

JACK, JOSEPH &
MORTON MANDEL
HONORS COLLEGE



4.0

CLEVELAND
STATE
UNIVERSITY

Fall 2017

JACK, JOSEPH
AND MORTON
MANDEL
HONORS
COLLEGE
NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Sarah De Rosa, Staff Writer:

"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

William Funk, Staff Writer:

"If you always put limits on everything you do, physical or anything else, it will spread into your work and your life. There are no limits. There are only plateaus and you must not stay there, you must go beyond them."

-Bruce Lee

Erin Guban, Section Editor:

"Leadership is influence."

-John C. Maxwell

Tim Higgins, Photographer:

"Where there is no vision, there is no hope."

-George Washington Carver

Frank Ivancic, Staff Writer:

"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them."

-Walt Disney

Tyler Kaptain, Staff Writer:

"He who cannot be a good follower cannot be a good leader."

-Aristotle

Matt Mascolo, Staff Writer:

"Let the world change you and you can change the world."

-Che Guevara

Kyra Rudy, Managing Editor:

"One person's annoying is another's inspiring and heroic."

-Leslie Knope

Richard Ryan, Staff Writer

"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

-John Adams

Madison Scagnetti, Staff Writer:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

-Margaret Mead

Shaina Schlegel, Staff Writer:

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'"

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Josh Silvaroli, Staff Writer:

"Dear frozen yogurt, you are the celery of desserts. Be ice cream, or be nothing."

-Ron Swanson

Rachel Sullivan, Photographer:

"Great leaders are not defined by the absence of weakness, but rather by the presence of clear strengths."

-John Zenger

Hai Tran, Staff Writer:

"If you work hard and meet your responsibilities, you can get ahead, no matter where you come from, what you look like, or who you love."

-Barack Obama

Jonathan Wright, Section Editor:

"First rule of leadership: everything is your fault."

-Hopper from A Bug's Life

FALL 2017

*Jack, Joseph, &
Morton Mandel
Honors College*

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A Talk of Leadership

by Sarah De Rosa

ship experience from the Ambassadors HON course that is offered.

When asked if she liked leadership, Dean Lehfeltdt responded, “Depends on which day you ask me, but yes I do. I like the chance to develop a vision and problem solving.” Leadership is not something that is meant to be fun, but it is a conscientious choice to be the best you can be.

Our theme is leadership. In your opinion, what are the most important characteristics of a leader? How are these shown?

“The best leaders lead by example—people with integrity stand behind their decisions. Good leaders are people who have a genuine interest in developing the potential and talent of the people they are leading.”

Are leaders born or created?

“A combination—I think there is something probably innate to someone’s personality that makes them want to step up. Not everybody wants to step up, assume that kind of role. I do believe there are people that bend more towards that kind of calling. But that said, I have also seen—particularly with students—that people have those quali-

ties—that have the potential to be leaders, it’s just that no one has given them a nudge in that direction; so in that case leaders can be created. Even people that lean more naturally towards assuming those roles can always be better, so in that case leaders can be created as well.”

Are there certain qualities you think all Honors students should have?

“One thing that I would like to see our students have is a sense of giving something back. You guys have this wonderful and rare opportunity with this scholarship—you’ve worked hard and earned that distinction. At the same time, I’d like to see the students have a sense of ‘Wow, I’m really lucky. How can I give back to the college or the university, in terms of how I behave, what I do, the example I set—helping out other students?’”

How has leadership challenged your life?

“It’s always new; it’s always different. Higher education is weird this way because most people in higher education have gone to grad school. This trains you to be a researcher and a teacher but never an administrator. I had to learn to adapt and think on my feet.”



Photograph taken by Rachel Sullivan

During our discussion, Dean Lehfeltdt provided her opinion of the most important trait of a leader: “The best leaders lead by example.” Leadership is a responsibility for betterment of oneself and one’s peers.

For Honors students, Dean Lehfeltdt has a vision of “giving back.” Under Dean Lehfeltdt’s leadership, Honors students have focused on giving back to their community and their college. This is exemplified in the revival of the Mandel Honors College Student Group. This group will focus not only on service but also on social opportunities for Honors students. Students can also gain leader-

What Makes a Great Leader?

by Madison Scagnetti

What do we mean when we say someone is a great leader? For this leadership-themed issue of the 4.0 Honors Newsletter we asked honors students just that. In a survey, honors students ranked these fourteen attributes of a leader from most to least important. Here are the results:

1. Commitment
2. Communication skills
3. Motivate others
4. Passion
5. Decision making skills
6. Honesty
7. Positive attitude
8. Team player
9. Confidence
10. Vision
11. Intelligence
12. Self-awareness
13. Experience
14. Creativity

with Dean Lehfeldt

What are the more ugly traits you've seen in leadership?

"Where I have seen leadership go wrong is when people think that being a leader means being a loud bully because some think that is a leadership style. You'll ask them, 'Why did you just go off on your staff? Why did you just yell at that person?' They'll respond saying it's just their leadership style—I'm not a fan. I think it's just bullying under another name. I think people have different ways of asserting themselves as leaders; some are more effective than others."

Are there any opportunities for Honors students to give back?

"We are reviving the Mandel Honors College Student group; I think that will be terrific opportunity. The woman that was chosen as a president wants to create areas to work on. There should be a purely social activity, then a social project, and then for people to take over certain areas, such as a canned food drive. I think this would be great for people to get involved and to meet new people."

Were there any specific challenges this year for the Honors College?

"Right now, we are in the process of finding a replacement for Ronnette and are short-staffed. That's always an active challenge, but we are in the process of finding someone new. 'Challenge' is overstating it, but we are in the process of some change. We also have a new program that is bringing in students from Tri-C that is called the Mandel Continuing Scholars Program. We admitted 5 students this fall. At maximum capacity for this program we will be admitting 25 students."

Is giving back part of your vision for the Honors College?

"Yes, I talked about that when I applied. Another way for students to do this is the Ambassadors Leadership HON course that Lauren teaches."

After speaking with Dean Lehfeldt, leadership appeared not as a faraway concept but instead as an action that is applicable to every Honors student's daily routine.



Presidential Search Underway

by Madison Scagnetti

The search is on for the seventh president of Cleveland State University. The process began after President Ronald Berkman announced his retirement in June of 2018 after serving the school since July, 2009.

The twenty-two-person Presidential Search Committee is comprised of CSU Board of Trustees members, students, faculty, staff, and community partners. This group will review candidates and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees, which will make the final decision. To evaluate the qualifications of applicants, the selection committee has held student, faculty, staff, and alumni forums to identify what the CSU community feels should be key attributes and priorities of the next president. In addition, Wheeler Partners, an executive search and leadership consulting firm, was hired to coordinate the process.

The committee is chaired by Bernie Moreno, who is also the chair of the Board of Trustees. In a letter to the CSU community, Moreno wrote, "We seek an inspirational leader who is prepared to meet these challenges with vision, creativity and a passion for the transformative power of higher education."



Nursing Research: Importance of Hand Hygiene Promotion in Students

by Hai Tran

Never stop performing hand hygiene anywhere you go: it is a simple, easy, free step to prevent infectious diseases. Although hand hygiene education is sufficient, research has shown that hygiene promotion has been declining steadily, especially in schools. How many students have been touching and opening the entrance door when they come to school and go to class everyday? The bigger the school, the more germs will build up on that door—waiting for the next person to open it. Children are usually taught to wash their hands when they are young, and hygiene is repeatedly reinforced to build their habits in kindergarten or elementary schools. However, as children grow older, hand hygiene habits are likely reduced because there is nobody to remind them to practice good hand hygiene.

The American Journal of Infection Control reveals that poor hand hygiene practices lead to increases in community-based infections, including gastrointestinal, skin, and respiratory infections. Just imagine you are sitting in a class of 80 students who do not practice good hand hygiene. You are talking to, handing books to, or shaking hands with them; they are constantly spreading germs. This is a cause for concern as we continue to see a decline in hand hygiene promotion, habit, and education. *The Wall Street Journal* reports that teaching ranks as the “top germ profession” compared to other occupations, due to the high bacterial count per square inch in schools. In fact, surfaces that teachers regularly touch contain up to 10 times more bacteria per square inch than those of other professions.

How many students have washed their hands before and after using a computer at school? Those keyboards in computer labs

are the perfect environment for growing pathogens due to the combination of warm temperatures and unclean hands. Studies have found that preventing further infectious disease from poor hand hygiene is improved significantly when students follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. The CDC provides these helpful guidelines for how to wash hands correctly:

1. Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
2. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.
4. Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
5. Dry your hands using a clean towel or air-dry them.

According to the CDC, washing hands with soap and water is the best way to get rid of germs in most situations. If soap and water are not available, it is okay to use alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. The CDC also provides guidelines on using hand sanitizer:

1. Apply the gel to the palm of one hand (read the label to learn the correct amount).

2. Rub your hands together.

3. Rub the gel over all surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry.

Although alcohol-based hand sanitizers can quickly reduce the number of germs on hands in some situations, sanitizers do not get rid of all types of germs. Students should protect themselves from any infectious and nasty diseases by building their own habits and raising awareness among their friends and peers. With modern-day social media development, Cleveland State University could take several preventative measures to help improve overall campus cleanliness by posting bulletins or even sending campus-wide emails to raise awareness about hand hygiene.

1. Centers for Disease and Control Prevention. (2017). “Why is Handwashing Important?” Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/features/handwashing/index.html>

2. Landro, L. (2009). “Afraid of Germs? Don’t Even Think about Becoming a Teacher.” *The Wall Street Journal*. Retrieved from <http://blogs.wsj.com/health/2009/09/28/afraid-of-germs-dont-even-think-about-becoming-a-teacher/>

3. Scott, E. (2013). “Community-based Infections and the Potential Role of Common Touch Surfaces as Vectors for the Transmission of Infectious Agents in Home and Community Settings.” *American Journal of Infection Control*. Retrieved from [http://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553\(13\)00938-3/references](http://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553(13)00938-3/references)



TRIO Works/McNair Scholars Funding Approval

by Shaina Schlegel

The funding for Cleveland State University's TRIO McNair Scholars has been approved for the next five years. The TRIO McNair Scholars Program aims to prepare disadvantaged undergraduate students to earn a Ph.D. in STEM related disciplines.

As a member of one of the eight national TRIO programs, TRIO/Student Support Services, I wanted to evaluate the TRIO McNair Scholars program. I chose to ask students and faculty about what improvements could be made to the program. By asking TRIO associates, I gained valuable knowledge and opinions about questions regarding the new funds and the future of the program.

Question #1: *What aspects of the TRIO McNair Scholars Program would you like to*

see improved given the recent funding approval and how?

Student Answer #1: "Some aspects I would like to see improved would be the engagement surrounding professional experience, for example, the opportunity to lead or simulate real-world projects. Also, I would like to work with other scholars in group-processing settings to brainstorm solutions to certain community issues that we can implement or just create hypothetical solution models."

Faculty Answer #1: "Grant the Academic Advisors, Faculty and Staff the ability to utilize Starfish in order to view and update notes on student's profiles as they matriculate through the system."

Question #2: *What new services or opportunities would you like to see added to the program?*

Student Answer #2: "I would like the program to provide a community outreach service. I can only imagine how becoming engaged in our community would influence the work we will be doing in our professional careers in the future."

Faculty Answer #2: "More of a collaborative effort with workshops, student leadership conferences, and volunteering opportunities with other programs on campus."

Among these responses, there is a trend in improving leadership and professional skills among both student and faculty. What better qualities could you hope to instill in future Ph.D. candidates? Hopefully, we will see these desires come to fruition in the TRIO McNair Scholars Program as the new semester begins.

Tri-C & CSU Make a National Model for Honors Transfers



by William Funk

This past May, through a generous contribution from the Mandel Foundation, both Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) and Cleveland State University (CSU) have created an agreement for students entering the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Honors College.

In 2015, a year after the Honors College moved to the Main Classroom building at CSU, Tri-C opened the doors to the Mandel Humanities Center on its Eastern Campus, and with it marked a new era in humanities

education. The inaugural class of Mandel Scholars at Tri-C not only had a first-hand look at the initiatives of the Mandel Foundation, but also had the opportunity to take part in a forum with the lead chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The program was designed to educate students through civic engagement, team-based project learning, community outreach initiatives, and a curriculum centered around the studies of the humanities. This approach drew national attention as a model for community colleges across the country, and has led into partnerships with other institutions including CSU.

In the most recent agreements within the Ohio Transfer Module, students entering CSU's College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences with an Associates of Arts degree will have their general education requirements satisfied, making transfers much easier. Also, in addition to the scholarships made

available for honors program transfers from Tri-C, Mandel Scholars can apply for transfer to the Honors College if they plan on attending CSU. CSU and Tri-C have always had a strong partnership, and the Continuing Scholars Agreement has expanded that partnership.

Over the summer, the Honors College welcomed Mandel Scholar transfer students with a summer bridge course. The seminar aimed to familiarize students with their respective major disciplines and the university's campus, as well as provide an opportunity to perform research on a given topic under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Both the students and faculty involved in the summer seminar saw the program successful, and have taken initiative to shape the future of the program's outcomes. The Continuing Scholars Agreement has opened up 25 additional scholarships per year for the honors college.



Dr. Ivan Soprunov

Newly-Appointed CSU Math Department Chair

An Interview with Dr. Ivan Soprunov

by Richard Ryan

How long have you been a faculty member of the Cleveland State Math Department?

I came to CSU in 2006, this is my 11th year as a faculty member.

Where did you previously study, and in what fields/topics of mathematics do you specialize?

I received my BS and MS degrees in Mathematics and Applied Mathematics from Moscow State University in 1997. I got my Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in 2002. My background is in Algebraic Geometry, more specifically toric varieties and the theory of Newton Polytopes. In general, I like working on problems interconnecting different fields such as algebra, geometry, and combinatorics. I have also done work in lattice polytopes, convex geometry, and error-correcting codes.

Have you held any major leadership roles previously, and if so, what and where were they?

Before taking over as the chair, I was the Graduate Program Director for the math department and the Associate

Chair. This experience definitely helps me in my present role.

What have been some of your favorite things, so far, about working in the Math Department and/or as a faculty member in general?

My two favorite things about the Math department are the faculty and the students. We have a great team of faculty who are wonderful teachers and strong researchers. I learn a lot from them whenever we talk about research or pedagogy. Something I begin to miss as Chair is regular interactions with our students. They come with diverse learning and cultural background, but most of them have genuine interest in mathematics. It is always a rewarding experience to teach them.

What do you aim to accomplish in your time as Department Chair?

My main goal right now is to strengthen our department and our programs. The math department has been decreasing in size for the last several years. Currently, we have only four assistant professors. Hiring new faculty is vital for maintaining and strengthening existing research groups, as well as our major, minor, and graduate programs. We are restructuring our MS with Specialization in Applied Statistics and developing a minor in Actuarial Science.

Is there anything you would like to say to students in the CSU Honors College?

I've seen many students who decided to get a degree in math after taking just one math course beyond calculus. Give it a try and you will see that mathematics is about the world we live in, just like physics, biology, history, or economics. Even if you are not considering majoring in math, I encourage you to take as many math classes as you can. This will develop your analytical skills and improve your job prospects. Any company hiring graduates from STEM disciplines will look favorably at a candidate with a math or statistics minor.

Background Photo by Brandi Redd on Unsplash

New Honors Faculty

by Frank Ivancic

It is clear that the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Honors College is expanding. Growing numbers and resources means more work to be done by the dedicated faculty. On top of rapid growth, over the last few years, some Honors College faculty members have left the college for other opportunities, increasing the workload for other faculty members. The Honors College is currently in the process of looking for several new potential hires to take over positions that have been vacated and pick up some of the work that has been put on other Honors College faculty. To further remedy this situation, the Honors College is also considering adding new roles and positions within the program. This will lighten the load on current advisors, administrators, and other Honors College faculty.

In addition, the increased faculty to student ratio will provide students with more opportunity to interact with professionals within the program. The Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Honors College will continue to be a beacon of leadership within Cleveland State University, especially once there are hires to keep up with the expanding college.

Engineers Without Borders

by Joshua Silvaroli

Engineers Without Borders (EWB) is a group on campus focused on helping Third World countries through various engineering projects. The President of EWB is a third-year Mechanical Engineering student, Jen Wisniewski. Wisniewski joined EWB during her first year at Cleveland State University. She moved through the ranks by first holding the position of secretary, then vice president, and currently, is president.

Wisniewski is working to change the appearance and engagement of Engineers Without Borders; she is working to finish projects, gain new members and increase funds. Dur-

ing this past summer, EWB took a trip to Belize to analyze the issues the country is facing and begin to draft the groundwork for solutions. When EWB returns to Belize, the first projects to complete are to install a water purification system for the hard water and to build a functional community center.

Wisniewski's goal for the organization is to be able to continue projects and community service with increased, dedicated membership. She strives to engage students and create a love for humanitarian work – and encourages students to change the world.

New Engineering Building

by Tyler Kaptain

In December of 2017, Cleveland State University will unveil phase one of its new \$60 million state-of-the-art engineering building. The building is a 100,000 square foot addition to the original Washkewicz College of Engineering. Along with the addition of much-needed classroom space, the college has concentrated on adding facilities dedicated to engaging engineering students.

There is a new dedicated space for the freshman design lab. This area will be for the “Intro to Engineering” course where students will be able to get a feel for what engineering is all about. Parker Hannifin is adding a new motion and control laboratory. Students will have the opportunity to do cutting-edge research. There are also numer-

ous new teaching laboratories to bridge the gap between lectures and hands-on research experience. Notably, a Dan T. Moore Maker Space will be added. The objective of this new space is to allow students to bring their engineering designs and blueprints to life. The general space is an open, collaborative environment. Students can take advantage of a machine shop, laser cutters, soldering stations, 3-D printing, and welding booths. The “Maker Space” also includes rooms available for students to collaborate on different interdisciplinary projects.

The new engineering building will engage students and connect the classroom to the real-world. For engineers, solving equations on paper is not always enough.

CSU Welcomes Inaugural Director of New Film School

by Matt Mascolo

After years of planning and waiting, Cleveland State University finally welcomed its new School of Film and Media Arts on July 1, 2017. What began in 2016 as a \$7.5 million-dollar budget allocation for a standalone film school has finally materialized. Additionally, with the inception of this new film school comes Frederic Lahey, the school's inaugural director.

Lahey has a history of establishing film programs around the country. For example, he built the Colorado Film School to be what is now considered one of the top film schools in the United States. In comparison, Lahey said that the Colorado Film School's "situation was quite different: no funding, no students, no equipment, no space, no curriculum;" while, he stated that the obstacles to creating a standalone film school at Cleveland State were "relatively modest" by comparison. Lahey also stated "the greatest challenge in the last decade at CFS was the lack of tax incentives for the film industry in

Colorado," which he points out has already been addressed by the Ohio legislature with \$40 million dollars in tax credits.

The revamped film school, which will be located on the sixth floor of the Ideastream building in Playhouse Square, will offer a new BFA degree program. The program will see an increase in class options and required credit hours.

Lahey believes that these additions and the school's separation from the School of Communication will make the program stand-out and succeed. "A film school should be run much like a medical school or a law school," says Lahey, "it needs to have academic rigor with the feel and experience of the professional world that the students will encounter upon graduation."

This emphasis on the professional world, as well as the financial investment, bodes well for the new film school and hopefully results in a turnaround that parallels Lahey's work in Colorado.



Photo by Timothy Higgins



New School of Film, Television, and Interactive Media

by **Tim Higgins**

In April 2016, Cleveland State University announced plans to build what will become the School of Film, Television, and Interactive Media. The plans for the new program were made possible by a \$7.5 million-dollar grant from the State of Ohio along with a new partnership between CSU and the Cleveland public broadcasting station, Ideastream.

Initial plans for the location of the new school involved an expansion from the Music and Communication building. The building, located at 2001 Euclid Avenue, was built twenty years ago. Therefore, the resources and technology that students currently utilize are outdated.

Following the announcement of the partnership between CSU and Ideastream, a new plan was announced for an off-campus location for the school. The Idea Center in Public Square is the home of the Ideastream public broadcasting station and the future home for the School of Film, Television, and Interactive Media.

The school will be housed on the sixth floor and will include over 36,000 square feet of space. Some significant features of the space will include state-of-the-art editing and production facilities, studios, and smart classrooms, as well as access to resources and facilities in other areas of the building. The new location is expected to open for the Fall 2018 semester.

CSU Photo by Timothy Higgins





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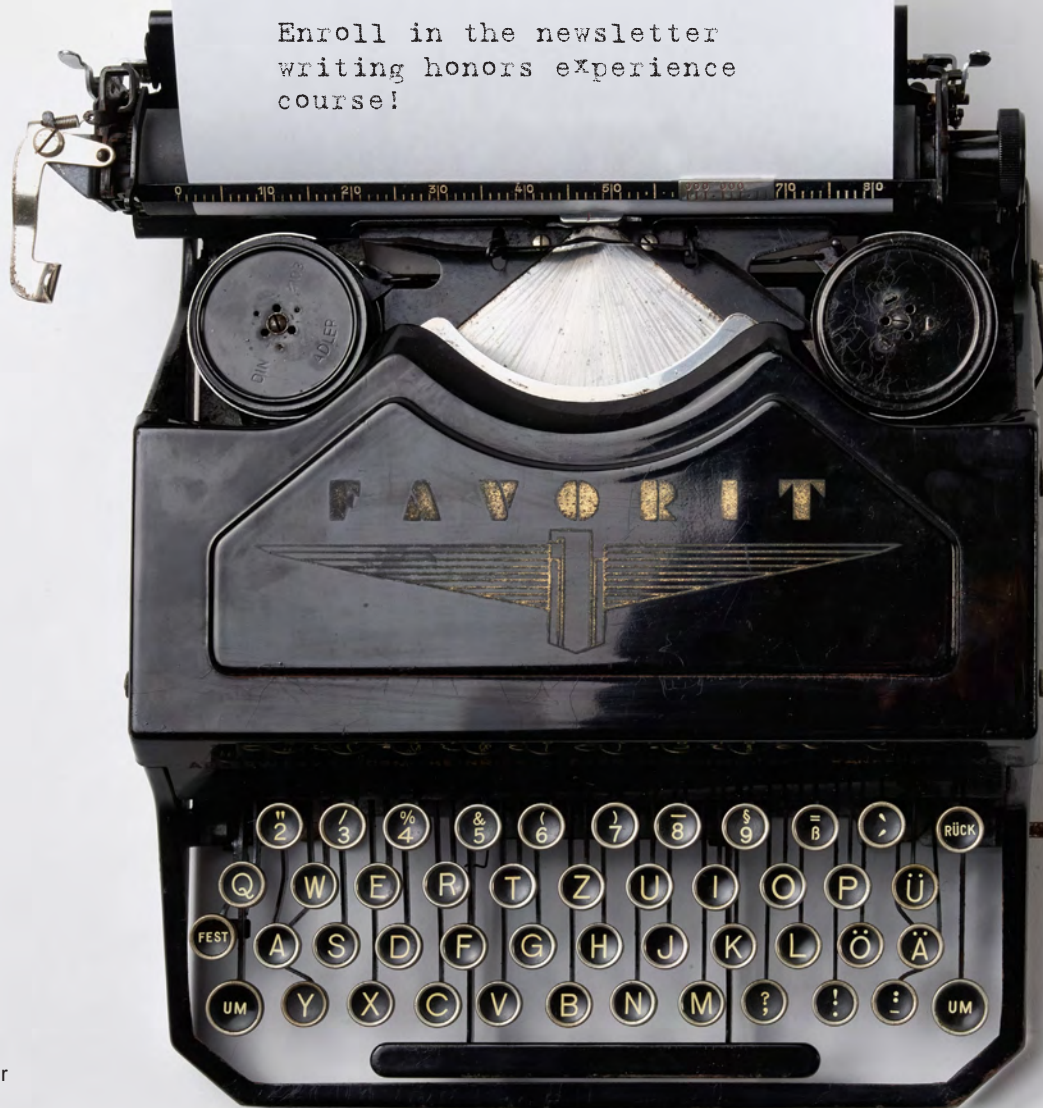


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