

# HONOUR WATCH



ISSUE XI: November 2017

MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC HONORS STUDENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## Letter from Editor

Honors Program,

In something of a bittersweet moment, I would like to present to you the final issue of HonOUR Watch for the Fall 2017 semester as well as the final issue that I will be participating in. The conception and execution of this newsletter has been a year-long endeavor for me and, I must admit, it is a bit of a relief to let it go into younger hands now. The purpose of HonOUR Watch has always been to showcase the remarkable accomplishments of our fellow Honors students and to celebrate the community we all treasure, and I would like to think that we have succeeded in that regard. Working with the newsletter has been a wonderful opportunity for me in a number of ways, as it has allowed me to work with a team composed of other wonderful Honors students, to develop leadership skills necessary for that, and to explore the ins and outs of the Honors community on a much broader level. The ride has not always been smooth, and many errors have been committed on my part along the way, but I content myself to think that such errors will become negligible in the continuing future of this endeavor. More than anything else, I am contented with the knowledge that this project will fall from my hands into the hands of a group of bright and talented individuals whose cooperation I have greatly relished in my time as editor-in-chief.

Perhaps the two most significant individuals in the conception and execution of this newsletter were, respectively, Zoe Becerra and Lin Huang. Zoe was in a large part responsible for the decision to begin the newsletter and was the one who tapped me to head it (although I did not know at that point that I'd be leading it). Zoe remained a supervisor of HonOUR Watch through its first issues until other matters – including her eventual graduation – superseded it, and I am very grateful to her for trusting me with this project and for her support along the way. Meanwhile, the newsletter could not have gotten off of the ground without the dedicated work of Lin Huang, who has been a constant and consistent partner in this project and who, in large part, makes HonOUR Watch what it is. She manages to do great work even despite my irregular scheduling and often-chaotic organization, and her assistance is nothing short of a miracle for this newsletter. Both of these women have done great work in this project and could easily be said to be more responsible for the newsletter coming together than I am. (Continues on page 2)

## Upcoming Dates

- Friday, Dec. 01: Prophet's Birthday
- Sunday, Dec. 03: Advent
- Monday, Dec. 04: Final Examinations Begin
- Thursday, Dec. 07: Pearl Harbor Remembrance
- Saturday, Dec. 09: Commencement
- Monday, Dec. 11: First Day of Winter Session
- Tuesday, Dec. 12: Grades Due In Registrar's Office
- Wednesday, Dec. 13: Hanukkah Begins
- Thursday, Dec. 21: Winter Solstice
- Sunday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve
- Monday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day
- Tuesday, Dec. 26: Kwanzaa Begins
- Sunday, Dec. 31: New Year's Eve
- Monday, Jan. 01: New Year's Day
- Monday, Jan. 08: Winter Session Ends
- Monday, Jan. 15: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Tuesday, Jan. 16: Classes Resume
- Tuesday, Jan. 23: Last Day to Register for Classes

## BIRTHDAYS

- December 02: Logan Davis (20)
- December 05: Makayela Banks (20)
- December 06: Jana Branham (20)
- December 10: Savannah Muse (20)
- December 17: Emory Sellinger (20)
- December 26: JaLynn Copeland (23)
- December 29: Hunter Branham (22)

**GIVING THANKS**

As our semester nears its end, so, unfortunately, does our time with our beloved Honors House. So many people have so many fond memories in this House and it is my belief that those memories are worth holding on to. This month, I set out to ask Honors Program members and faculty about some of their favorite experiences with the Honors House and why they were thankful for its presence. Here's what they said:

"The Honors House has been a lot of things for me over my four years here. I used it as a place to study, a place to cook, somewhere I could take a break when it had been a rough day. More meaningful than all of these things, the House was a place I could go to find friends. The House united us. There was never a time when you walked in and didn't have a conversation with whoever was already inhabiting the study rooms upstairs. Without the House, many of the friendships I now hold near and dear would have never been formed. From early-morning meetings with Vanessa, Max, and Tyler to late-night study sessions with JaLynn, Abby, and Kasey, we didn't realize it in the moment, but we were making memories that would last a lifetime. If the walls could talk, we would all be in trouble, but some of my favorite memories took place within them. I will forever be thankful for the House that played a part in building me." - Allison Fletcher, A H S A Secretary of Public Relations

"I am very grateful to Dr. Krummrich, Brenda, and Vandy for offering me an office upstairs in the Honors House four years ago. I've loved my homey, comfortable office here, as well as the opportunity to chat and spend time with all the students as they climb those well-worn stairs coming up to the computer and meeting rooms. I'm thankful for Vanessa, who is always cheerful and helpful, in matters both academic and otherwise. I shall miss my zen-space office here, with its little alcove in the eaves, dark red walls, oriental carpets on the hardwood floors, scented candles, and classical music on the radio, and am very thankful that I had to opportunity to spend four years in the heart of the Honors Program." - Dr. Bruce Engle, Department of English

**Letter from the EDITOR**

In addition to Zoe and Lin, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to all of the other writers who have worked with me on HonOUR Watch at one point or another. Cailin Wile and Matt Hezseltine were with the project at the beginning, and, while they each had to leave for different reasons, their contributions were greatly appreciated. Since the initial iteration of the HonOUR Watch team, we have grown to include a great deal more writers, and our current team – composed of Harrison Fouch, Clare Johnson, Victoria Nash, Sydney Cook, and Luke Kirk – is full of Honors students who regularly impress me with their work and character. Knowing that such a team will be handling the newsletter in my absence is one of the key factors that made me feel comfortable enough to finally resign from the project, and I know it couldn't be passing into better or more capable hands.

In many other ways, Vanessa Webb deserves a great deal of gratitude. Along with Zoe, she was one of the first to conceive of the idea of the newsletter at all, and her constant support and passion throughout the year and a half I've been heading this project has often blown me away. Putting together HonOUR Watch would be a much more difficult endeavor without her dedicated and regular assistance and advice, and she deserves more credit for that than I can give her here.

With all of that said, I suppose it is finally time to close my final letter to you all. I want to thank all of the individuals I've mentioned one last time for allowing me the chance to head this project and this team and for being so supportive of an endeavor that I have been quite anxious about from the start. With only one semester left to go for me, I'm excited to kick back a bit and enjoy the community I've spent so much time and effort attempting to improve and assist. As we move into the Christmas season, I want to wish all of you reading this the best of luck with their final exams and the warmest wishes for your holidays, and to thank you all for the work you do representing the Honors Program. We couldn't have a better group of students.

For the last time,  
Jonathan Dean, *Editor-in-Chief*



## ON THIS DATE

**November 30, 1782:** In Paris, the United States and Great Britain agree on preliminary treaties to end the American Revolution

**November 30, 1786:** Pietro Leopoldo I leads the Grand Duchy of Tuscany in becoming the first modern state to abolish the death penalty

**November 30, 1939:** Russian forces cross into Finland and begin bombing Helsinki, beginning the Winter War

**November 30, 1947:** Civil war breaks out in Palestine, beginning a chain of events that would lead to the creation of Israel

**November 30, 2005:** John Sentamu becomes the first black archbishop in the Church of England when he becomes the Archbishop of York

## A H S A R E P O R T

We would like to congratulate **Abby Jones** and **Gabe O'Hara** on being elected to their new positions of Chairwoman of Finance and Membership and Chairman of Academics and Overseas Experiences!! As Abby's former position is now open, expect a special election to be conducted early next semester to find a new Chairman of Programming.

## U N D E R G R A D U A T E R E S E A R C H

**Kayly Coleman**, sophomore, is currently working alongside a graduate student in the kinesiology lab under the guidance of Dr. Gonzalez and Dr. Probst, both of the Department of Kinesiology, Health, and Imaging Sciences. They are researching the effects of hip rotation on leg cycling power by measuring the muscle activity using electromyogram (EMG) output. A large part of their current work is learning how to use the EMG to manipulate the results of their trials for understanding. They hope to begin trials next semester, and Kayly hopes to present their findings at some point.

**Sydney Blanton**, sophomore, is currently working with Dr. Gerner of the Department of Biology and Chemistry. They are working on tracking the presence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and *Escherichia coli* in watersheds throughout Rowan County. They perform DNA extraction, polymerase chain reaction, and gel electrophoresis to do this. Eventually they would like to be able to map out the presence of these species and determine where they are entering the watershed.

by Harrison Fouch

## GIVING THANKS

"I am thankful to have had these years in the Honors House because the surroundings encouraged the kind of informal and friendly interaction that would have been less natural in a more 'institutional' space. I loved rolling up my sleeves and cooking for Honors breakfasts and watching physics-defying games of Twister in the living room. I looked forward to the Honors Picnic and the first daffodils in spring in the flowerbed along the driveway. I was fond of the yellow walls of my office, and books everywhere, and especially the pictures of former and current students all over the walls. We had some good talks and some big laughs. I know we will continue to be a family in our new home, but I'll never forget our House."

Dr. Philip Krummrich, Honors Program Director

As for me, I am thankful for the friends the Honors Program has given me. It was at my first Honors Picnic that I made what I believe to be lifelong friends and companions. I'm thankful for the support I received in that house, whether it be sitting in Dr. Krummrich's office with his large windows or bouncing on the yoga balls in front of Vanessa's desk while she typed away. I am eternally grateful to the Honors House for giving me a home away from home.

by Clare Johnson



## FINALS SCHEDULE

Final Exam Time	Monday 12/04/17	Tuesday 12/05/17	Wednesday 12/06/17	Thursday 12/07/17	Friday 12/08/17
8:00am - 10:00am	8:00am MWF Classes	9:30am TTh Classes	9:00am MWF Classes	8:00am TTh Classes	10:00am MWF Classes
10:15am - 12:15pm	11:00am MWF Classes	12:30pm TTh Classes	12:00pm MWF Classes	11:00am TTh Classes	1:00pm MWF Classes
12:45pm - 2:45pm	2:00pm MWF Classes				
3:00pm - 5:00pm	3:00pm MWF Classes	3:30pm TTh Classes	4:00pm MWF Classes	2:00pm TTh Classes	
6:30pm - 8:30pm	Classes meeting at 5pm or later on Monday evenings	Classes meeting at 5pm or later on Tuesday evenings	Classes meeting at 5pm or later on Wednesday evenings	Classes meeting at 5pm or later on Thursday evenings	

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community service is a very important aspect of the Honors Program. It not only allows students to give back to the community, but also to represent the Honors Program well. Getting involved in community service is very easy due to the large variety of projects that Honors students are involved in, such as those headed by Amina Anwar and Taryn Syck.

Amina is the community service chair of HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) and is in charge of organizing and coordinating a toy drive. HOSA has partnered with St. Claire Regional Medical Center to collect stuffed animals and distribute these animals to pediatric surgery and emergency department patients over the holiday season. Projects such as this help bring joy to children who are struggling to find it due to unfortunate circumstances.

Taryn's AHSa committee partakes in community service projects such as nursing home visits and soup kitchen visits. Nursing home visits are held every Wednesday at 2:00pm for anyone who is interested in attending. Bi-weekly soup kitchen visits will start back up again next semester and will welcome new volunteers. Taryn's committee was also successful in participating in Operation Christmas Child, where members of the committee packed shoeboxes with gifts and sent these gifts to children in less fortunate situations around the world.

By Luke Kirk



## HONORS EVENTS

A **bake sale** was held by the AHSa Committee of Finance on **November 9** to raise money for AHA. Despite the unpredictability of such sales, the committee raised \$70 thanks to the donations and volunteered time of Honors students. Bake sales like this one are essential for the operation of key Honors events like community service projects and holiday parties. While there will not be a bake sale again this semester, Honors students should look out for upcoming fundraisers next semester if they wish to aid in the Committee of Finance's efforts.

On **November 16** from 11:00am to 4:30pm the Honors Program hosted its annual **Thanksgiving dinner**. This was the last Thanksgiving in the Honors House, so it was a great time to reminisce on all the memories we have in the House together. In addition to socializing, people all throughout the Program chipped in and brought side dishes and desserts. Overall, it was a delicious meal and a great experience for everyone.

Honors students participated in a unique fundraising opportunity on **November 16** from 5:30 pm to 9:00pm at the basketball game, where they volunteered to help sell and make food at the **concession stand** and raised \$300 for the Academic Honors Student Association. This was a huge fundraising opportunity for the organization and couldn't have happened without all the wonderful volunteers taking the time out of their day to work at the concession stand.

As a means of saying goodbye to the Honors House, there was an **Honors lock-in** held in the House on **November 17**. The lock-in started at 8:00pm and there was free pizza. Students were encouraged to stop by even if they didn't plan to stay the night. This was a great bonding experience for Honors students and a great way to spend some quality time in the Honors House before it is gone.

The unifying **Between a Tweet and a Blog** event was held on **November 20**. Here, faculty members from across disciplines interacted with students and shared stories from the past. Attendees of the event filled the lobby of Fields Hall. Students from all different years gathered to hear life lessons from faculty members. The speakers were Mr. Greg Wing, Dr. Craig Tuerk, Dr. Robin Blankenship, Dr. Tim Thornberry, Dr. Tim Simpson, and Dr. Philip Krummrich. Speakers shared life lessons focused on themes of being dedicated, loving work, accepting truth, and having support. This entertaining and impactful event was organized by the AHSa Committee of Academics and Overseas Experiences in conjunction with the Office of Student Housing through the Honors RAs in Fields Hall.

Honors students will have one last chance to leave their mark on the Honors House on **December 6** at a **moving party**, where they will be permitted to decorate the walls of the House in the hope of alleviating some of the mixed emotions regarding its demolition. Pizza and drinks will be provided in an effort to ease the transition process from the House to the basement offices in Fields. Vanessa and Dr. Krummrich hope this event will allow students to express their appreciation for the Honors House and Program in a unique, fun, and stress-relieving way. Other festivities might include packing up any remaining boxes in the House.

During finals week on **December 6**, there will be a much-needed break from studying in the form of an Honors Christmas party. This party will take place at the Honors House and will also serve as a final goodbye to the house we have all grown to love so much. At the party we will get to paint the walls of the house and have some fun with it as well as participate in a Secret Santa gift exchange. In addition to the games, there will be pizza, and volunteers are encouraged to make baked goods.

Victoria Nash & Sydney Cook



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