

# The Honor Newsletter

December 2016 – Issue No. 12

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

## **I. Information on Upcoming Elections**

### **Run to be an Honor Committee Representative**

The University Board of Elections will be hosting elections for the 2017-2018 Honor Committee representatives in February 2017. Each Honor Committee candidate must be registered in the school that they hope to represent at the time of the election and be a student enrolled in a degree program in the school they represent.

Members of the Honor Committee commit to performing four primary tasks:

- 1 Recommend Honor System policies,
- 2 Preside over Honor System hearings,
- 3 Plan regular educational and outreach events for their schools, and
- 4 Maintain the Honor Constitution as established by the student body. They are responsible for representing the students of their school at a weekly, open Honor Committee meeting and for serving on hearing panels throughout the week.

Candidates who choose to run for this position must agree to serve faithfully in the four tasks above and to commit a minimum of five hours per week to the position.

Candidates interested in running for this position must meet with the Special Assistant to the Honor Committee, Evan Pivonka ([elp4b@virginia.edu](mailto:elp4b@virginia.edu)), prior to the start of elections.

Information about candidacy (including the full elections calendar, rules and regulations, and UBE candidacy requirements) can soon be found on the [UBE website](#).

## **II. Upcoming Events**

### **Mindfulness Seminar with Professor Sam Green**

Take a break from studying for finals to attend a seminar on mindfulness led by Professor Sam Green. Professor Green teaches in the School of Nursing and is affiliated with the Contemplative Sciences Center.

Time: Tuesday, December 6, 4-5pm

Location: Newcomb 481

### **Finals Events Schedule**

Throughout the exam period, the Honor Committee will be offering study spaces, food/drinks, blue books, and “study break” events at many different locations on Grounds.

You can find the full schedule of events on our [Facebook page](#).

### **Attend an Honor Committee Meeting**

The Honor Committee meets every Sunday night at 8pm in Newcomb 480. Weekly meetings will resume the first week of the spring semester. Meetings are open to the public, so come and share your opinions about the Honor System!

You can find minutes from past Committee meetings on the [Honor Committee's website](#).

## **III. Outreach News**

### **“Beyond the Book”**

The Honor Committee is partnering with the Multicultural Student Center and the UVa Library Council to sponsor “Beyond the Book,” a book club program designed to foster a stronger community by broadening students’ awareness and appreciation of identities other than their own. Students will

meet twice early in the spring semester to discuss a book with a professor in small groups, and the program will conclude with a dinner and final discussion for all groups. Books will be distributed during finals to be read during winter break.

Registration for the program is open now! You can find registration information and learn more about the professors participating and books being offered on this [page](#).

## **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. Students will periodically be recognized for their positive contribution to our community. 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.

## **IV. Case Processing Updates**

**CR:** The Honor System permits a student to atone for their 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 their 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.

**CR:** In August, a student submitted a Conscientious Retraction for stealing from the University Bookstore.

**CR:** In September, a student submitted a Conscientious Retraction for cheating on a take-home quiz by using unauthorized aid.

**IR:** In October, a student submitted an Informed Retraction for plagiarizing elements of an English paper.

**IR:** In November, a student submitted an Informed Retraction for plagiarizing elements of an Religion paper.

**IR:** In November, a student submitted an Informed Retraction for cheating by using unauthorized resources on an exam.

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## **V. Honor Hearings**

Two public summaries of hearings have become publishable since the previous newsletter.

*Note: All public summaries are written using the pronoun “they” for purposes of confidentiality.*

### **Hearing 1**

A student in the School of Continuing and Professional Studies was accused of Cheating on one written assignment. The case was reported by the professor. The Community argued that the student 1) failed to cite one source for two sentences and 2) inappropriately cited a second source for one sentence. The Community further argued that the student admitted guilt through e-mails to the professor. The Accused Student argued that the

student had no Knowledge of Cheating on the written assignment when it was submitted; Cheating did not occur with the student's Knowledge as a result of 1) a misinterpreted citation and 2) transcription errors between the student's research notes and the final paper. The Accused Student further argued that the Act was not Significant. A panel of randomly-selected students found the Accused Student not guilty on the basis of Act and Knowledge.

## **Hearing 2**

A Student in the School of Engineering was accused of Cheating on a final exam by using an unauthorized aid. This case was reported by the Professor for the course. This hearing was open to the public.

The Community argued that the Student was not authorized to look at or study the original final exam and the solutions to the final exam before taking a modified make-up final. The Community also argued that a reasonable UVA Student should have known not to look at the emailed exam key, that the three pages of the original exam and key were accidentally given to the student because notes from their review session were written on the back, and that the professor verbally indicated not to look at the exam during a meeting with the Student.

The Accused Student argued that they were authorized to look at the original exam and its solutions before their modified make-up final because they were included in the class-wide email with the exam key, they were knowingly given the one page of the solutions and two pages of the original exam during a review session, and they were verbally permitted during a meeting with her Professor. The Accused Student also argued that authorization of this nature could have been reasonable misunderstanding because they were accustomed to studying from old exams in previous coursework abroad, they had received other forms of aid from the professor in the past, and they did not know what her final exam was going to be.

A panel of randomly selected students found the Accused Student guilty.

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