to have the advisor hold lifted from their records. You won't be able to register otherwise.

We have an exciting year planned in the Honors Program, with the largest number of Honors 101 sections ever currently meeting this fall semester (in addition to five seminars) and three interesting seminars planned for the spring. The "What's It Like?" speakers series continues in its fourth year, with panels on Law (October 28), Health Care (February 17), and the Arts (March 17)— all events will be held in the Alumni Lounge. The MU Honors Student Association continues this year in its role representing the needs of Honors students on campus, especially through its two co-consuls, who sit as voting members on the University Honors Council, the faculty-student committee that oversees the Honors Program.

The Honors email discussion list has been reformatted this year; please make sure to read carefully

all the messages from that list relating to important deadlines, requirements, scholarship opportunities, and class information. While all honors students should have been subscribed to the list, if you are not receiving email from the Honors Program, please send me your email address and I will subscribe you. Once again, welcome and welcome back!

Dr. Richard Badenhausen, Chair
University Honors Council
230 OM; Badenhau@marshall.edu

Honors Discussion List

Feel free to post Honors related materials on the discussion list. Every member of the Honors Program receives email sent to the following address:
<honors-list@marshall.edu>.

Also, if you receive this newsletter, and have not been receiving Honors email let Dr. Badenhausen know so you can be informed. Email him at <badenhau@marshall.edu>.

1998 Yeager Symposium

"Creativity and Eccentricity"

Sponsored by Bell Atlantic-West Virginia

The 1998 Yeager Symposium will focus on individuals from around the world who have made creative and perhaps eccentric achievements that have improved the culture of education. The ingenuity represented by these speakers spans disciplines and celebrates the creative and eccentric of college life and that which lies beyond.

—Co-chairs Molly Bassett, Class of 2001, and Nicole LaRose, Class of 2000

Monday, October 12

7:30 PM

Joan C. Edwards Playhouse

James Burke

A science-historian, author, and television host, James Burke has published numerous books including *The Day the Universe Changed*, *Connections*, and *The Axemaker's Gift*. Burke has produced and hosted shows for PBS, both in the United Kingdom and in the United States, and for The Learning Channel.

Tuesday, October 13

7:30 PM

F. Booth Experimental Theater

Bell Atlantic-WV and the West Virginia Humanities Council present:

James E. Casto as Collis P. Huntington and Dr. Calvin Kent, Dean/Marshall University College of Business.

As part of "History Alive," James Casto, of the *Herald-Dispatch*, will bring Collis P. Huntington to life in a dialogue with Dr. Kent. In their dialogue, the entrepreneurs will discuss the changes in local commerce from Huntington's time to the present.

Wednesday, October 14

7:30 PM

F. Booth Experimental Theater

Elliot Mannette

A native of Trinidad-Tobago, Mannette is the principal innovator and designer of the modern steel drum. An artist in residence at West Virginia University, Mannette has played his drums at the Smithsonian Museum and the Metropolitan Museum.

Thursday, October 15

7:30 PM

F. Booth Experimental Theater

Keynote Panel

Mary Anne Pennington, Huntington Museum of Art— Moderator

John Van Kirk, Professor of English at Marshall University

John Fiedler, Hollywood Film Maker and Producer

Paula Clendenin, Charleston, WV, Visual Artist

The panel will discuss the week's theme "Creativity and Eccentricity."

LINE OF SIGHT

by Jocelyn Eikenburg

So, you finally have that ticket in hand, the brand new American Tourister luggage packed, and glazed over eyes as you dream about your semester abroad with those passionate Spaniards. Most of all, you look forward to all the bean burritos and chili relenos you could ever desire. Spain and Mexico share a common language, so why shouldn't they produce the same culinary delights?

Well, you learn really quickly that Spanish is *all* Spain and Mexico seem to have in common. You are a misunderstood vegetarian in a country that places its Serrano ham on a pedestal, and consumes a host of strange-textured sausage products. Can you ever survive?

Wait! Don't call 1-800-GET-TOFU yet! You can live in Spain as a vegetarian, and never even approach starvation. With this survival guide in hand, everything from Hemingway's Pamplona to the resorts of the Costa del Sol can be yours with minimal culture shock and hunger.

Let's begin with cuisine. Like tofu? You might find it in the larger supermarkets in the city or the sparse and small health food stores. But, let's not kid ourselves. You can't possibly find tofu in those charming little towns in the Sierra Nevada or the Mediterranean coast you're dying to visit. Repeat after me: cheese, eggs, and occasional chick peas or lentils are my *amigos*! I ended up consuming Spanish omelettes at least four or five times a week. The cholesterol is a little daunting, but that's your excuse for quaffing a few glasses of red wine later in the evening with your friends. On the positive side, however, there's plenty of freshly

baked bread, lots of fresh salads with olive oil, and each meal ends with a healthy serving of fresh fruit. Also, almost every major city has at least one or two vegetarian restaurants, so you can get yourself a nice meal and clean out all of that residual Spanish omelette in your system.

But what about cleaning the ubiquitous second hand smoke out of your lungs? Spaniards are avid smokers. They light up just about everywhere, except maybe surgery rooms and notary offices, and can't understand why you wouldn't want to either. Spain actually has standardized tobacco stores everywhere, and you'll end up visiting them just so you can get your envelopes, stamps, bus passes, and telephone cards. Buses and planes have some pretty laughable "*no fumadores*" sections. I can't help you here, although maybe that red wine will make up for all the tar accumulation in your lungs.

After developing tar-plastered lungs, you might need a little excitement. What better way to forget these annoying cultural differences than to go out Spanish style! This experience is unparalleled! Spaniards begin their night at midnight having some tapas (Spanish appetizers) and socializing with their friends in a local bar. Because they tire quickly of their surroundings, they usually visit many places, including the uniqueness of every *sitio*. Then, around 3 or 4 am, the *discotecas*, or night clubs, fling open their doors, and both young and old flock to dance and truly inaugurate their night out. Most Spaniards head afterwards to the nearby cafe, and satisfy their early morning munchies with some serious coffee

and indulgent pastries.

Ahh, pastries and late night adventures seem to drown all of the angst of daily life as a struggling vegetarian foreigner. With a little creativity and optimism, you'll find that the Spanish lifestyle isn't inconsistent with your personal philosophy. You might become a latino-loving vegetarian who realizes that life goes on across the world . . . even when there's no tofu!

Question of the Month

Where are all of the Honors Students?

Tell us where you spend your time and what you like to do, so that we may tailor the Honors Newsletter to reflect students' interests.

Please reply to

<sandell1@marshall.edu>

or

<bassett1@marshall.edu>.

Yeager Program Goes Jock

by Richard Badenhausen,
DOGS manager

In a stunning turn-around, the Yeager Program devoted all of its substantial institutional muscle this past year towards amassing a freshman class that could redeem the good name of the program after last year's embarrassing 33-4 thrashing at the hands of the DOGS, Marshall University's only officially-recognized faculty softball team. Alas, the elder faculty was no match for this "new"-style Yeager student, who arrived on campus not with pencils and calculators at the ready but with razor-sharp spikes and a creatine-induced musculature, as the Honors team out-dueled the professors 12-5 in a softball contest last week.

It seems the faculty miscalculated in scheduling the annual contest during a weekend when three of its stars (a full 75% of the infield) were out of town. But after a contentious team meeting during which this very topic was discussed, it was decided that an intentional weakening of the DOGS was appropriate in light of last year's rout. Perhaps we overreached.

Likewise, the faculty was unpre-

pared for the scheming ways of the Yeager side, which planted one of its own alumni as a mole on the DOGS side. Recognizing that our own pitcher was required to fill in elsewhere, the Yeagers correctly predicted that their secret representative, Mike McCarthy, would be called on to switch over to the DOGS side. The trickery was apparent as he began serving up fat meatballs to the plate, allowing the young Yeagers to swat the balls to all corners of the field. Although the DOGS defended their turf valiantly, even wiping out one Yeager duo by turning a double play, the odds were too great to overcome.

When McCarthy's chicanery was brought to his attention, he deftly deflected the question, immediately engaging the surrounding Yeagers in an intricate discussion on the topic of bandwidth and gigabytes. Nevertheless, some of the more experienced DOGS were overheard whispering amongst themselves: "once a Yeager, always a Yeager. They have pledged allegiance to their leader Woodward, promising to defend the honor of the

program to the death."

Reprising his role as pitcher for the Yeager-nine was Mike Burr, even though the respective managers had to consult before the game, checking the rulebook to see if seventh-year students were eligible for the annual contest. Freed from his rigorously demanding work schedule, Burr held the opposing batters spellbound with his famous El Nino pitch, in which the hot air emanating from his mouth alters the path of the approaching ball so as to render it almost unhittable. In fact, the Yeager manager, Nicole LaRose, was spotted in Ritter Park the day before the contest videotaping Burr's motion and working on his mechanics.

Indeed, it is perhaps time for the DOGS to take this match a bit more seriously and treat it with similar respect. To that end, the DOGS have accepted the challenge of a rematch extended by Burr and his cohorts; this time, we will plan to offer the full complement of our team, a truly awe-inspiring sight. As they say in Brooklyn, we're ready to go anytime, anyplace.

Honors Happenings: HON 101

by Evan Bevins

As they begin college, honors students may find themselves overwhelmed by the need to adapt to new surroundings and maintain their usual academic standards. Marshall University's Honors 101 course is an attempt to make the transition from high school to college a little easier.

Like the University 101 course, Honors 101 is designed to help integrate students into the college atmosphere. This year there are 10 sections of Honors 101, the most ever. Dr. Richard Badenhausen, Chair of the University Honors Council, describes the program's purpose as threefold. One goal is to familiarize students with the college experience. Another is to put them in touch with the school's

various resources. Finally, the course serves as a way to bring honors students together so that they can get to know one another in a comfortable environment. Badenhausen also notes an advantage for the Honors program itself.

"It's a wonderful way for us to introduce students to the Honors program at the beginning of the first year," Badenhausen said.

Badenhausen lists time management as the biggest problem for beginning honors students, along with the higher expectations of college professors and adjusting to life "without Mom and Dad." Each Honors 101 professor brings into the class other professors and administrators who have had special training in those trouble areas.

The courses are taught by professors from a variety of disciplines, on a

voluntary basis, because each class is an overload. According to Badenhausen, professors take on this extra work because "they're interested in working with honors students and helping them succeed."

Dr. David Woodward, of the History department, commented that his first Honors 101 class, "has been a more enjoyable experience than I thought it would be." He has emphasized familiarity with current events and the study abroad program.

Freshman Jennifer Hendricks, a John Marshall Scholar, has experienced the course's benefits. "It's given me more information about some of the services and activities around here," Hendricks said. "I think it's really helpful to students, especially people who aren't familiar with the area, because it gives them a place to start from."

ONLY THE BEST, 12-5

by Nicole LaRose

On Sunday, September 13 a team of Yeager Scholars took to the diamond against a group of professors calling themselves decrepit old geezers, or D.O.Gs. The Yeagers proved the D.O.Gs' name accurate, squashing the professors 12-5, and showing the superiority of youth. On that scorching afternoon, the old people (granted, the sun is harsh on their wrinkling skin) could not manage a hit over the Yeager outfield. Except for the geezer's flawless left fielder, the D.O.Gs made numerous fielding errors. Even with the ringer in left (who, according to the Yeagers' director Martha "Yoda" Woodward, was Dr. Hatfield of the English department) the pros did not have a chance against the powerful Yeager attack.

Starting with their first at bats, the Yeagers set the tone of the game by

bringing in five runs. Mike McCarthy, Yeager alumni turned professor traitor, helped the Yeagers in the field by biffing on several fly balls. His batting skills also aided in the Yeager plight to annihilate the pros. Outfielder David "Dependable" DeSario said, "McCarthy couldn't hit the broad side of a barn with a shovel," and second baseman Zach "Gap Daddy" Weir laughed that McCarthy "couldn't hit water if he fell out of a boat." Both refer to McCarthy's consistent strikeouts. McCarthy wasn't the only one in a slump; Dr. Castleberry and Dr. Bean had similar hitting problems.

We cannot attribute the Yeager victory solely to the decrepit play of the old people. The Yeager squad, 15 strong, had its share of talent. "Dependable" DeSario reached base on every at bat. Homer "Don't Call Me Simpson" Dawson turned two double plays and provided strong hitting. Peter "Seminar Survivor" Strong shagged long balls and hit his own. The Yeagers voted Jenny "Rifle" Miller and Billy "Bonzi" Jones co-MVPs.

Jenny guarded center field from dropped balls, including catching two hits from the usually amazing Dr. Badenhausen. She also threw a rifle shot from deep in the field to first baseman Jones to tag out the sluggish Hatfield on the last play. Billy's hand smoked for hours after the game. Besides "Bonzi's" amazing fielding skills, he hit the game's only home run, and just missed hitting for the cycle. Jones described this day with eloquent words, saying: "It's a shame we only get to play this softball game once a year. Giving a ruthless beating like this is just too much fun."

After the game, the professors had a Yeager victory picnic at Dr. Badenhausen's house. The professors' cooking skills were fortunately much better than their ball playing. The old geezers have muttered words of a rematch, claiming that some of their usual members were absent. But, does replacing one old person with another really matter? They should just face their defeat. After all, the Yeager team is "Only the Best."

MUHSA Elections

John Marshall Scholar Luke Styer and Yeager Scholar Nicole LaRose have been elected by their fellow honors students to represent their interests during the academic year 1998-99 as co-consuls of the Marshall University Honors Students Association. They also gain two seats on the University Honors Council, the faculty committee that oversees the Honors Program. MUHSA holds regular meetings throughout the year; all honors students are encouraged to attend. You may contact Luke and Nicole at <Styer1@marshall.edu> and <Larose1@marshall.edu>. John Marshall Scholar Courtney Ostaff has been appointed by the Chair as a third student representative to the Honors Council.

The fourth annual "What's It Like?" speaker series kicks off the 1998-99 year with a panel at 3:30-5:00 pm on October 28 in the Alumni Lounge on Law. Three attorneys with a range of experience in the profession will address students and then take questions.

--What happens when a husband and wife team-teach in the honors classroom? Find out in a future issue of Honors News, when Dan Holbrook and Montserrat Miller talk about their seminar, "Civic Culture in the 90s."

--Also in next month's issue, look for Spring 1999 course information.

Dates to Remember

Monday, October 12: Yeager Symposium Begins

Tuesday, October 13: Mid-Semester (1st 8 weeks classes end)

Wednesday, October 28: "What's It Like?: Law" Alumni Lounge, 3:30-5:00

Friday, October 30: Last Day to Drop a Full Semester Individual Course

Wednesday & Thursday, November 4-5: Student Government Elections

November 9-20: Early Registration for Spring Semester

Friday, November 20: 6:00 PM, RESIDENCE HALLS CLOSE!

November 23— November 28
FALL BREAK

English Event

by Kathleen Sandell

On 12 October 1998, MU Women's Programs and the English Department will sponsor a two-part presentation by widely-published scholar Dr. Margaret R. Higonnet. The presentations will be offered in conjunction with Honors Seminar 396, Women and War, and other courses, and will highlight the contributions of women throughout the history of warfare. Higonnet will specifically examine women's roles in modern warfare, particularly during World War I.

Higonnet has taught at the University of Connecticut, George Washington University, and the University of Munich. She also serves as an affiliate of the Center for European Studies at Harvard University. "She's known in some

sense as a 'theorist' about women in war," explains Dr. Katherine Rodier. Higonnet's international anthology of women's writings about World War I, entitled Lines of Fire, will appear in December 1998.

In one afternoon discussion, "Women, Memory and Trauma," Higonnet will address women's roles in the burden of remembering war. She will also discuss the trauma of female war participants, such as nurses in intensive surgical units. Higonnet's other lecture, "X-Ray Vision," is a comparative project examining women's responses to World War I. The presentation will include slides.

The presentations will take place at 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. on 12 October 1998, with the latter event held in the Alumni Lounge; they will be open to all members of the greater Marshall community.

Marshall University
Center for Academic Excellence
Honors Program
Old Main 230
Huntington, WV 25755-2160

Francis Hensley
Academic
Affairs

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