It was bittersweet when we moved the Honors offices from the stately, old Honors House to the modern Janet Ayers Academic Center, but the faculty love having more frequent conversations with students and colleagues and being close to classrooms. It has been so much fun to meet members of the new Honors Class of 2022 in classes and at the Deer Run Retreat. I love seeing students form new relationships with each other and with faculty mentors as they start classes, research projects, labs, study abroad, performing groups, or volunteer with Middle-Tennessee community partners. We welcome to Honors Professor Deborah Finch (LEAD), who brings massive previous experience in education and leadership studies. Dr. Thorndike, Dr. Boan, Dr. Byrne, and Dr. Ritter-Conn are teaching the Honors Core and track classes. The prolific scholars Dr. Pethel, Dr. Gustke, and Belmont Faculty Fellow Dr. Heather Finch are also teaching for Honors this fall in addition to talented adjuncts Aaron Stauffer and Peter Capretto. In science and math, Honors has Dr. Pinter, Dr. Schleben, Dr. Spence, and Dr. Yandell teaching our world-famous interdisciplinary Analytics courses. Leigh Hitchcock is the new Honors Admin Assistant and Dr. Mimi Barnard, Associate Provost of ISGE, oversees all Honors activities. We bid “goodbye” to Professor/ librarian Zachary Quint and wish him well because he is moving on to another institution.

I know that we have the best students at Belmont in Honors, and you will take advantage of the small classes, tutorials, and advising that create relationships—it’s all about people. We have the best curriculum, support for study abroad, and access to the most innovative faculty. The Honors Program’s close-knit community and HSC student leaders add a great deal to the overall Belmont experience. The most encouraging thing about being in Honors is that students are guaranteed time with a cohort of fellow intelligent, engaged, active people. Having friends and colleagues with whom to explore the depth of the life of the mind and the arts in Nashville makes life much happier and more rewarding. Friends and colleagues, go forth and engage and transform the world!
UPCOMING EVENTS:

OCT.

8  HSC Donut Social, 10am-12pm

10  Midpoint of semester

15-16  FALL BREAK!

22  Convo: Lt. Ryan Stitt, McWhorter 114 @10am

23  Academic advising begins

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THE HONORS NEWSLETTER IS A PROGRAM FACILITATED PUBLICATION, EDITED BY ALEXA JONES. THE NEWSLETTER WRITERS ARE SADIE BURROWS, CALISTA GINN, AND CLAIRE KELLY. PLEASE CONTACT ALEXA.JONES@POP.BELMONT.EDU WITH FEEDBACK.

#HONORSALLAROUND

1. The Honors hike at Percy Warner Park last weekend was SO fun!
2. Lucy Sweetall (senior) and Dr. T’s dog, Sam, getting ready for our hike.
3. Look at these cute Honors freshmen on a sweet fall outing! We love seeing new Honors friendships forming!
Picture this: the air is crisp enough to wear a cozy flannel, the leaves are turning the most perfect shade of burnt orange, and you have a Trader Joe’s pumpkin bagel in one hand and a cup of hot cider from Bongo in the other. This is the playlist for that perfect Fall moment. Chill and subtle, but still energetic enough to power through midterms. This playlist features some of my classic faves-- but, more importantly, we have four songs from Honors artists Madeleine Kelson, Jake Nunis (Øvercome), Brendan Marz, and Kelley Cronin (L.E.Y.).

PLAYLIST BY CALISTA GINN
Here’s a preview of the first four songs:

**Home**
L.C.D. Soundsystem

“Home” is the quintessential cool indie movie montage driving music. Like most of LCD Soundsystem’s songs, it clocks in at about 8 minutes, but it’s worth the listen if you’ve got a long trip ahead-- maybe an early morning trek to Percy Warner or the Smokey Mountains for a picturesque fall hike.

**plenty**
L.E.Y.

L.E.Y., better known as Honors sophomore Kelley Cronin, is the slow-jam fall electropop we all need to get through midterms. If you love Kehlani, Dua Lipa, or Ariana Grande, you’ll love L.E.Y. I know I’ll be dancing to this in my Halloween-themed fuzzy socks.

**Wake Me**
Bleachers

Not to be dramatic, but I could write my entire Honors thesis about Bleachers frontman Jack Antonoff’s brilliant artistry. “Wake Me” is a romantic, folky tune that makes me feel like how a piping-hot Maple Latte from Starbucks tastes: sweet and syrupy.

**Already Gone**
Maeleine Kelson

Honors sophomore Madeleine Kelson’s acoustic jam is THE song for sitting around the fire with a group of Honors pals under the stars, wrapped up in cozy blankets. Her sweet vocals would make a perfect pair with s’mores and hot cocoa.
Making a Musical That Means Something

Naomi Krizner is a junior Songwriting and Sport and Movement Performance double major working hard in the Artist Studio track. She goes by many names, including NaoK and Nay, but one that stands out is her nickname from eighth grade. Due to her rallying spirit and natural talent, her former church’s youth band named her “Spotlight”, so her being the first track spotlight for this year’s Honors newsletter is fitting.

Her first semester in the track under Dr. Boan’s tutelage opened Naomi’s eyes to the true complexity and value of understanding art. It wasn’t until this summer that the idea for her project came to life. Being a Christian, Naomi finds most of her best ideas through prayer and God’s grace. This idea is no exception. Naomi believes the idea for her allegorical musical is God’s will for her, as well as an excellent challenge to pursue throughout her time and work in the Artist Studio track. It will explore the “multifaceted nature of humanity” through song, complex characters, and lots of symbolism. Without revealing too much, this musical is about mental illness and is an attempt to the break down the idea that a person’s diagnosis is a person’s identity. She wants to explore the role of illness in the lives of patients, doctors, family and friends.

The musical is told as a story that isn’t clearly revealing the underlying truths and overall message.

She did give me a synopsis to bring in an audience and explain her vision and personal passion behind the story. The musical revolves around a character named Tate. In the beginning, everything is perfect for him; then, he falls into a cave and two demons come out of shadows and latch on like parasites. They attempt to convince him that they will then be with him forever, so he cannot live a normal life. He escapes the cave, but he is taunted by their presence and mental and emotional impact. Then, he meets Emsley who challenges that perspective of him through her innocence, questioning, purity, and hope. There are many other characters and plot developments as well as a big plot twist near the end. Naomi is choosing to not reveal that aspect yet because she wants to test the audience’s ability to see the depth of the musical without her telling them; she compared this choice to that of George Lucas, explaining that he also chose to not tell Luke Skywalker that Darth Vader was his father, so as to make the reveal more authentic in the movie. She is even going as far as only revealing the story to the actors scene-by-scene so that even they will be surprised. She says, “If people miss it, that is their fault.” She is not sympathetic towards them. They should be informed about the real issues. She wants to portray the reality. There should be no more claims of not knowing after finding out people are or were struggling with mental illness.

Overall, she is very excited. This call from God, process of challenging her writing and musical abilities, and continued work in her track all have been thrilling and difficult. She has been in two musicals in her life and she is a rapper. This is so new and so close to her heart; she says, “It has been a soul-tearing process.” It is her in a musical.

Where is she now in the process? She just presented in front of the musical theatre department on today and they seemed ready to help. She has not presented in front of the Honors council, but she feels so called towards it, excited about it, and confident in its purpose that she knows that will go well. She is hoping to find a venue and put it on by April of 2020. Keep following the newsletter and Honors emails for updates about her musical!
THE NEW YORK EXPERIENCE

a look at the belmont east program from an honors perspective

BY ALEXA JONES

It seems paradoxical that the Honors program, which is designed to expand our knowledge beyond the confines of our own existence, could seem limiting. There appears to be this sense that semester-long programs, either abroad or within the U.S., are a challenge to make work with the strict structure of the Honors curriculum. Of course, as any Honors student knows, if there’s a will there’s a way.

I had the chance to sit down (and email!) with five Honors seniors who studied in New York with Belmont East for the spring semester and get an idea of what their experiences were like: Lucy Sweetall, a music business major on the LEAD track; Sarah Everett, a journalism major in the Artist Studio; Andrew Gardner, a music business and entrepreneurship double major in the Artist Studio; Dylan Arndt, a music business major in the LEAD track; and Allison Kurtz, a songwriting major and music business minor in the Artist Studio.

The ‘City That Never Sleeps’ draws people from all different walks of life for all different reasons, and Belmont students are no exception. “One of my original pulls to Belmont was that it was networked in not just Nashville but across the U.S.,” says Dylan, acknowledging that Belmont’s From Here to Anywhere slogan actually has some merit and truth to it. For Sarah, it was the chance to experience life and culture in a city that boasts a big piece of the journalism pie. “I’ve always been inextricably drawn to the energy and culture of New York,” says Allison, who was excited to explore the plethora of opportunities offered in the music industry. Lucy, who had interned with a fashion company in New York a few years ago for Fashion Week, knew she would return as soon as she had another opportunity, which the Belmont East program readily supplied. “Why would I not apply?” she asked herself, “I love New York. It’s always been one of my favorite places.”

Of course, not everyone was an expert on the NYC lifestyle. Andrew admits his first time in New York was “very overwhelming, actually. I thought I would feel claustrophobic with all those people around all the time, but it was actually kind of isolating and lonely at times.” Understandable, for a city that boasts a population of upwards of 8.5 million. “New York is a huge city. As a student and intern, I often felt like a very small fish in a very large pond,” says Allison. It was a bit of a culture shock; Nashville is such a welcoming, relaxed environment and New York is very much the opposite.” Lucy and Dylan, however, found the small-fish-big-pond complex a bit more to their tastes. “In a city, you can be more anonymous,” says Lucy, a native of the suburban outskirts of Louisville, KY where “everyone knew everyone else’s business”. For Dylan, “The most exciting part was just wandering around and getting lost and being able to see new things, it’s very much an independent city.”

Belmont East students live in the center of everything in the neighborhood of Brooklyn Heights, only one subway stop away from Manhattan. The proximity to major attractions made for some pretty impactful memories. Sarah enjoyed seeing as many Broadway shows as she could, her favorite being Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, which she saw later in the summer. Allison had the opportunity to experience private concerts through her internship from artists like Vance Joy and Brandi Carlisle. “Both artists were great performers and exceptionally friendly,” she says, “and being involved with them and with the live session set-up and recording processes was an amazing experience.” For Lucy, being able to see Lorde, her favorite artist, on three separate occasions during the semester was the highlight of her time in New York; she even admits to shedding a tear or two during the artist’s cover of Carly Rae Jepsen’s track, “Run Away with Me”. Dylan, alongside Andrew, also had the opportunity to see his favorite band, Arcade Fire, perform at a surprise concert...
for the group’s latest music video debut. The two also spent an
insurmountable chunk of time waiting in line to see the dress
rehearsal for Saturday Night Live with host Bill Hader. Overall, “lots
of good memories, all centered around friends,” concludes Lucy.

Of course, it couldn’t all be concerts, park visits, and New
York style bagels—there was work to be done. Each student on the
Belmont East program (as well as in Belmont West) is required to
have an internship in their area of study. Lucy found herself at ATO
Records, an independent record label, which was a new experience
for her and very different from the management position she
originally wanted, though it seems to have turned out for the best.
“I was actually doing industry work, not just running to grab coffee
or lunch.” Lucy recalls a particularly impactful moment when she
and Dylan worked at an event hosted by ATO Records for the band
Okkervil River before the release of the group’s ninth album. She
remembers her boss introducing her to the band members, which
was a very surreal experience. “I thought, ‘You don’t have to do
that, why would they care who I am, I’m just an intern.’ It was just
really nice, and it made me feel like a part of the team.” Andrew,
who was a People and Culture intern with Superfly, did a variety of
tasks, such as working behind the scenes for Bonnaroo and having
the chance to see many different New York neighborhoods while
running errands. “The internship opened my eyes to a whole side
of the entertainment industry that I was aware of but not really
focused on and it ended up opening a lot of doors for me over the
summer, too. If you ever get the opportunity or care to intern for
Superfly, do it because they’re just some of the best people, it’s some
of the most fun I’ve ever had, and they just care about you as a
person.” That’s high praise, indeed. Dylan enjoyed the opportunity
to spread his wings, so to speak, beyond the Nashville bubble with
his internship at Mick Management. “My passion is not in country
music, so I thought New York would be a great place to explore
what the music industry is like when it’s not cornered by country
artists.” Working at Atlantic Records in-house recording studio,
Allison not only gained hands-on industry experience but a mentor
along the way. “Ebonie Smith, the lead engineer there, was a great
role model for me as a young woman hoping to pursue a career
in a male-dominated field.” On the opposite end of the spectrum
from the music scene, Sarah stresses the idea that Belmont East is
“not just for people who are music majors or people in the Curb
College. There are a lot of opportunities out there beyond music
business.” An editorial intern for HGTV Magazine, Sarah enjoyed
the opportunity to expand her editorial knowledge and practice in
a much larger market than she’d experienced in previous Nashville-
based internships, relaying how “it gave [her] validation that [she]
wanted to work in that sort of environment.”

In addition to the internship, Belmont East-ers still have
normal schoolwork responsibilities, though the course load is
often a bit lighter (most students take no more than twelve credits,
three of which are earned from the internship) to allow students to
explore the rich culture of New York. Every student is required to take ‘Entertainment in New York’, which looks at the history and importance behind the city’s sports, music, and art scenes; Lucy is a particular fan of the class, readily labeling it as “the best class ever”. In keeping up with the Honors curriculum, Honors students are encouraged to take part in semester-long programs like Belmont East the spring semester of their junior year, because third-year writing can easily be supplemented for the writing course required for each track. Beyond that, the world is one’s proverbial oyster. A newly offered course for the Belmont East program is ‘Artist Management’, which Dylan says is his “favorite class by a landslide.” Dylan also enjoyed the opportunity to build a connection with his professor, Anna Pandorf, a Belmont alum and day-to-day manager at Q Prime Management; they recently reconnected at the Pilgrimage Music Festival.

So, is Belmont East the right program for you? There’s no time like the present to find out. “Plan, plan, plan. I wish I had planned better,” relates Lucy, a sentiment that is shared across the board. Belmont East, and other semester-long programs like it, have the opportunity to show you a world very different from your own, to gain experiences you wouldn't otherwise have. “It's way more beneficial from an Honors standpoint to be here [at Belmont], but as a student and as a person you definitely should be going abroad, going away, and experiencing something different,” Andrew says, and I can't help but agree. Belmont and the Honors program are merely stepping stones to the greater world—where will they take you?
Freshmen retreat is one of the favorite long-standing traditions of the Honors program. It is a chance for all of the Honors freshmen to spend an entire day getting to connect and bond with one another. It also is a chance for Honors upperclassmen to spend a day leading the freshmen in games and helping them discover more about the Honors program.

The 2018 retreat happened earlier this month, and it was an incredible day! With over 60 freshmen in attendance and 13 upperclassmen retreat helpers, the day was filled with good friends and good fun!

The freshmen spent their day at everyone's favorite place, Deer Run Retreat. The outdoor setting allowed for so many fun games, some hiking, and a great time on the lake. In the morning, we played the classic retreat games including human knot, ninja, and the circle game (which got very, very competitive). Following lunch, groups of people hiked, played and swam in the lake, played beach volleyball, and played card games. This time was when everyone seemed to truly bond and start to get to know each other well!

In the evening, the mood turned a little more serious when our more emotional games were played. Everyone played step into the circle, a game that pulls at everyone's heartstrings and reminds us that we are never alone. After writing sweet notes to everyone on paper plates (another loved classic), we finished the night with a very intense game of mafia (courtesy of Dylan Arndt) and some time making s'mores around a campfire.

This year's freshmen retreat was so incredibly fun, and everyone who attended gave rave reviews! We are so glad that the retreat was able to foster so many Honors friendships that will last through college and a life-time.

2018 FRESHMAN RETREAT

By Claire Kelly
creative corner.

SELECTED ARTWORKS BY SARAH ANNE PFITZER