THE PROVENANCE CONTRIBUTORS

Provenance is a student-produced publication of the Pierre Laclede Honors College. Its goal is to help keep alumni and friends connected with the college, current students, and each other.

Our Spring 2019 Provenance staff:

Nicole Gevers, Civil Engineering, class of 2019
JoHannah McDonald, English, class of 2018
Robert Nickel, Political Science, class of 2018
Kaitlyn Waller, English, class of 2019
Kristyn Waller, English, class of 2019

Which version of Provenance do you prefer? Are you reading this online and prefer physical media? Contact Dan (gerthd@umsl.edu) for a hard copy. Are you reading a hard copy and can’t access the embedded webpages? Contact Nicole (nmgztzc@mail.umsl.edu) for an electronic version. We will do our best to provide you with the experience that fits your needs.

Click here for back issues of Provenance:

PROVENANCE

Fall 2017

Spring 2018

Fall 2018

Follow the Honors College, PLHCSA, and Brain Stew on Social Media:

Honors College: Facebook: Pierre Laclede Honors College at UMSL Twitter: @UMSLHonors Instagram: umslhonors

PLHCSA: Facebook: Pierre Laclede Honors College Student Association Twitter: @umslphcsa

Honors Alumni: Facebook: Pierre Laclede Honors College Alumni

Brain Stew: Twitter: @UMSLBrainStew

PIERRE LACLEDIE HONORS COLLEGE

University of Missouri-St. Louis

Honors 4900-003: Independent Study in Honors: Provenance ARR

Fall 2019 Courses

1-3 credit hours

Gerth, D.

Interested in developing your writing, communication, or design skills? Want to help nurture the relationship between alumni and the PLHC students, faculty, and staff? Provenance is looking for students for Fall 2019. You will be part of a team that develops ideas for future articles; interviews alumni, students, or faculty for articles; collaborates on editorial decisions; and gains valuable writing skills in genres that you may not always be exposed to in traditional writing classes. Credit hours and duties are negotiated so as to provide you with the best possible learning experience. Duties can begin immediately or in the spring, depending on your availability. Non-credit volunteer positions are also available. Contact Dan for more information: gerthd@umsl.edu.

Happy Graduation to Nicole Gevers! Nicole has supervised design, layouts, and photography for seven consecutive issues of Provenance. Thanks for making the publication look so nice. We will miss you!
MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN  Ed Munn Sanchez

We transform lives. Have you seen UMSL’s new mission statement? If not, I am very proud to introduce it to you: We transform lives. More importantly, I am proud to support it. UMSL’s record of graduating first-generation, under-represented, and Pell-eligible students is one of the most important reasons why I’m here, and it’s why the Honors College faculty and staff took this opportunity to also create a new mission statement for the college – and I’m very pleased to introduce it to you in this new issue of Provenance. While the statement might be new, I believe that these principles have long been a part of what we do here, and I hope that, as alumni, you recognize it when you look back on your time here and consider all of your accomplishments since graduating.

I also hope that you enjoy this newest issue of Provenance. I think it’s one of our best, and I think you’ll recognize our mission when you read about our students and alumni. I also hope that you can take a look at UMSL’s entire mission, vision, and values message. I look forward to seeing you at Homecoming, the upcoming Bellerive launch party (issue 19), our student-faculty-alumni art show in April, and at a large slate of events next year – the 30th anniversary of the college!

ED MUNN SANCHEZ

MISSION AND VISION  of the Pierre Laclede Honors College

At the Pierre Laclede Honors College, we transform lives through engaged, individualized learning in and outside of the classroom. Our graduates are economically productive, ethically committed, thoughtfully engaged, active citizens who flourish within their culture and world.

Our vision is a community that empowers students to develop unique paths that allow them to pursue individual goals. Small classes (on the average 13) allow students to learn by active questioning and conversation. Students develop strong communication and writing skills while exploring connections across areas of knowledge as they think critically within and beyond their majors. By exploring a wealth of beyond-the-classroom opportunities, Honors students develop the crucial foundation for future professional success.

We support our students with individual advising to help them discover the best paths to their goals. Renewable scholarship funding also ensures that this opportunity is available to all no matter their financial situation.
For the second year in a row, *Brain Stew* won 3rd prize in the National Collegiate Honors Council’s student newsletter contest. For the 2018 contest, editors Nicole Gevers, Zach Lee, Emma Dauies, and Sammy Jacobs submitted two issues from April 2018. You can check them out online [here](#) or contact Dan Gerth if you’d like to purchase a bound copy of every single *Brain Stew* issue from the 2017-2018 school year – over 250 pages of *Brain Stew*!

**FIRST ROW:** The two issues submitted for the NCHC Newsletter Competition. Click on each picture to read the issue!

**SECOND ROW, LEFT:** *Brain Stew* is currently selling limited edition t-shirts! Contact Dan Gerth if you would like to purchase one. **MIDDLE:** Sammy and Nicole take a photo with executives from the National Collegiate Honors Council. **RIGHT:** Dan, Nicole, and Sammy pose after the ceremony with their award.

**THIRD ROW, LEFT:** Sammy at the Harvard Lampoon Building in Boston, where the NCHC conference was held. **MIDDLE:** Nicole and Sammy after receiving the NCHC award. **RIGHT:** Bound copy of every *Brain Stew* from the 2017-2018 school year. Contact Dan Gerth to purchase one!
OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

Thank you to everyone who supported the Honors College financially in 2017-2018. The following individuals and groups contributed this year to the Dean’s Development Fund, the Dennis Bohnenkamp Award, the Gleason Endowment, the Jung-Anderson Scholarship, the Provincial House Appreciation Foundation, the Peter W. and Helen M. Goode Scholarship, or the Robert and Paulette Bliss Study Abroad Scholarship.

Audri L. Adams  Deborah Fliesher  Celeste E. Leuck
Richard C. Adams  Deborah L. Flores  Taylor C. McMullin
Crystal L. Atkins  Noah Fribley  Amy C. Molina
Rose Ann Austin  Daniel J. Gerth  The Monsanto Fund
Gary A. Belsky  Lily Gevers  Edward Munn Sanchez, Ph.D.
Jessica N. Bleile  Nicole M. Gevers  Johnson J. Perez
Charles C. Bright  Nancy L. Gleason
Carl Cartwright Sneller  Patrick M. Gleason
Olivia M. Cobb  P. Wayne and Jane B. Goode Foundation
Anna Marie Curran  Greg C. Hartl  Tiffani M. Sanders
William J. Difani  Kaitlin D. Henning  Roselyne C. Schillebeekx
Aiesha D. Dotson  Kyle D. Igel  Courtney J. Schofield
Olivia D. Downey  Sammy Jacobs  Teresa B. Sciortino
Christopher P. Dulle, Esq.  Alicia I. Jessmon  Carla Shackleford
Jeffrey T. Eckerle  Casey P. Jessmon
Bruce L. Eikmann  Richard K. Jung, Ed.D.
Elizabeth A. Eikmann  Cody Keeling
Jeanette Fausz  Jessica Kehle
J. Frederick Fausz, Ph.D.  Maria C. Kerford
James L. Fish  Denise M. Kollenberg
Joyce L. Fisher

To make a donation to the Pierre Laclede Honors College, please visit our giving page or contact Dean Ed Munn Sanchez for more information. We are profoundly grateful for the support of all our contributors.
Over the last few decades, Japanese culture—especially pop culture—has become increasingly popular in the US. From food to music to art, if it’s Japanese, there’s probably an enthusiast. It should come as no surprise, then, that the study of Japanese is a popular pursuit amongst Honors College students. Whether they’re majoring or minoring, these students have displayed an aptitude and passion for the language from the Land of the Rising Sun.

**Molly Motes (sophomore):**
I first became interested in the language when I was around ten years old through watching anime, playing video games, and reading manga. I really enjoyed how the language sounded, and I eventually started trying to self-teach myself a little bit in my free time. My self-lessons weren’t the best, but through that I ended up learning a lot about the culture, and I absolutely fell in love with it. When the time came where people started asking me what I wanted to do with my life, I knew I wanted to do something involving the Japanese language and culture, and that led me here to UMSL.

I’m currently working toward becoming a Japanese translator. Ideally, I’d like to work on translating some of the things that got me interested in the language when I was younger: anime, manga, and video games. I am also hoping this will give me more opportunities to visit Japan myself. However, I’m also open to seeing where life will take me. I’m certainly not opposed to teaching English in Japan, as I’m also an English major. I would also maybe like to teach Japanese here in America at a high school or middle school level. No matter what I end up doing, I feel like as long as Japanese language and culture is involved, I’ll be happy.
**Amy Seidel (senior):**
I study Japanese because I am very interested in East Asian culture. I love Korean Pop and Japanese movies! I also really love Japanese culture, and the language is very fun to learn. I want to be able to use Japanese in my future job. If I could combine it with my other major, computer science, that would be my main goal. Also, I love traveling so I want to be able to speak the language when I visit the country.

My favorite things are anime and unique parts of the culture! In the northern prefecture, Nagano, there are a lot of hot springs and even the monkeys take baths in the springs! My least favorite is probably the working culture. Many times Japanese people work long hours for no personal gain.

My favorite idiom is 猿も木から落ちる (shou ga nai), which basically means “that’s the way it is” or “it can’t be helped.” To use another foreign idiom, it has a “C’est la vie” feel to it. I hear people say this every day. Another one I like is 十人十色 (jyuujin to iro), which literally means 10 people, 10 colors. It is the Japanese equivalent of “different folks, different strokes.”

**Abby Naumann (senior):**
I hope to use my language skills 24/7 in my career and future life. My goal is to live overseas and work with an international intergovernmental organization where I can use my language skills every day, be that in my daily life abroad (buying groceries, paying my bills, making friends with neighbors) or in a professional setting (issuing multilingual press releases, providing information to contacts in other countries, working "in the field").

My favorite quirk about the language involves politeness. Politeness and humility are essential to the Japanese language, and grammar patterns as well as simple vocabulary can completely change depending on with whom you are speaking. Working professionals in Japan often must take refresher courses in their own language to perfect “business place Japanese.” It is very difficult for learners of Japanese, but I love the look on someone’s face when I have correctly addressed them in a polite style. You can tell that it really makes that person’s day and that they are totally impressed.

A very common idiom in Japanese is しょうがない (shou ga nai), which basically means “that’s the way it is” or “it can’t be helped.” To use another foreign idiom, it has a “C’est la vie” feel to it. I hear people say this every day. Another one I like is 十人十色 (jyuujin to iro), which literally means 10 people, 10 colors. It is the Japanese equivalent of “different folks, different strokes.”

Though the Motes, Seidel, and Naumann vary in their precise interests and experiences, they are nevertheless united by their shared enthusiasm for the Japanese language and Japanese culture, as well as their continued education in the language. UMSL and the Honors College offer a variety of courses for students interested in all aspects of Japanese culture, and of course the Study Abroad Office provides many opportunities for interested students to experience Japan first hand. The study of any language is an excellent way to expand one’s horizons, and the abundance of programs catering to foreign language education, Japanese or otherwise, is a testament to UMSL’s continued commitment to the betterment of its students.
PET-AGOGY: MEET THE PETS OF THE HONORS COLLEGE

By JoHannah McDonald

Though it can be shocking for students to realize that the Honors College faculty and staff exist beyond the confines of their classrooms and offices, the reality is that they lead rich and fulfilling lives in the outside world, lives that often involve pet ownership. Sure, a regular reader of Brain Stew might have heard of Perry Gleason or a visitor to Dan’s office might have met his fish, Larry (RIP 2018), but what about Oliver “Poopy” the cat? Or Archer the dog/dinosaur? They might not get as much publicity, but these pets and many more are the steadfast companions at the heels of the PLHC faculty.

Before being adopted by Associate Teaching Professor Christoph Schiessl, American shorthairs Misa and Sammy were homeless. According to Schiessl, “Sammy just walked right into my wife’s apartment when she was in graduate school in Louisiana more than ten years ago and decided to stay. Misa came from a shelter and hadn’t been adopted for a year.” Though he admits that neither are particularly talented—“unless rolling around on their backs and being incredibly cute while doing it counts”—they are quite loyal and wait by the door for his wife and him to return home from work. That’s not to say they’re flawless, however. Sammy, like many cats, has a fondness for throwing up nearly exclusively on carpeted areas.

Perry Elliot Gleason is a cocker spaniel hailing from Olmsted Falls, Ohio, though he currently resides with Teaching Professor Nancy Gleason. In addition to “Perry,” he’s also affectionately known as “JYD” (“Junk Yard Dog”) and “Perr-Bear” to the Gleason family. A naturally timid soul, Perry is afraid of most things, but Gleason says that doesn’t stop him from occasionally “taking a running leap to hop on her lap.” Perry’s best friend is Freddie, a “tolerant” dog belonging to Gleason’s daughter, and he enjoys playing fetch with both balls and Frisbees, albeit with less success at catching the Frisbees. Despite a bad habit of barking while Gleason is on the phone, she describes him as “a very, very sweet and very affectionate guy.”

If Academic Advisor Jen Richardson is to be believed, Archer is a Labrador/Great Dane/German shepherd/Velociraptor with a penchant for espionage. Her claim that “he is always at his cutest” is less dubious, as is her assertion that he (begrudgingly) permits her to dress him up for various events (see photo). Archer is an energetic dog/dinosaur, often “frolic[ing]” around to express his excitement for food and/or new toys. In addition, he’s also fond of “dunking his head in his water bowl [and] inadvertently creating an indoor slip-n-slide” and destroying paperwork and/or copies of the magazine Magnolia “with or without a command,” much to Richardson’s displeasure. Archer can be recognized by his permanently cocked ear, an adaptation presumably intended to allow him to hone in on enemy chatter in his alleged career as a super spy.

Since his adoption nearly twelve years ago, Bob the cat has been a regular feature in the household of Associate Dean Dan Gerth. He even has his own scotch tumbler, albeit one filled with water. According to Gerth, Bob refuses to drink from a bowl and rather “immediately turns it upside
down and gives you a dirty look.” Bob is also somewhat disdainful of traditional cat toys, easily outsmarting the laser pointer trick by going directly after the pointer itself and attacking it. He prefers his prey live and is an adept mouse-catcher. On occasion, however, he’s been known to bite off more than he can chew. Nancy Gleason found that out the hard way when she had to visit Urgent Care following a bite by Bob—the bacteria found in cat mouths make them essentially venomous, and Bob is no exception.

Casey, a Yorkshire terrier, and Rudy, a Chihuahua/miniature pinscher mix, are described by their owner, Associate Teaching Professor Gerianne Friedline, as “really fun to have around.” Though the pair are similar in size, they differ in attitude. Friedline characterizes Rudy, named for Rudy of the 1993 film of the same name, as a scrappy and determined dog with a toy always at paw. Conversely, she refers to Casey as a cuddly “sweetheart” who enjoys car and/or bike rides and sweets like Graham crackers and Belvita blueberry cookies. Casey is less adventurous when it comes to bumblebees and hummingbirds, often hiding in the yard to avoid them, and likewise, Rudy has a fear of storms.

In her day-to-day life, Juno can be found perched on the shoulder of Associate Teaching Professor Kate Votaw in a parrot-like fashion. In addition, she might also be caught attempting to mooch ice cream off Votaw “by rubbing against her legs and meowing silently.” Beyond her passion for frozen dairy products, Juno is also fond of being petted, and on occasion this manifests as a habit of lightly (at least according to Votaw) biting sleeping persons on the face to get their attention. Juno’s intelligence and “perfection” have led some, including Votaw’s mother-in-law, to speculate that Juno is in reality a person trapped in the body of a cat. This has neither been conclusively proven or disproven.

Oliver, named both for his olive-colored eyes and his status as a heartwarming orphan, and Jasmine, named for the aromatic flower, share a home with Admissions Representative Holly Pope. Alternately known as “Poopy,” Oliver is a shy fellow intimidated by knocks at the front door, strangers visiting, and footfalls on the stairs, and he expresses this anxiety through excessive shedding. Still, Pope notes that he’s a “lap cat” who likes to cuddle whenever possible, though his snuggling apparently involves a fair bit of drooling.

Jasmine prefers to use her spit for grooming purposes. She has been known, however, to groom not only herself but also Oliver and Pope and her husband. She also enjoys rubbing against people and objects to stake her claim, and Pope describes her as “full of sass” and a bit of bully toward Oliver, often nabbing his food. Despite this, Jasmine is popular with everyone she meets, including her local vet techs. Having been diagnosed with heart disease, high blood pressure, and hyperthyroidism, she spends quite a lot of time at the vet clinic, though Pope claims that Jasmine “has been a good sport about it.”
ALUMNI PROFILE: BRI EHSAN

Profiled in UMSL Daily in May 2016, Bri Ehsan completed the Honors certificate in only three semesters while also working as an on-air personality and occasional producer for WGNU 920AM’s Community Conversation program. Since that time she has been studying law on a full-scholarship at Southern Illinois University – Carbondale and working as a strategic relations campaign coordinator for newly elected St. Louis county prosecutor Wesley Bell. Dan Gerth was fortunate to be able to catch up with Bri last month at Cathy’s Kitchen in Ferguson.

Can you start by quickly taking us through how you originally came to UMSL and the Honors College? Sure, I went to community college at Flo Valley and was studying criminal justice there, where Wesley Bell was one of my professors, and he suggested that I look at UMSL because of their great criminal justice program. Then I started looking into the Honors College, after receiving a brochure in the mail. It looked awesome, but I wasn’t sure if I was going to get in, but then I did!

I remember meeting you at your Honors interview and being very impressed by the plan you had to finish a degree and certificate in well under two years, but I also remember being nervous too. It was just so much, so fast. But obviously it worked.

I wasn’t that hard to finish my criminal classes because of how many I completed already at Flo, and the Honors classes, well, I just piled them on! My first semester I took 19 credit hours, my second semester I took 23 credit hours (laughing)... I took summer classes. I was taking classes left and right. I had this plan for law school, and I knew that the longer I took as an undergrad, the longer that would be delayed.

I do remember helping you register for 23 hours. I have teasingly made people sign little notes that say things like “I acknowledge that Dan told me that this is the worst idea ever.” Did I make you do anything like that?

No (laughing), but you did force me to talk to the associate dean in Arts and Sciences before you let me register for 19 hours the first semester.

Well, I’m glad you convinced all of us to let you take so many classes! What attracted you to law school? It started while I was at Flo. It was 2014 during the unrest in Ferguson, and our classes were canceled, and Wesley Bell got a lot of us involved, helping the community, cleaning up, painting positive messages on boarded up windows. I started meeting a lot of other volunteers, many of whom were lawyers. I met so many fantastic lawyers. I had no idea that lawyers were that involved in the community or really that they could be. My impression was going to an office, going through case files, working non-stop in an office. It was really inspiring.

What sorts of experiences at UMSL were most important for your future in law school? UMSL, especially the Honors College, is writing intensive. That was so helpful. Especially portfolio [Honors 4100]. Rob Wilson helped me put together a great personal statement. I wrote eleven drafts over the course of the semester! Every single time we met, he had suggestions for improvement, and it ended up being really great. I remember applying to Wash U, and they contacted me after just two days. I think I submitted everything on a Wednesday, and they called me on Friday! And they mentioned my personal statement when inviting me to interview! Besides that, I just wrote so much at UMSL that any problems I had with writing were gone by the time I applied to law school. I got one of the highest grades in my Legal Writing class, which is the most commonly failed class.

Law school is very difficult, very challenging. But one of the best things is that it’s a small, tight-knit community. It reminds me a lot of the Honors College. People are very friendly. Faculty and staff... everyone is really willing to help you.

What’s the toughest thing about law school? Everything! One thing in particular is that a lot of classes only have one grade, which is a large exam at the end of the semester, and that’s very different from most undergraduate classes. The legal language is difficult to. Sometimes it’s not all that close to what you’d consider English (laughing)! Understanding that when you first start school is daunting.

Are you active as a student outside the classroom? Oh yes. I get bored if I only go to class and then go home. I’m a member of Phi Alpha Delta, a legal fraternity. I’m also a member of the Black Law Students Association. They won’t let me take as many credit hours as you did (laughing)!

What is the end goal for you, after law school? Starting in summer, I’ll be interning in the prosecutor’s office, and after graduating, hopefully transitioning into the office full-time as an assistant prosecutor.
You mentioned that you’ve known Wesley Bell since you were at Flo. How did you get involved with his campaign for county prosecutor?

This is the 3rd time he has run for office, and I’ve been involved in all of them. The first time he ran for county council was when I was a student of his. He ran and asked me to volunteer, and I said “no, I don’t like politics” (laughing). So he convinced me to help out at just one event, and I met a lot of people, and I liked it. I started going to more and more events, then volunteering, then canvassing, and then doing other things for his campaign. Eventually I was in love with the whole public policy making process.

Can you describe your job in the most recent campaign?

The campaign’s main office was in St. Ann, and we opened a satellite office here in Ferguson that I managed. My title was strategic relations coordinator, which basically meant that I managed the campaign’s relationships with everyone – labor unions, donors, elected officials, basically everyone who wasn’t working for the campaign but was involved. It was great. I managed field placement.

So what does “field placement” mean exactly?

Every campaign has a field or what we called a field game or ground game. It’s basically carving up the locations where you’re going to be canvassing and then sending volunteers there. That’s the simple version. It also involves managing phone outreach, constructing different scripts for different areas – we’d use a different script for north county than for west county – so, that’s all part of the field program. We’d do something called “cutting turf,” which is dividing things down to the street level to make sure every area got covered.

Robert McCullough had been in office for a long time, right? This was multiple decades as the county prosecutor. How daunting did this undertaking feel?

It was very daunting, very scary. There were times where we doubted ourselves, wondered if we had gotten involved too late, wondered if we had raised enough funds... so many questions. Other people, even those close to us, had similar ideas. He had been in office for 27 years, and Wesley had only won one office – he was Ferguson city councilman – but outside of the Ferguson area, not many people knew much about him. Plus he’s very young. But one of the wonderful things was that as the summer progressed, a lot of support started building – including from national organizations – and we started thinking yes, we can do this!

You mentioned that he wasn’t well known outside of Ferguson, and earlier you mentioned that messaging would be different in, for example, one area than another. Can you give an example of how messaging changed?

Sure. So, North County was our main base. This is where Wesley’s from and best known. That’s what the easiest thing about North County was. People knew who Bell was and who Bob McCullough was, so we could start with differences between them. And that’s not something you’d always do. In other areas, we’d focus much more on Wesley only. His experiences, countering misconceptions – like isn’t he too young or has he ever prosecuted? – were what we needed to lead with. We didn’t talk about McCullough or differences – at least not until much farther into the conversation.

What’s the elevator speech version of Bell’s message?

We went through different versions of the elevator speech, actually. I’d sum it up with Ferguson city councilman, professor, and reforming criminal justice and focusing on diversionary programs – mental health programs, drug treatment programs.

Why do you think his message resonated with voters?

It’s the programs. Those are the things we don’t have, but that we need. Or maybe we have them, but there’s no funding. We can feel the void. We incarcerate so many people with mental health struggles, and it’s not that hard to tell the difference between someone struggling with mental health problems and a hardcore criminal. We need to treat them differently. Wesley is a community-oriented person, and people can sense that his promises – like more transparency with crime statistics – are sincere.

Can you tell us about something specific that was difficult about the campaign?

This is difficult and wonderful at the same time. There were so many organizations that wanted to help us – via canvassing, making calls, all sorts of ways of getting the word out. But one thing that’s difficult is that sometimes an organization, due to campaign finance and tax status laws, can’t directly work with us at all. So, for example, we couldn’t have our canvasser coordinate with them. And part of our field strategy is logging every single area, so that we don’t do things like accidentally knock on the same door two days in a row or inadvertently bother people who don’t support the candidate. So we weren’t allowed to know what was going on. Were people home? Were they responsive? Were they happy to see someone from the campaign? That’s tough, but obviously we are so thankful for all the groups who help.

Was there a moment where things switched in everyone’s mind from “maybe” to “I think this is actually going to happen”?

We contact a lot of organizations for endorsements. A lot of people are each responsible for a lot of contacts and requests. It’s May, and we are not having much success. People are unsure, they’re having a lot of questions, they’re not ready to commit; and we feel like we’re not making any headway. One day the calls and emails just start flooding in. Phones are blowing up. All of a sudden it’s all endorsements coming. I think we got 35 organizational endorsements on that day. Everyone is drooling, and then it flips. It was wonderful.

Do you have any plans for New Year’s Eve tonight?

Wesley Bell is having a party, followed by a swearing-in at 12:01am. I’m looking forward to ringing in 2019 with all of his friends and family, new and old colleagues, and his campaign staff. Councilwoman Hazel Erby is joining us to have her own swearing in there as well.

Thank you very much for talking with me today, and good luck in the remainder of law school and later, hopefully, as a county prosecutor.

Thanks! I truly had a wonderful time attending PLHC and feel that I have a special connection to the school and the faculty and staff. I credit a lot of my academic and professional success to the lessons I took away from there, so it is a great honor to be a featured alum. If any Honors students are interested in law school or have any questions, please let them know how to contact me. I’m happy to answer questions – or help calm any nerves.
SAVE THE DATE FOR A YEAR FULL OF CELEBRATION...

30th ANNIVERSARY of the PIERRE LACLEDE HONORS COLLEGE
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE AND TRANSFORMING LIVES

Stay tuned for more information about special anniversary events taking place during Fall 2019 and Spring 2020.
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

9th ANNUAL
PIERRE LACLEDE
HONORS COLLEGE

Trivia Night
Saturday, March 9, 2019

One of St. Louis’ most challenging trivia competitions!
Are YOU are smarter than an UMSL Honors College Student?

FEATUREING:

- Silent Auction
- 50/50 Drawing
- 1st Place Cash Prize
- Bring your own Food & Snacks
- Complimentary Beer, Soda, & Wine Provided
- Prizes for best table decorations and best costumes
- Theme: Time Travel

All proceeds benefit the Pierre Laclede Honors College Bob & Paulette Bliss Study Abroad Scholarship.

DETAILS

Time:
6:30 pm -10:00 pm

Location:
St. Ann of Normandy Catholic Church
7530 Natural Bridge Rd.
Normandy, MO 63121

Cost:
Earlybird before Jan. 31: $200 for a table of 10
After Jan. 31: $25 per person or $250 for a table of 10

Host:
Charlie Bright
Honors College Leadership Council

REGISTER NOW: umslalumni.org/honorstrivia2019

Interested in becoming a sponsor?
Email Holly Pope, PhD. at askholly@umsl.edu
Imagine you are going to be stranded on a deserted isle for an indeterminate length of time. You have been barred from bringing anything survival-related—no tents, matches, or anything of the like. In lieu of more practical luggage, you have instead been permitted to bring eight items that hold more meaning to you as an intellectual and scholar rather than a castaway; these items could be novels, songs, films, or even especially entertaining tweets. What are your eight items?

The one thing that has been consistent in my life since early middle school has been the film Titanic. Cheesy, but the historical tragedy hit me and when the movie came out I was at a perfect spot. Since then I’ve done the math and have probably seen the movie about 150-200 times over 20+ years, but every time I revisit it I find comfort and familiarity but also something new. As I grow I interact with that movie differently and having seen it 100 times, I could easily see it 100 more.

I spend a lot of time listening to podcasts and it’s probably a cheat to say all of my podcasts, so I would prioritize the Bald Move podcast. It’s a pop-culture podcast where they mostly do reviews and recaps but I just find those guys to be very thoughtful and sensitive to both issues of plot and character and pacing, but also to social issues, representation in media, and things I like to think about.

In terms of music, the consistent music that I always go back to, that never gets old, is a compilation of different movie scores. Not coincidentally, starting with James Horner’s Titanic, to middle school discovering John Williams and Star Wars, to right now from Game of Thrones Ramin Djawadi to the Dr. Who soundtrack. Right now that’s what I listen to most often, it moves me more emotionally than any other music. I’m not a particularly religious person but I get goosebumps and that “connected to the universe” sort of experience with these movie scores.

A really good Afghan blanket. Not for warmth but just for comfort, but especially if I’m at home then I’m going to want to snuggle up and a good blanket is key to that. Plus my cat, Juno if she’s allowed to come.

Sushi mat with rice cooker and avocado kit combined into one sushi making basket. Sushi is my favorite food and I can’t get enough of it so that would be good on an island. Plus, obviously I’m thinking a seafood buffet everyday while on an island and it would keep me healthy and fit.

A concise collection of memorable events and people for sentimental “social snacking”. The textbook definition of extrovert and introvert isn’t “outgoing” or “quiet”, but finding energy from others or having others deplete that energy from you. From that definition I am a textbook 10/10 extrovert, so being stranded on a desert island sounds like literally my worst nightmare. That being said, I should probably bring some sentimental things for social snacks when I feel lonely. Probably my most sentimental social ties would be my husband and I’s engagement pictures. For other social snacking, maybe it’s narcissistic but when I go back through my Facebook pictures, specifically profile pictures, it just high-lights of time spent with friends, memories, events. I think if I could just have access to those memories to check in with folks if I couldn’t literally reach out to them, that would probably be imperative.

Art pack with Instagram and iPad. My Instagram account is a curated space that I visit probably too frequently. Most of my account is different artists that I follow and as a young adult I really embrace the part of me that really likes character design and illustrations. My feed is mostly those two things, plus all famous internet pets. It’s very beautiful to me and it’s where I find inspiration. In connection with that is my iPad to continue to make art myself, especially if I’m on a desert island listening to my podcasts or playlists I’m going to need something to do and this could be a good time to hone a craft that is still a work in progress. I could put in some more hours on the ol’ iPad sketching.

Maybe some island-y inspiration too. If we already have the iPad anyway, then access to PBS Passport. This is something new that I’ve recently learned, you can learn the entire history of the world through PBS. Basically, if I could have access to The American Experience series alone I feel like I would learn a lot and get a lot out of it. That along with the Great British Bake-off which would do a lot to pass the time and enrich my mind. Support your local PBS station.

Do you incorporate any of these into your classes? If not which ones would you like to?

I don’t formally incorporate them. I think a lot of my identity as an instructor of course comes from my research and interest in psychology, but then really intersects with all the things I am currently and actively trying to figure out like social justice and activism, prejudice, intersectional feminism, racism, and ageism, combined with evidence-based reasoning which is probably more who I am.
more who I am. So, I know it sounds silly and stupid to listen to pop culture podcasts for 15+ hours a week, but what I’m getting out of them are really issues of representation in media and people’s different experiences and how they can be represented there. I think what gets integrated into my classes the most when I can are issues of representation which we talk about in all my classes, but also comes up naturally. Otherwise, if I put on music in the background of a class it’s not uncommon for a student to request a movie soundtrack. It’s a natural fit for say, the “Psychology in Harry Potter” class.

As a PLHC alum what do you see as the differences between being a student and instructor here?
As a student, I most valued the community feeling that made it feel like a family. People knowing you and your goals and values and giving you the support for these. As an instructor, I understand more fully what it means to have a liberal education. Now what I value are the interdisciplinary connections that our classrooms allow our students to make. I really value persuasive argumentation via evidence and connecting the dots between seemingly unconnected ideas within the classroom. I didn’t really recognize that all of that was happening when I was a student here.

What made you decide to become an educator?
I had a moment of clarity, which are pretty few and far between. I was finishing my degree in psychology which I was pursuing simply because it was always interesting to me. I thought “well if it’s interesting to me I’ll probably stay engaged, and if I stay engaged I’ll probably do well, and if I do well surely someone somewhere will give me a job”. But I didn’t know what I wanted to do and I honestly didn’t know a lot of options outside of therapy, which never really felt like a great fit. I was lying in bed one day, and remember the part about me being extroverted? What I liked about psychology wasn’t just the healing part, but what kept me continually interested was the research and analytical reasoning. I realized I just wanted to talk about psychology all day. Even then I thought “oh if only I could teach somewhere like the Honors College where I can talk about ideas all day that would be ideal.” I love talking about psychology, it’s so cool.

What do you see as the goal of education?
To be better voters, jury members, and parents. To allow evidence-based thinking to interact with your personal values to make the world a better place.

What do you think distinguishes between a “good” teacher and a “bad” teacher?
I think authenticity in the classroom. Most instructors went into their area of expertise because something drove them and ignited their own curiosities and passions. I think a good instructor lets that ignite in the class. They can’t contain it. A poor instructor focuses on what the classroom is supposed to be instead of what it could be.

How has UMSL impacted you?
The short personal answer is that I met my husband and most of my very good friends here. We actually lived in Seton Hall together and I met one of my best friends at freshman orientation. Another thing was having Jennifer Siciliani as my general psychology professor freshman year, and then consistently having really good professors throughout my UMSL career who both supported me and ignited that fire. Also being in Cultural Traditions; basically every classic piece of literature that I know is from that class. I had an English teacher in high school who used to say that education is important because at the very least it makes watching The Simpsons that much more funny. Honestly, CT was that class and experience for me.

If you and only you found out the world was ending tomorrow, what would you do?
Probably something very intimate and hedonistic. Grab my husband and put on the most comfortable pair of sweatpants and shoes that I own. We would probably do soulful in the day like go to the Art Museum, as it’s both peaceful and thought provoking. Eat junk food for lunch. At night we’d do something active like City Museum, get sushi for dinner, then invite all of the pets onto the bed for one last snuggle sesh.

If you could go on a road trip with one fictional character, who would it be?
Easy. Dr. Who. My dream is to be Donna Noble when she’s with the Doctor. I want to be the Doctor’s best friend.

If you could bring one person back from the dead, who would it be?
Harper Lee. I would really like to know her perspective on race and gender in today’s modern American culture. I’d like to talk to her about Go Set A Watchman and ask her if she really wrote To Kill a Mockingbird or if it was Capote.

If you could turn any book into a movie or TV show with you as director and unlimited resources, what would it be?
Ender’s Game is one that was not done justice and I always found the book to be interesting. I would want to redo it and really capture the spirit of the nihilism of the novel, which is the good stuff. Or, a Game of Thrones level Chronicles of Narnia series could be cool too.

As a psychologist and a scholar, if you could change one thing about the human brain what would it be?
I would make us better at rational thinking. You don’t want to be less emotional, but I would make the brain more capable of understanding statistics and logic to go hand in hand with emotional value-based thinking.

Thanks to Kate Votaw for agreeing to be interviewed! Have a suggestion for the next faculty desert island interview? Be sure to let us know.
The Students of the
Pierre Laclede Honors College Student Association
Cordially Invite You to the Second Annual
Honors Charity Ball
An Evening Bringing Together... Students, Alumni, Faculty, & Staff
For A Night of... Hors D’oeuvres, Dancing, Music, & Charity

When: Saturday April 6th, 2019 7pm-11pm
Where: The Thaxton Speakeasy
        2001, 1009 Olive St, St. Louis, MO 63101

All proceeds benefit The Provincial House Appreciation Fund

Tickets on Sale:
February 25th- March 22nd: $25
March 23rd- April 5th: $30
Come celebrate with us!

Bellerive
ROCHE LIMIT
Issue 19 Launch

Special Guest:
Jason Vasser-Elong
Poet, Essayist, Anthropologist

Provincial House, South Campus
Friday, February 22nd
12:00 - 2:00 PM

Copies available: 1 for $7 · 2 for $12
Pierre Laclede Honors College
bellerivesubmit@umsl.edu
One of our favorite annual events in Honors happens this April: the New Student Professional Development Reception. It’s a great evening where alumni meet individually with our newest Honors students—both freshmen and transfer students—and answer their questions about what made you a successful student and professional. This event provides an amazing opportunity for our students to learn about careers, graduate and professional schools, internships, and a wide variety of interesting academic opportunities. Just as importantly, the event helps our students develop networking and other professional skills that will help them to take advantage of those opportunities when they arise. We hope you can join us for this fun and memorable evening.

The event will take place on Tuesday, April 16, and will run from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Millennium Student Center Century Rooms. We’ll be providing food and drinks, and the Honors faculty will be there along with Dean Edward Munn Sanchez, Associate Dean Dan Gerth, and Associate Dean Emerita Nancy Gleason.

You do not need to develop any formal presentation—simply be ready to chat with individual students. We expect around 100 of them to attend, and they represent a wide variety of majors and career paths.

This event has become a highlight of the freshmen year experience in Honors, and the faculty are truly grateful for the generous spirit of our alumni that have made it possible. If you would be free to join us that evening, please contact Dr. Kim Baldus at balduski@umsl.edu.
PIERRE LACLEDE HONORS COLLEGE
Provincial House
1 University Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63121
(314) 516-5243
umslhonorsc@umsl.edu