Vision for the Newsletter

Hello readers! This is the first edition of what will be a monthly newsletter from the Honors and Scholars Village. We recognize that most students already suffer from a flood of emails every week, so we want to clearly set out our vision for this newsletter, in the hope that you find reading it both enjoyable and informative.

Our primary goal in this newsletter is helping all students associated with the UHP, USP, or Quad to get to know these organizations better. We will be featuring interviews with program leaders and with students who embody the Honors-Scholars mindset by involving themselves in fascinating opportunities and activities.

We also hope to feature content created by students, for students. Have any questions about the programs? Ask us! Have any original writing or artwork you want to share with your peers? Send it in! Have any interesting opportunities or events you want to plug? Let us know! Along those lines, if you want to help us fill these pages, we would love to have students who are interested in writing help us conduct interviews of key figures and highlight village events. Send submissions in to: agarret@ncsu.edu.

As we approach the end of this semester and look forward to the next, please help us make this newsletter an impactful and important part of the Honors and Scholars community.
Interview with Village Director  
**Dr. Scott O’Leary**

Dr. Scott O’Leary is the Honors and Scholars Village Director. He came into this position in August, and he hit the ground running. His vision is to use the newness of the village to provide the best foundation for success in the Honors or Scholars Programs. He wants to do this by supporting a rich and integrated experience for students by facilitating the life of the mind as it is manifested in both programs. The college experience is an “opportunity with gradations”. Dr. O’Leary hopes that students who live in the village will be equipped to experience those gradations both in the depth and breadth of the programming and opportunities that students have access to living in the Honors and Scholars Village. He hopes that life in the village will have a transformative property which will impact students beyond their time in the village and NC State.

His role is to make the vision a reality and to do this requires a lot of work with partners both nearby and across campus: from meeting with fellows, UHP and USP staff, or Housing Administrators Dr. O’Leary keeps his calendar full, but he is always eager to work and meet with students. His vision for the future of the program is to work more closely with the current village partners and to seek out and form relationships with new partners. That being said, Dr. O’Leary strongly believes in student autonomy and student voices. As a result, Dr. O’Leary will hold focus groups this semester to hear what students want in their village experience.

Dr. O’Leary teaches a highly interdisciplinary course, which challenges students to let go of any preconceived notions that they have and experience and think about food as it is encountered. The course is entitled, Food: Culture, Insecurity, and Ethics. It explores questions of gender, power, identity and ethics in relation to food. In his course, food becomes a way to test theories that have to do with these fundamental topics. His favorite foods are ceviche, good KC barbeque, and puerto-rican lasagna, which is lasagna that calls for the substitution of the noodles for the plantains.

Dr. O’Leary spends a lot of time working to make the students experience of the village is one that is impactful, but knowing the importance of leisure, he enjoys reading and traveling. He is an avid reader, and an owner of a vast library, which makes it very hard to pick a favorite book. However, if he had to choose he could narrow it down to two books: *The Brothers Karamazov* and *The Sparrow*, a novel about Jesuit Missionaries in space. His favorite place to travel is Bled, Slovenia, and he hopes to one day travel to Vietnam and Thailand.
Happy New Year, Quadlings. There are plenty of different things to be aware of this month, according to The Spruce. January is the first month of the year, but it is also National Slavery and Human Trafficking month. In North Carolina, there have been 221 instances of reported human trafficking, ranking NC as eighth in the nation for human trafficking according to the NC Department of Administration. It is important to note that this underground practice is still very much alive in the US, and awareness can help save lives.

Other news of the month, January has a number of different day, week and month long celebrations to enjoy. Month-long observances include National Book Month, International Creativity Month, National Get Organized Month, National Hobby Month, and Cervical Health Awareness Month. Week-long observances include Pizza Week (starts on the first Sunday of the month), Bald Eagle Appreciation Days (January 19 – January 20), Meat Week (January 20 – January 27), National Cowboy Poetry Gathering Week (January 28 – February 2).

Day-long observances include:
- January 1 New Years Day
- January 2 National Science Fiction Day
- January 3 JRR Tolkien Day
- January 4 Trivia Day
- January 5 National Bird Day

Second Week
- January 6 Sherlock Holmes' Birthday
- January 9 Word Nerd Day
- January 10 Peculiar People Day
- January 12 Museum Day

Third Week
- January 13 Make Your Dream Come True Day
- January 17 Benjamin Franklin's Birthday
- January 19 Metric System Day
- January 19 International Flower Day

Fourth Week
- January 21 National Hugging Day
- January 21 Martin Luther King Day
- January 24 National Compliment Day
- January 29 National Puzzle Day
- January 31 Backwards Day
A Guide to Scholars Forum

Dance. Art. Movies. Academic enrichment. All of these and much more are explored every week during Scholars Forum. Scholars Forum offers many fun and diverse ways to engage with the Scholars and Honors communities, and is an excellent place to stay up to date with the Scholars program. With as many as thirty Forum events per week, there is always something to do with Scholars Forum. And the best part? Many of the Scholars Forum events are open to all of campus, which means that you do not have to be signed up for Forum to still get access of many of the amazing events happening on campus. With famous guest lecturers, national geographic photographers, and culturally diverse musical ensembles regularly included in the Scholars Forum lineup, there is every reason to get involved!

Not sure how to complete your Forum requirements? Students in Forum are expected to go to just 12 events of their choosing a semester, so it should not be a huge strain on your busy schedules. Additionally, Scholars Forum is a three semester requirement for Scholars students, and a one semester requirement for Honors students who started in the fall of 2018. Forum is graded in a satisfactory/unsatisfactory capacity, so as long as you go to the 12 events you will get credit. If you have any additional questions about Forum, or any other program questions, contact your individual Scholars or Honors advisor or come see them in Clark Hall.

Want to get more involved in Scholars Forum? Consider joining Scholars Council next semester! This is a great group of students who work together to plan new Scholars events that everyone, including people who are done with forum, can enjoy. Scholars council meets every other Tuesday from 8 to 9pm.
Monthly puzzle: Einstein's 5 houses riddle

The situation: There are 5 houses in five different colors. In each house lives a person with a different nationality. These five owners drink a certain type of beverage, smoke a certain brand of cigar and keep a certain pet. No owners have the same pet, smoke the same brand of cigar or drink the same beverage.

The question is: Who owns the fish?

Hints:
- the Brit lives in the red house
- the Swede keeps dogs as pets
- the Dane drinks tea
- the green house is on the left of the white house
- the green house's owner drinks coffee
- the person who smokes Pall Mall has birds
- the owner of the yellow house smokes Dunhill
- the Norwegian lives in the first house
- the person living in the center house drinks milk
- the person who smokes blends lives next to the one who keeps cats
- the person who keeps horses lives next to the person who smokes Dunhill
- the owner who smokes BlueMaster drinks beer
- the Norwegian lives next to the blue house
- the German smokes Prince
- the person who smokes blend has a neighbor who drinks water

Answers will be posted in next month's newsletter!