

HONOUR WATCH

ISSUE IX: September 2017

MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC HONORS STUDENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Letter from the EDITOR

Honors Program,

In the time since I last spoke to you all, we have ushered in a new academic year, a new president of the university, and a new class of freshman Honors students. I have also now begun my final year here at Morehead State University, and I hope to serve you all well throughout this last year! It seems hard to believe that our midterms are already fast approaching; I wish you all the best of luck, and an exciting Fall Break!

I would now like to address some sad news. By the time you all will be reading this, the news will have broken that the Honors House is scheduled for demolition by the end of this semester, and that the Honors offices will be moved into the downstairs of Fields Hall where the Office of Student Housing currently resides. While this is an incredibly sudden and sad event, I feel that it would be prudent of all of us to focus on the transition moving forward rather than waste our energy trying to prevent what is likely unstoppable. The demolition of the House has been scheduled for years, and I have been hearing whispers of it for a couple of years now; while this sudden announcement caught us all by surprise, the possibility was always in the air. Additionally, the Honors House is not the only building coming down in this process. Morehead is taking an effort to "reduce its footprint" and use less buildings altogether. If the House was coming down in an individual effort, we might have a chance of stopping it; because it's coming down as part of a bigger plan, however, I fear that our energy would only be wasted. We should take this time to remember the things the Honors House has done for us and the times we've all shared there, but also to think of how to help in the transition and take the situation head-on.

I hope that my brief detour into university politics has not soured the reader's mood. It is at times like these that we must come closer together as a community and remember what it is that the Honors Program represents, and what we, as Honors students, stand for. If you haven't recently, I would take some time out of your week to drop by the House to socialize and reminisce, and get in touch with someone in the Program to see how you might be able to help out in the transition to come.

Jonathan Dean, *Editor-in-Chief*

EVENTS

AHSA put together a team for the Shamrock 5K. Congrats to Nick for winning third for the men's division!



A H S A reports

Allison Fletcher, a senior Honors student, was recently appointed to be the Secretary of Alumni Relations, a position recently introduced into AHSA's executive board. She joins the board alongside **Jonathan Dean**, who has been in charge of HonOUR Watch for the two years since its inception and has now been appointed Secretary of Public Relations.

We would also like to welcome **Nick Anderson** and **Victoria Nash** as the new members of the Honors Committee, representing the Class of 2021!

HONORS EVENTS

Before the start of classes this semester, freshman Honors students were welcomed to MSU through an evening at the Honors House. Here, freshmen were able to meet some of their peers and mentors. Participants enjoyed pizza and sweets while talking with potential mentors. At the conclusion of the event, both the freshmen and mentors selected via a secret ballot who they would prefer to have a mentor-mentee relationship with throughout the school year. That weekend, the ballots were tallied and mentors and mentees were informed of their matches soon after. The pairings formed through this event are still being cultivated and are impacting freshmen well into the semester.

The annual **Honors picnic** was held at the Honors House on August 30. Honors students from all of the different classes attended along with Honors professors – and even President Morgan stopped by! After dinner, the notorious Gabe O'Hara was awarded a trophy knife for his victory in the game of Murder. A wide variety of games, including cornhole, a cake walk, and bocce ball were then played in the yard of the Honors House. Year after year, the Honors picnic is an event that people look forward to as an opportunity to see familiar faces or meet new ones.

An **overseas experience event** took place on September 18 at the Honors House. This event, orchestrated by the Committee of Programming and the Committee of Academic Research and Overseas Experiences, allowed students who have not yet selected an overseas experience to hear from students who have already completed this requirement through the Honors Program. Attendees were able to experience a taste of the various cultures MSU students have seen. They were also offered tips and suggestions to help them plan their own memorable overseas experiences.

GEORGE M. LUCKEY ACADEMIC HONORS PROGRAM



Friday, September 22 | 7:00 P.M. | Coffeetree Books



On September 21, Honors students took to the hills to **clean up trash around Eagle Lake**. Nine Honors students showed up to help and collected over a hundred bottles and cans. This was the first time that the Honors Program has participated in a cleanup of the lake, but excitement is running high for plans being made to make this a regular gathering. Morehead State University is very fortunate to have a recreational area such as Eagle Lake, and it is very important that it is kept looking clean and beautiful.

A talented group of Honors students performed the vocal play **Alma Orphans** with Dr. Krummrich and former MSU employee Adrian Swain on September 22 at Coffee Tree Books. This vocal play was written by Dr. Krummrich and performed a decade ago. Adrian Swain was actually a member of the original cast. The MSU radio station recorded this most recent performance, and it will be released at a later date. As a voluntary project, the production of Alma Orphans was a rewarding experience which allowed students to invest their talents into a project that does not require a grade or excess stress.

By Victoria Nash & Luke Kirk

Conferences

by Harrison Fouch

The **Idea Festival** is going to be held in Louisville, Kentucky from September 26 to 27. Students attending the Idea Festival to represent the Honors Program include **Alexa Potts, Karly Potts, Kasey Isaacs, and Taryn Syck**.

Max Prowant participated in two fellowships this summer. The first was a week-long summer course which focused on Thucydides' masterwork, History of the Peloponnesian War, and was held by the Hertog Foundation. The course was attended by fifteen students total and taught by Dr. Jakub Grygeil, an expert in American international relations. The second fellowship was with the Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI) in Portland, Oregon, where he met with around sixty other students and ten professors for a week of seminars and discussion. The works read and discussed included Whittaker Chambers' Witness, F. A. Hayek's Constitution of Freedom, Russell Kirk's The Conservative Mind, and Richard Weaver's Ideas Have Consequences. This fellowship will last a year, during which time Max will be participating in various conferences hosted by the Liberty Fund in collaboration with ISI.

Tyler Syck attended a conference in Philadelphia earlier this month centered on Edmund Burke, Thomas Paine, and the French Revolution.

The conference included fifteen students from across America as well as two professors, all gathered to discuss the works and their implications in modern society.



The **Honors Roundtable** for Fall 2017 will be held at Northern Kentucky University from September 29 to 30. We have several Honors students presenting:

Elizabeth Von Mann will be presenting a poster entitled "The Semantic Awakening: An Anthology of Translations" regarding work done editing an anthology of translated texts. The submissions were received in a variety of languages (Spanish, French, and Latin) and genres (poems, short stories, and plays); these submissions were primarily fictional and previously untranslated. The presentation also addresses the aspects of compiling and translating such an anthology from submissions. Fellow collaborators include **Amina Anwar, Cailin Wile, and Sydney Cook**, all also students in the Honors Program.

Lin Huang will be presenting work done over the summer at the National Human Rights Museum in Taipei, Taiwan through a research opportunity granted to her by the 2017 Taiwan Tech Trek program, sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Technology. This research regards the White Terror Era in Taiwan, one of the longest periods of martial law in the world. This work is the culmination of hours of researching the newly-released CIA archive, the National Archives, and other sources.

Tyler Syck will be presenting "The Xenophobic Founder: The Political Thought of Thomas Jefferson and Xenophon." This presentation examines Thomas Jefferson's belief that Xenophon, Socrates' less-famous student, was one of the greatest philosophers in history. Tyler's work observes two major themes that run throughout the thought of Jefferson and examines the impact Xenophon had on that thought.

ON THIS DAY

September 27, 1422: The Treaty of Melno is signed by the Teutonic Order and the Poland-Lithuania alliance, determining a border between Prussia and Lithuania that remains partially intact to this day.

September 27, 1529: Suleiman I the Magnificent and his Ottoman forces begin their attack on Vienna, Austria, launching the Siege of Vienna that marks the furthest Ottoman excursion into Europe.

September 27, 1777: As British forces invade Pennsylvania, the United States moves its capital from Philadelphia to Lancaster, Pennsylvania for a single day.

September 27, 1916: The unstable Emperor Iyasu V of Ethiopia is officially deposed in favor of his exiled aunt, Zewditu, who, as of now, is the last Empress Regent in history to have ruled.

September 27, 1928: The United States officially recognizes the Republic of China, which would be the leading government in China until the communist revolution of 1949 that installed the modern-day People's Republic of China.

OVERSEAS EXPERIENCES

by Clare Johnson

Over the summer, some of our fellow Honors students decided to complete their overseas experience. This is, personally, one of my favorite requirements for the Honors Program because there is just so much you can learn from experiencing life in a different country. A few of these world travelers have shared their adventures with me so I can share them with you. Let's take a look at some of the places our Eagles have soared to!

Kelsey Bolen spent eight weeks in Dublin, Ireland as part of the STINT internship program. She was matched with an internship position at the Insight Center for Data Analytics at Dublin City University, where she worked in a chemistry lab researching lithium sensing. She and her supervisor were using the information they gathered to create a sensor capable of detecting harmful lithium levels in the body. While she said she worked Monday through Friday, she was given weekends off to explore the country on her own as well as with the STINT group who arranged trips. She says she learned a lot from her internship and gained skills that will help her in her future.

Cailin Wile had the chance to visit Iceland this past summer! She spent three weeks exploring the main city, Reykjavik, as well as some of the notable landscape features like geysers, volcanoes, hot springs, and glaciers. She raved about how much fun she had getting lost, eating licorice, and being bitten by countless cats, saying she would go back in a heartbeat.

Lin Huang had the amazing opportunity to return to Taiwan as a part of Taiwan Trek 2017. She interned at the National Human Rights Museum in Taipei, Taiwan, where she obtained in-depth research skills and worked to compile documents related to the White Terror Era in Taiwan, the second-longest period of martial law in the world. When she wasn't researching, she was able to enjoy the rich culture of Taiwan and eat lots of food. She also traveled to over a dozen cities while she was there. Be sure to check out her Instagram to see pictures from her adventure!

Kathryn Branham and **Kathryn Wilkerson** traveled through Europe for three weeks. Their first week was spent sightseeing in London and Paris. From there, they flew to Bucharest, Romania to meet up with their Global Volunteers team. They spent two weeks in Romania taking care of hospitalized orphans in a small town called Barlad. They loved this opportunity and said that it was incredibly rewarding. While they were in Romania they also visited some of the highlights of the country, such as Bran's Castle (better known as Dracula's castle), the Biserica Neagra in Brasov, and several other gorgeous, historical places.

Hannah Smoot spent five weeks living and pursuing legal studies in Bregenz, Austria. Austria's central location allowed her to visit numerous other countries while she was there. Her travels took her to Germany, Hungary, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, and France! She highly recommends studying abroad to anyone interested in traveling the world and experiencing different cultures.

The overseas experience is a wonderful chance to explore other countries and cultures and gain valuable skills for your future. If you have any questions about any of the trips mentioned above, I'm sure all of these students would love to talk to you about their experience. I hope you all have an experience just as wonderful as they did!



CALENDER

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 8P: Star Wars Movie Night	4 First Half-Semester Classes End 9:30A: Honors Breakfast	5 Second Half- Semester Classes Begin 5:15P: A H S A Exec. Meeting	6 1P: Confucius Reading Group	7
8	9	10	11	12 FALL BREAK	13 FALL BREAK	14
15	16 Last day to apply for Winter Graduation	17 8P: Star Wars Movie Night	18	19 5:15P: A H S A Exec. Meeting	20 1P: Confucius Reading Group	21 10A: Honors Alumni Breakfast
22	23	24	25	26	27 1P: Confucius Reading Group	28
29	30 Priority Registration Begins	31 8P: Star Wars Movie Night	1	2	3	4

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

By: Sydney Cook

Every other Tuesday night at the Honors house, now through the end of November, there will be **Star Wars Movie Nights!** Every other Tuesday one of the films will be shown starting at 8:00 PM and lasting for two to three hours. There will also always be some type of snacks! The schedule is as follows: September 5th – Episode III, September 19th – Rogue One, October 3rd – Episode IV, October 17th – Episode V, November 14th – Episode VI, November 28th – Episode VII (The Force Awakens).

Every Friday afternoon at 1:00 PM a **reading group** is meeting in the small conference room upstairs at the Honors House. The group is reading Analects of the ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius and delving into the more complicated and mysterious passages. There is also another reading group led by Doctor Simpson and hosted by the Cicero Society currently meeting. The reading group is sponsored by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute by a grant that allows the group to purchase a number of books for members and host speakers related to the books. Currently the group is reading Friedrich Nietzsche's Twilight of the Idols and in the Spring the group will be reading C.S. Lewis' The Abolition of Man. On October 24th, 2017 and April 11th, 2018 speakers will be coming to talk to the group about the semester's respective reading. The group meets Wednesdays at noon in Seminar Room A of Camden Carrol Library on the third floor. The group is open to anyone interested in reading books of great importance with a community of people.

The **Honors Breakfast** this semester will be October 4th at the Honors House. The breakfast will have good food & provide the opportunity to socialize with other Honors students. Breakfast begins being served at 7:30 and should last until around 11 or until all the food is gone. Anyone that can't make it during this time frame should let Vanessa Webb know in order to have some fresh eggs made specially for them. Come join the fun and get the fuel you need for midterms!

There will be another **Puppy Playtime** event this semester in order to help students destress and have some fun during midterms. The event will take place on October 26th 10AM-2PM on the lawn of Fields and will include lots of dogs to pet and spend time with through the morning. Our goal is to raise enough money to sponsor the adoption of the dog that's been in the shelter the longest

This October there will be an **Honors-wide Murder game**. There is a sign-up sheet on room 104 in Fields Hall. People can sign up to participate in the game up until October 21st.



FACULTY FEATURE

Vanessa Webb

Likes: I enjoy experiencing life! This would include everything from different foods to different cultures. People have always fascinated me; how they could all be the same yet so different? Meaningful conversations, any form of exercise, traveling

or short drives to a place I've never been, board games on a rainy afternoon, being outside, accomplishment of any kind and car ride games.

Dislikes: Drivers who don't follow road laws, loud head jam music (like Metallica), narrow mindedness, being cold and oysters (yuck)!

Hobbies: Painting on canvas although I'm no good at it, creating anything I can with rocks or wood. Playing on the piano or trying to learn how to play a new instrument, walking, and being outdoors working. Listening to podcasts.

Favorite books: Any book that leaves a lasting memory. I don't think I could pick just one although James and the Giant Peach comes to mind as well as Little Women and all of Dan Brown's books.

Biography: I was born in Indiana although my parents lived in Illinois. The nearest hospital was across the state line. We moved from Illinois to Ohio when I was 6 months old and I was raised a Buckeye. My nickname as a child was Wandering Soul. When I was focused in on whatever I was doing, I didn't pay much attention to anything else except for what was going on at that time including where I was. I often ended up in places that were not where I was supposed to be. Once I was up in a neighbor's hot air balloon; I was 10 years old. I loved my childhood! My teen years were filled with all the excitement and trials the average teen goes through today and then my world came crashing down. My parents decided they wanted to retire and move to Olive Hill, KY. I was a freshman in High School. (Enough said). I lasted until Christmas break and I moved back to Ohio and lived with my grandmother until I graduated High school. When I met my husband Jeff, we were head over heels as the saying goes and we were married within 6 months of knowing one another. We've been married over thirty years and going strong! We raised our three daughters in Grove City, Ohio.

We moved to KY in 2003. Our children had horses and land was much cheaper here than in Ohio. This time around, I fell in love with how green the land was, the sweet smell of honeysuckle in the spring and listening to the soothing sounds of the creek that we could watch from our porch. It was in 2004 that I began working for MSU. I held various secretarial positions, some part-time and others full time. I was in Information Technology for most of my years as a Secretary Specialist and ADS then I moved over to the Honors Program 3 years ago. I thoroughly enjoy helping the students with whatever their needs may be, engaging in conversation with them, encouraging them to be their best, and quieting their fears. But the best part of my job is how much I learn from our students on a daily basis. I feel like I am home – just with many more children.

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