

# The Honor Newsletter

Sept. 2016 - Issue No. 11

Welcome to The Honor Newsletter! This twice-a-semester update is your one-stop-shop for all things Honor.

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## I. Apply to be a Support Officer

The Honor Committee is currently recruiting and selecting new Support Officers for the 2016-2017 academic year. The recruitment and selection process for Honor Support Officers occurs over the course of approximately two weeks, and it includes three rounds of selection components. Interested applicants are encouraged to attend an optional information session to learn about the selection process and the requirements of Support Officers if selected, as well as tips and tricks for studying for the first round test. Dates and times for the remaining information sessions are listed below. To apply, you must complete an online test no later than 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, September 8. Stop by the Honor Committee office in Newcomb Hall to pick up a Green Book, which will help you prepare for the test. Visit [www.virginia.edu/honor](http://www.virginia.edu/honor) for more information about the selection process and important deadlines!

### Information Sessions:

Tuesday, Sept. 6 | 6 to 7 p.m. | Newcomb 480

Tuesday, Sept. 6 | 7 to 8 p.m. | Newcomb 480

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## II. Upcoming Events

### Quad Chats

This year, Honor is hosting a series of 30-minute “Quad Chats” for first-year and transfer students. The events will take place outside of McCormick Road, Alderman Road, and Lambeth housing on **Sept. 4, 5, and 7**. The chats will include a brief overview of the philosophy of the Honor System and the Community of Trust; however, the main purpose of the event is to provide time for students to meet Honor Support Officers and Committee members and to ask any questions you may have. Food will be provided. Contact your RA to learn more!

### Attend an Honor Committee Meeting

The Honor Committee meets every Sunday night at 8 p.m. in Newcomb 480. Meetings are open to the public, so come and share your opinions about the Honor System!

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### III. Outreach News

#### Honorable Mention

The Honorable Mention initiative encourages the community to recognize deeds that further foster a Community of Trust. We hope that students will begin to submit Honorable Mentions to expand the narrative of Honor's impact on the University. The Executive Committee will review submissions on a bi-weekly basis and selected students will be recognized for their positive contribution to our community. We hope this effort promotes the ideal that every student is a part of the Honor system. Please do not limit the scope of what you believe worthy of recognition; it could range from caring for a friend in need to returning someone's lost ID. [You can nominate peers here.](#)

#### Honor Loans

The Ivey F. Lewis Honor Loan is a short-term loan for full-time students (graduate and undergraduate) in need of emergency aid. All loans are interest-free with a maximum loan amount of \$600. Visit the Dean of Students Office in Peabody Hall or call 434-924-7133 to make an appointment.

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### IV. Case Processing Updates

**CR:** The Honor System permits a student to atone for his or her mistakes by filing a Conscientious Retraction (CR). A valid and complete CR involves the admission of a possible Honor Offense before the student has reason to believe that such offense has come under suspicion by anyone.

**IR:** The Informed Retraction (IR) permits a student to atone for his or her mistakes after an Honor Report has been made. An IR is predicated on a student taking responsibility for the commission of an Honor Offense and making amends with all affected parties. A student must then take a two-semester leave of absence from the University.

*Note: All case processing updates are written using the masculine gender for purposes of confidentiality.*

**CR:** In May, a student submitted a CR for cheating on an exam by copying answers from another student.

**IR:** In June, a student submitted an IR for cheating by submitting another student's assignment as his own work.

**IR:** In August, a student submitted an IR for plagiarizing elements of his final paper.

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## V. Honor Hearings

One public summary of a hearing has become publishable since the previous newsletter.

*Note: All public summaries are written using the masculine gender for purposes of confidentiality.*

A student in the College of Arts & Sciences was accused of cheating by plagiarizing two papers. The case was reported by the professor. The Community argued that (1) the Accused Student knowingly submitted work that was verbatim from online sources and failed to properly cite the material; (2) a reasonable University of Virginia should have known this act constituted cheating, despite the Accused Student's alleged lack of intent and awareness; and (3) any act of plagiarism is significant and incompatible with the Community of Trust. The Accused Student argued that (1) the expectations for the course and assignment were not clearly communicated, and that he felt pressured into submitting incomplete work to satisfy a deadline; (2) he did not intend to submit plagiarized work and, at the time, had no knowledge that he was doing so, and (3) the papers in question constituted only 10% of his grade and an honest mistake, making it not significant. A panel of Honor Committee members and randomly-selected students found the Accused Student guilty.

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