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ARETÉ



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*FROM EVERYONE ON THE ARETÉ STAFF
AND IN THE HONORS COLLEGE...
HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY BREAK!*

Honors Colloquia

What These “Unique Opportunities” Are All About

KELLY SMITH

Areté staff writer

When you think of Honors College requirements, what comes to mind? Those mysterious colloquia classes, perhaps? Certainly every Honors student at one time wondered, “what exactly are Colloquia?”

Colloquia, in short, are much more than just an Honors College requirement.

As described by Amy Chester, the Coordinator of Academic Advising and Retention, they are “smaller, discussion-based courses,” as opposed to lecture-based courses. Class is usually held around a conference table or in a circle of desks in order to facilitate discussion, which is a key component in every colloquium. Instead of being based on quiz and test scores, grades are based on class participation, reading, and papers. If you think the grading components of colloquia aren’t your cup of tea, you

might want to think again. What if the colloquium were about something you were incredibly interested in?

Could you imagine taking a class about witchcraft? Or a class about comic books? What if you were in a class in which you could write and cast your own production? These have all been colloquia offered by the Honors College. Other topics have included global warming, the death penalty, Bollywood, and more.

Out of the eight colloquia that are being offered next semester, only one has been offered before. Colloquia that are being offered in Spring 2010 are as diverse as the rest, from one titled “Exploring the Space Between Life and Death” to another titled “Frank Lloyd Wright, an American Architect.”

So where do the topics come from? Colloquia are not topics that are assigned to certain professors to teach. On the contrary, it is the professor who comes up with topic. But what does this mean for you? Not only

does this guarantee that the professor is passionate about the topic he or she is teaching, but the fact that the class is one-of-a-kind and new also ensures that the students have a hand in shaping the class.

Dr. Ted Hovet, who is currently team-teaching “Bollywood and Beyond: Images of Modern India” with Dr. Deborah Logan, said, “It is very exciting to have a sense that we are all learning together.”

Colloquia topics, as

Chester notes, “are topics not offered anywhere else in the catalogue,” and Logan mirrors her thoughts, saying that colloquia “offer unique opportunities for intellectual explorations of topics that are not typically part of traditional curriculums.”

Colloquia are valuable and classes unlike any other. Chester and Hovet both point out that a colloquium can help inspire an idea for an Honors Capstone Experience or Thesis, and Chester went on to say that colloquia are even more than that.

“They’re preparation,” she said. “They prepare you to be a better citizen and they prepare you for the future.”

“They [colloquia] prepare you to be a better citizen and they prepare you for the future.”

-Amy Chester

Colloquia are characterized by:

- **active discussions instead of lectures**
- **critical thinking based writing assignments**
- **primary sources rather than textbooks**
- **innovative, interdisciplinary subject matter**

Information compiled from WKU Honors College webpage



PHOTO BY KATE KING

An Honors colloquia “Capital Punishment” class participates in a student mock trial. The students performed a full trial based on a real murder case in California. They even used props to get in character make the event as realistic as possible.

Experiencing Leadership in a New Way

RAMONA SUDBECK

Areté staff writer

“A leading American University with international reach.” Every WKU student is familiar with this phrase, but where does international reach start? Right here.

The Honors University Experience class taught by John Baker, an instructor in Leadership Studies, and Thomas Weakley, an Honors University Experience Instructor, explored what it is to be a leader in Bowling Green. Four people were visited on this leadership field trip: Mayor Elaine Walker, spiritual

leader Jason Pettus, Donna Harmon of Trace Die Cast, and Major Binnix of the Salvation Army.

Jason Pettus expressed that leadership begins with what you believe and “what you believe determines what you do.” Students left each different destination with different ideas on leadership. The Salvation Army particularly interested the two classes,

inspiring freshman Anna Vied to begin organizing times to volunteer bell as a bell ringer, saying she “can’t wait to ring the bell!”

Binnix called Bowling Green an extraordinarily generous community, “like I’ve never seen,” and notes that it’s the exemplary leaders in a community that make it this way. Experiencing these leaders is the start to really reaching out to the community to gain knowledge.

*“...what you believe determines what you do.”
-Jason Pettus*

Won't You Take Me to Shantytown?

ASHTON SKATES

Areté staff writer

We’ve all seen them. Usually they are dirty. Occasionally they instill a sense of fear. However, they may be someone who used to be just like you. I’m referring to the homeless.

Regardless of how they ended up where they are, they need our help, and

throughout the month of October, WKU students came together to lend a hand. Each residence hall was encouraged to raise money for Habitat for Humanity, a charity that helps build homes for those in need. Minton Hall raised the most money by hosting a pancake night in the lobby. Hall Council members cooked pancakes on a griddle and sold them for one dollar apiece, offering butter and syrup to sweeten the deal. The smell was hard to resist, and when it was all said and done, \$105 was raised for the philanthropic cause.

In addition to raising money, each residence hall and many campus organizations collected cardboard throughout the month and worked together to construct a shanty (any form of cardboard residence) on the South Lawn for Shantytown. The purpose of the event was



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Mary Katherine Higginson, Bo Armstrong, and Cassie Ernestes work on Minton's Mystery Machine.

to raise awareness about homelessness. While WKU’s band played, students worked together to construct everything from the Chemistry Club’s Periodic Table of Elements to Minton’s Mystery Machine. One award, the Clown Car, gave recognition for the most people fit in a shanty—an effort to let students know what it’s like to spend time in one.

So the next time you see a homeless person, remember that pancake you bought or those people you saw taping cardboard into the shape of a city skyline, and be proud to be part of a community of students who care.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Freshman Jordan Olberding from Minton helps out at Shantytown.

Whodunit? An Honors murder mystery party

BETHANY RIGGS

Areté staff writer

An Honors College transformed into a mock speakeasy. Eight characters. One murdered. Seven suspects. All of this added up to one giant murder mystery left for fellow Honors Club members to solve.

On Oct. 27, the Honors College hosted its annual Halloween Party. Instead of a typical costume party this year, the Honors Club Executive Board unanimously voted to perform a Murder Mystery play. The turnout was incredible, and Special Programs Coordinator Nicole Stratten said, "Everything went very well. There was much more attendance than I expected, and next year it will be a much bigger event."

Over 50 students crowded into the Honors College that night, dressed in cocktail attire with several girls

sporting flapper outfits. The theme, "Murder Mystery at the Velvet Lounge," featured a speakeasy set in the 1920s. All of the characters, ranging from the club singers to the owners, mingled with the large crowd

**"Having
a Murder
Mystery was a
great idea!"
-Kate Gaines**

and introduced their characters and backgrounds.

This gave everyone a chance to understand possible motives for the future victim. The club's singer, Abigail Brooks, played by sophomore Mal Ward, was the victim in this case. In the midst of her singing performance, her voice became

weaker before the lights went out and she tumbled to the floor. Following this, a detective was called and the questioning began.

Chaos ensued while the mass of mystery solvers tried to uncover the murderer. After a few moments for investigations and interviews, the crowd was asked who they believed to be the killer. Almost every character was accused, until Abigail, the formerly murdered victim, came out and explained motives for all of the suspects. Finally, the killer was revealed. Exuberant cheers and disheartened sighs were expressed, but everyone was smiling.

Owenton sophomore Kate Gaines said, "Having a Murder Mystery was a great idea! I hope they do it again!"

Honors Club treks to Jackson's Orchard

CAMERON FRANEY

Areté staff writer

Western Kentucky University's Honors Club recently took a trip to Jackson's Orchard to enjoy the fall in the fall in a festive way. The group gathered on Oct. 18 and carpoled to the orchard on the brisk fall day.

Jackson's Orchard is an apple orchard in Bowling Green that every fall creates an atmosphere unlike any other. The orchard sets up a petting zoo, a play area

for children, hayrides, a corn maze, and a pumpkin patch. Also provided are the usual autumn treats like warm or cold apple cider and caramel apples.

The trip was to enjoy the company of fellow Honors students and to get a stronger feeling of community amongst the Honors Club.

"It was very fun," Honors College freshman Hannah Yount said. "They had awesome caramel apples. And the corn maze was fun, even

though it wasn't very hard."

The Honors Club kicked off this autumn with some outdoors fun that will be remembered.

**Have a safe
and happy
break!**



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in the Honors College.

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