New Student Orientation 2017

/ Stay in Touch

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Greetings Honors Students,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Honors College at West Virginia University. I am so glad you are here at New Student Orientation to join us in the many exciting things happening in Honors.

Throughout the day, you are going to hear about just some of the many opportunities that you will have available to you in your time with us, and we hope you’ll take advantage of them when you join us in the fall. Those opportunities range from pursuing nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships through the ASPIRE Office, to getting involved in faculty members’ research with the Office of Undergraduate Research, to the peer tutoring offered through the Honors student-led testWELL Learning Center.

Moreover, we are excited that you are members of the inaugural class of the two-year Honors Foundations Program. The Honors Foundations Program will provide you opportunities to take small, innovative classes taught by WVU’s top professors.

I also want to make it known that our staff in the Honors College office is here to support you, and we have contacts around campus to help you find the person to help you through whatever challenge you may encounter.

In the meantime, I hope you have a great day.

Best Regards,

Ken Blemings
Dean
Honors Who’s Who

Dr. Kenneth Blemings    Dean

A native of New Jersey, Dr. Kenneth Blemings did his undergraduate work at Virginia Tech, and completed his graduate and post-doctoral work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Blemings came to WVU in 1999 as an assistant professor of nutritional biochemistry and of genetics and developmental biology in the Division of Animal and Veterinary Sciences. In 2010, he was named assistant director of academic programs for the division. He was a 2012 WVU Foundation Outstanding Teacher and a recipient of an APLU/USDA regional teaching award the same year. He became the inaugural program leader of the WVU’s intercollegiate undergraduate program in biochemistry in 2013.

Before becoming dean, Dr. Blemings provided leadership in Honors education for many years: he instructed a variety of Honors courses, served as an Honors advisor, and was a valuable member of the Honors College Advisory Council.

Ashley Watts    Program Coordinator

Ashley Watts joined the Honors College in January 2016. She coordinates the mentoring and tutoring programs and is the faculty sponsor for the Mountaineer Tutoring Network. She also serves as the academic advisor for exploratory students in the Honors College. Ashley is a West Virginia native and completed her undergraduate and graduate work at WVU. She is currently a Ph.D. student in Human and Community Development in the WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design. In her free time, she enjoys spending time in the great outdoors and hiking with her husky, Ben.

Dr. Kevin Gooding    Living-Learning Community Coordinator

A nearly-native West Virginian, Dr. Kevin Gooding joined the Honors College as a full-time Clinical Assistant Professor in June 2016, after serving as an instructor since 2010. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Dr. Gooding is working to strengthen and expand the Honors College's Living-Learning Community. He is the faculty sponsor for the Honors Student Association.

Lisa Verlinden    Office Administrator

Lisa Verlinden is the Administrative Associate who helps keep the Honors Office operating efficiently. Prior to being employed by the Honors College, Lisa and her husband, Sven Verlinden (Associate Professor of Horticulture in the Division of Plant and Soil Sciences in the Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry & Consumer Sciences), along with their two children, were the resident faculty leaders in Lincoln Hall for three years. Lisa loves working with students because she believes "they keep you young," and she is excited to be a part of the Honors College.

Vickie Sigley    Office Assistant

Vickie Sigley is your first stop for help with identifying your advisor, filling out paperwork, figuring out how many Honors credit hours you have earned, and any other questions that arise.

Colleen S. Good    Program Coordinator

Colleen S. Good joined the Honors College in October 2016. She coordinates admissions to the Honors College. A native of Morgantown, Colleen attended Macalester College in St. Paul, MN for undergrad, where she received her B.A. in Philosophy with minors in Chinese Studies and Political Science. Colleen graduated with her Master in Science in Journalism from the WVU Reed College of Media in 2017. Colleen loves to travel, play silly board games and eat good food.
Six Ways to Earn Honors Credit

1. **Honors Sections:** Many courses are offered as Honors sections of courses already in the curriculum. The sections are usually smaller, populated specifically by high-achieving students, and built for a qualitatively different experience.

2. **HONR electives:** Interdisciplinary courses with innovative themes offered just in the Honors College. Look especially for Honors Foundations courses (HONR 202-207). These path-breaking courses bring original faculty research and scholarship to Honors students while meeting GEF requirements.

3. **Cross-Listed Sections:** Small sections that meet simultaneously with regular sections, but students work on an enhanced syllabus.

4. **Add-on courses:** zero- or one-credit sections that amplify a regular course with additional material and engaging activities.

5. **Honors Peer Leadership:** Get involved as an Honors Orientation mentor or a nationally certified tutor in the testWELL Learning Center.

6. **Honors Contracts:** Turn any upper-level course into an Honors course by working individually with the instructor to create an additional Honors experience.
Dear Brand-New Mountaineers,

As president and vice president of the Honors Student Association (HSA), we would like to offer you congratulations on being accepted into West Virginia University, as well as the Honors College. Now that you embark on this next chapter of your journey through academia, one of the best things you can do to succeed here at WVU is to become involved in the life of our University. Studies have shown a correlation between getting involved in at least one organization and success throughout one’s college career. Here at WVU we have over 400 different student-led organizations for you to get involved in. In the Honors College, we believe in the importance of these organizations and student success. Upon acceptance into the Honors College, students automatically become a part of HSA and do not have to worry about paying club dues.

HSA is designed for Honors students to have a voice in the college and to keep you connected to the Honors College no matter what year you are or where you live. We work to provide small/local community service projects, engaging academic lectures, and fun social events such as an Honors Formal around the end of every school year. You can be a part of planning and providing these opportunities for your fellow Honors scholars by attending our biweekly meetings.

For HSA to continue to be a success and plan great events around campus, WE NEED YOUR HELP! Many people do not know what HSA is, or that it even exists, which is why we are writing—to bring attention and awareness to our organization that is focused on engaging Honors scholars outside of the classroom.

The next four years of your life are all about what you make of it. One of the many ways to get involved, and to help your years go by, is to join HSA. We look forward to meeting you next fall at our first meeting (details will be sent out via email towards the start of the fall semester) and hope you enjoy the rest of your summer!

Best Regards,

Madeline Walker and Savannah Lusk

President and Vice President of HSA

For more information contact us at mgw0003@mix.wvu.edu or smlusk@mix.wvu.edu
Living-Learning Community

Welcome to WVU and the Honors College!

I am so glad that you are going to be a member of the Honors College and that I get to introduce you to another amazing part of the Honors College: our Living-Learning Community (LLC)!

As the director of our Honors College LLC, I work to provide opportunities for you, as an Honors Scholar, to expand your Honors College experience beyond the walls of our classrooms. Here are just a few of the ways we did just that during this past year:

- Trips to Gettysburg National Military Park with our History Department’s Civil War Historian, and to Thomas Jefferson’s home, Monticello, in conjunction with an Honors College book club led by Dean Ken Blemings
- Informal “Cookies and Conversations” about such topics as Gender and Race in the 2016 Presidential Election, and Life as a Rural Educator in West Virginia
- An Undergraduate Spring Symposium at which 105 students shared their creative and research efforts
- Small group dinners with President Gee, Provost McConnell, and Dean Blemings
- Dinners with representatives and students to help students chart their paths towards applying to Medical School or Law School, or for national and international scholarships and awards
- Many other events to help you build relationships with each other and with WVU and Honors College faculty and staff!

We have a full slate of such events already planned all across campus for this coming year and you’ll hear about each one as they draw closer!

Another of the great things that you need to know about our Honors LLC is that it is not limited to residents of Honors and Lincoln Halls. It doesn’t matter where you live on campus, YOU ARE STILL A PART OF OUR LLC and are able to participate in its activities. You can also be a part of one of the other LLCs on campus, such as Forensic Science or First Generation Students, and still be a part of the Honors LLC!

I look forward to meeting and getting to know you in the days and months ahead!

Sincerely,

Director, Honors College Living-Learning Community

Follow us on Twitter @WVUHonorsLLC and if you have any questions, you can email me at KLGooding@mail.wvu.edu.
Summer Reading Assignment

College does not teach you what to think, but rather gives you the tools to think clearly, concisely, and strategically. Ponder that statement. What does it mean to you? As you prepare for this new chapter in your life, why did you choose to invest in higher education? What are your expectations? What kind of person do you hope to be after college?

Through the Honors College Summer Reading Assignment, you will think critically, consider all options in order to make the best possible decision, and work toward becoming the best version of yourself. This, after all, is a huge piece of what college is all about, and what makes the college experience something that is invaluable and life changing.

*Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly has been selected for the Campus Read at WVU. All students should read this fantastic book during the summer months. As an Honors student, we ask that you delve into the material a little deeper and reflect on the book before starting your classes this fall.

Your Assignment:

The Honors College has developed four prompts for you based around the reading. Please choose one prompt and write an essay that is 4+ pages, double-spaced, 12- point, Times New Roman font with one-inch margins (roughly 1200-1500 words). Your essay will be due the first week of classes during your HONR 298o orientation class.

**Prompt 1:**

Choose your favorite passage from *Hidden Figures* and explain how it pertains to this moment in your life as you begin your college education. Develop a thesis that articulates what lessons or advice you might be best able to apply to this phase of your education. Throughout your essay, be sure to tie in key elements from Shetterly’s narrative.

**Prompt 2:**

At first glance, one might not expect a crucial link between the civil rights movement and the mathematicians that first put people in space. How do you think research and education in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) are today affected by issues of justice and fairness? What role should issues of justice and fairness play in the future of STEM research and education? Compose an argument that makes a claim answering one or both of these related questions.

**Prompt 3:**

In the book, Mary Jackson’s husband, Levi Jackson, shares with Mary that “civil rights ain’t always civil.” How true of today’s current events is this sentiment? How do you regard Mary’s response to his statement? Taking care to be respectful of all groups who participate in today’s civil rights debates, make an argument that assesses this sentiment and considers how applicable Levi Jackson’s statement is to civil rights debates today.

**Prompt 4:**

Margot Lee Shetterly presents the historical work that recovers real people as “hidden figures” who blazed trails that others might have found impossible, creating important role models for those who follow. Is there a hidden figure who has forged a seemingly impossible path that you hope to follow? How did this real person respond to the forces of history that might keep them hidden? How do their actions provide a model for you as you develop your own path?
Objectives:
From this reading assignment, we encourage you to consider the individual stories of each character in *Hidden Figures* and relate their struggles and triumphs to the path you are choosing for your life. How will you achieve your goals in spite of many obstacles that may come before you? How will you face challenges and use your intellect to change your own life? What are the bigger forces in play that shape your education? We hope that you will take advantage of every opportunity set before you at West Virginia University, and that you will make your story as earth shaking and unforgettable as the stories of the remarkable women who boldly changed the course of history.

What is a Campus Read?
The WVU Campus Read program is an academically-driven common read experience that engages students, faculty, staff and even members of the Morgantown community, to share ideas and think critically through thoughtful dialogue. #WVUReads

“What could be more American than the story of a gifted little girl who counted her way from West Virginia to the stars?”

—Margot Lee Shetterly, *Hidden Figures*

Did You Know?

**Katherine Johnson** was born on August 26, 1918 in White Sulpher Springs, West Virginia and resided there until her parents arranged for her to attend high school in Institute, West Virginia. Johnson graduated from high school when she was fourteen years old and attended college at West Virginia State College (now West Virginia State University). She went on to attend graduate school at West Virginia University where she studied mathematics. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015. Today, Katherine Johnson resides in Hampton, Virginia.

**Dorothy Vaughan** (September 20, 1910-November 10, 2008) and her family moved to Morgantown, West Virginia where she graduated from Beechurst High School in 1925. She graduated at the age of nineteen with a B.A. in mathematics from Wilberforce University in Ohio.

Learn More:
Read the biographies of each of these remarkable women, including Mary Jackson, at the NASA website:

https://www.nasa.gov/content/katherine-johnson-biography

https://www.nasa.gov/content/mary-jackson-biography

https://www.nasa.gov/content/dorothy-vaughan-biography

We look forward to welcoming you to campus this fall!

For questions about the summer reading assignment, please contact Ashley Watts at 304-293-1808 or via email at Ashley.Watts@mail.wvu.edu.
/ Early Move-In Day: Friday, August 11, 2017

As an Honors College student, regardless of where you will be living next fall, you will move in one day early on Friday, August 11. Below, find more information on your first few days on campus.

/ Friday August 11—Honors Early Move-In

Honors students will move into the residence halls one day before campus move-in day. More information about move-in times will be given at a later date. Please note: an early move-in fee, around $25.00 depending on your residence hall, will appear on your student account.

/ Friday August 11 at 6:30 pm—Induction Ceremony

After moving in, Honors College students will participate in the Honors College Induction Ceremony. Students, parents and guests will be welcomed by the Dean of the Honors College and Honors College staff. During this pinning ceremony, new Honors College students will receive the official WVU Honors College pin to signify and solidify that they are part of the Honors College community.

This is a required event for new Honors students. Family and friends are welcome to attend, though space will be limited.

For more information: http://www.honors.wvu.edu/about/honors-college-induction-ceremony.

/ Saturday August 12—Honors Retreat

Honors College students will spend the first part of the day on an Honors College retreat, where they will bond with other Honors College freshmen, and meet with other Honors College students, mentors, and staff.

Additional information is available online: http://www.honors.wvu.edu/about/honors-college-retreat.

/ Sunday August 13–Tuesday August 15—Welcome Week

Take part in University-sponsored events, such as the Mountaineer Midway carnival, Monday Night Lights (a gathering with the entire freshmen class on Mountaineer Field!), your first Residence Hall meetings, Food Fest, and Fall Fest!

/ Wednesday August 16—First Day of Classes

Your first semester at WVU begins!
Over the Summer: Checklist

We know you’re excited for what awaits you this fall! Here is a checklist of things you should keep in mind over the summer.


☐ Write your summer reading essay, due the first day of your Honors add-on orientation class.

☐ If AP scores or other circumstances necessitate a change to your schedule:
  - Contact your NSO Academic Advisor
  - Do not change your schedule on your own—dropped classes can re-fill quickly, and you may put yourself behind.
  - Contact the Honors College with any questions about your Honors requirements: honors@mail.wvu.edu or 304-293-2100.

☐ Get ready for early move-in Friday, August 11, 2017.

☐ Have a great summer!
Consider joining fellow Honors College students for an Adventure WV trip this summer! All trips are $95, and are open to WVU first-year students. Students who are Pell Grant eligible will pay $0.

During the Adventure WV Mountaineer Quest Honors College trip, students stay in rustic cabins and eat their meals in a dining hall. Trips are led by upperclassmen student leaders.

- Bond with other Honors students before August Move-In Day
- 5 Days, 4 Nights, 50 Honors students
- **Monday July 31- Friday August 4, 2017**
- Stay in Camp Muffly cabins, and enjoy meals with your new friends at the dining hall
- Visit Coopers Rock State Forest and the WVU Outdoor Education Center
- Participate in activities like hiking, rock climbing, service work, and more!

See the Adventure WV website for more information: [adventureorientation.wvu.edu/mountaineer-quest](http://adventureorientation.wvu.edu/mountaineer-quest).