



The Crusader

A Student Publication

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Editors: McManamon and Day

Everything New to the Abbey

As Belmont Abbey continues to grow, you may be noticing some new faces, particularly amongst the faculty. The Abbey recently welcomed several new professors in the past year or two. Dr. Hren joined the college in Fall 2017 and has become an assistant professor of the new Honors College, as well as being an English instructor with a focus specifically in the creative writing class. Along with Dr. Hren, Dr. Basil returned to the college, her Alma Mater, in Fall 2018 to also be an assistant professor for the Honors College. Another new faculty member who also joined this last Fall is Professor Imparato who teaches in the Government and Political Philosophy department. The Abbey hopes to extend other departments as well, they are currently looking for professors to fill several positions in both the English and Accounting departments.

Along with these developments in the teaching staff, new academic curricula are being cultivated. A host of new major and minors are set to become available. The Business department is bringing in two new majors: Economics (Spring 2019), and Finance (Fall 2019). The Theology department is planning on initiating two majors as well: Parish and Pastoral Ministry (Fall 2019), and Theology and Philosophy (Fall 2019). Finally, the Philosophy department hopes to start their own new major in the Fall, the PPE major which stands for Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. Accompanying these new majors, several new minors are set to be implemented in the Fall 2019 semester: Dance, Writing, and Digital Humanities.

It is also important to note, that amidst these new major and minors, one of the Abbey's premiere scholarships recently underwent a revamping. The former Honors Institute has been converted into the Honors College. The program is in its early beginnings, having only started this past Fall with a new group of freshman. The Honors College offers a unique three option education in the Great Books. Students of Honors can either get a full 120 credit curriculum in Great Books, a 90 credit Great Books major, or a 75 credit Great Books minor with a traditional major of their choosing. Whatever option they chose, students will fulfill their core curriculum primarily through the Honors College and will take these classes mainly with fellow Honors classmates

Student Interview on Page 2



Kateri Brehany is a sophomore Honors Institute student pursuing a degree in History. Kateri is involved around campus as an Abbey Ambassador for the Admissions office, and a member of several clubs such as Student Activities, Faithful Daughters, the Women's Group, and the ISI Civitas club (in the works). Favorite pastimes include photography and writing.



STUDY ABROAD

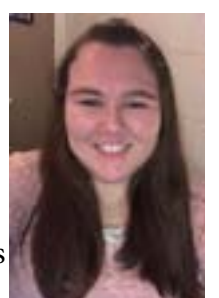
When deciding on a college many students are sure to look at the study abroad options. Belmont Abbey now has a number of opportunities to study abroad. In the past, most of the study abroad opportunities have only been in the summer. At the end of the spring semester, most years, fifteen qualifying students travel to either Ireland or Italy as a part of the Christianity and Culture minor. Recent alumna, Stephanie Du Sablon, participated in this program. While in Rome, her class studied the culture there, as well as participating in different pilgrimages. Reflecting on the trip, she says, "It was deeply spiritual to see these items that belonged to various martyrs... showing the need to be witnesses to the Faith." Rising seniors of the previous Honor's Institute, now Honors College, also travel to Italy for six weeks every summer. Emma Talbot, a current senior, traveled with the Honor's Institute this past summer.

When asked about the trip she commented, "I was able to immerse myself in Italian culture and widen my understanding of life, politics, food, and faith" and describes the opportunity as "truly indispensable!" In the past, these two trips have been the only study abroad opportunities that were offered. As of recently, however, the Abbey has made progress in offering two more options. The JPII Project is currently attempting to partner with Belmont Abbey to provide an opportunity to study abroad in Poland for a full semester. Due to the fact that this is not a confirmed partnership yet, very little information is known. The Abbey does, however, now provide the opportunity to study in Milan, Italy for a full semester. This past fall was the first time this opportunity was awarded. See the article on the first Milan study abroad trip to learn more about the experience one student had this past semester.

Student Interview on Page 2



Samantha Day is a sophomore at The Abbey. She is a part of the Honor's Institute and is majoring in English. She is heavily involved on campus and enjoys the sense of community that surrounds the Abbey



Student Interview: Honors College

Sara Hey is a second-semester freshman who is pursuing a Great Books minor with a Biology major, along with her academics she is also a member of the Abbey's softball team. Sara was happy to share her own personal experience of the Honors College:

What attracted you the Honors College in particular and what do you enjoy about it?

I was attracted to the Honors College because of its emphasis on philosophy and the Great Books. I've always loved the humanities, and I didn't want to lose that facet of my education when I got to college, especially as a STEM major. The idea of a "college within a college" was also highly attractive, and so far the Honors College has lived up to that expectation. The professors are wonderful and incredibly knowledgeable; in fact, I am often in awe of how well they know the subject matter and how much they truly care for their students. I enjoy the Honors camaraderie, cultural events, and overall tight-knit atmosphere.

Is there anything you didn't expect before you started, and did it change your opinion at all?

I definitely wasn't expecting to engage in several successful seminars. I've been a part of seminar-style classes in the past, but they

don't work well if the students don't participate. For the most part, the Honors students are engaged in class and keep the discussion's momentum going by contributing their well thought out suppositions. If anything, I've come to enjoy the Honors learning environment even more.

Balancing Honors, Softball, and a Biology major makes for a busy life, how do you do it?

My time management skills still show room for improvement (wish me luck!), but as a general principle, I just try to take advantage of my free moments. One must realize there's no "off-season" when he's striving for a goal, so in athletic terms, "The grind doesn't stop." I'm very fortunate to have some experience with a busy lifestyle from high school, where I participated in many similar activities. Plus, it's never too much to handle when you have a genuine interest in your studies.

Would you recommend the Honors College to anyone, and what is one thing you wished you had known about it before you started?

I would absolutely recommend the Honors College, but to a specific type of student. The student who would thrive in Honors is the one who is conscientious about his work, dedicated to achieving excellence, and enjoys analyzing the material beyond just the words

on the page. I don't think there's anything else I wish I'd known before I joined. Entering with an open mind and an open soul might be the best advice I could give.

What's your favorite thing about the Honors College?

In addition to a rigorous course of study, the Honors College is very focused on fostering healthy relationships with fellow classmates and professors alike. These connections originate in the classroom and are strengthened through Honors events, such as trips to the Charlotte Symphony or backyard bonfires. I think this sense of community is invaluable beyond expression.

Especially for a student new to Belmont Abbey, finding one's niche can make all the difference in his college experience.

As the college continues to grow and expand, it is heartening to see efforts for the academics to grow with it. Likewise, it is good to see students such as Sara finding enjoyment through their education here at the Abbey.

Interview conducted by Kateri Brehany

Student Interview: Study Abroad

A participating student in the Fall 2018 Milan study abroad trip, Bethany Gareis, has agreed to share her experience from this past semester. For Bethany, traveling has always been a dream. When she heard about the Milan study abroad opportunity she saw it as her chance to make that dream a reality. Despite her interest, she was originally hesitant about the opportunity and is grateful that her loved ones pushed her to accept the opportunity. Being away from home for a full semester was a bit of a challenge for Bethany as she has never spent that much time away from her family, but she says, "I got to know myself, which is cliché I suppose but very true." This is not to say that she was never homesick, that was her least favorite part of the trip - that and her craving for peanut butter.

Despite being away from America and without her family nearby, Bethany and other students still made sure to celebrate Thanksgiving. The students joined together at a friend's house where they even invited international students and helped them celebrate their first Thanksgiving. The holiday was slightly unconventional but it is one that Bethany and the other students will probably never forget. Bethany made Milan her

home while she was there for the semester. She enjoyed all of her classes, but she especially enjoyed Citizenship and Religion in a Multicultural Society, where she was "fascinated by every class discussion."

The trip was not always easy. The independence she experienced helped Bethany better her communication skills. she says that this is the most important thing that she learned while overseas. She also struggled with the language barrier and often resorted to using Google Translate to help her communicate with others. She once lost her shoe in the metro and had to explain to a railway worker what had happened with her limited Italian vocabulary. This is another memory that Bethany will cherish. When asked about her favorite memory she could not decide, but she said, "My most favorite moments really stemmed from everyday happenstance." Given the opportunity, she would return to Italy and is even looking at Ph.D. programs that are overseas. This is an experience that changed Bethany's life. One piece of advice that she would give to those considering studying abroad is "Definitely apply! Once you get in, make sure you take advantage of all the student museum passes you can get your hands on."

Interview conducted by Samantha Day

Sports Center Renovations

Made possible with a generous donation from the Wheeler family, over winter break Abbey students received an upgrade to the campus weight room. The Sports Performance Center was refurbished in December with the addition of customized weight lifting equipment, new flooring, and a 1,350 sq. ft. artificial turf functional training area, as to better serve the 39 athletic programs on campus, as well as the entirety of the campus community.

The Sports Performance Center was upgraded and now includes 12 new weightlifting stations with customized racks, benches, bars and plates, branded dumbbells, a new 30-yard turf sprinting, and plyometric area. The facility is open to the entire Belmont Abbey community, including all students, faculty/staff, and monastery.

Hours of Operation:

Fall/Spring Semesters

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Monday - Friday

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM Monday - Friday

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Saturday

Closed Sunday

By Katie McCarthy

SPRING SPORTS

Baseball

The men's baseball team began their spring season February 1st with their home win against Newberry. So far, they have played 12 games going 7-5, with 2 conference wins. They currently stand second in the Conference Carolinas behind North Greenville University. They are coming off a strong 2018 season after finishing 3rd in the conference with an 18-5 record. Last year, the Crusaders made it to the conference tournament, losing to number 2 ranked Mount Olive in game 8. However, the past three baseball games have been postponed or canceled due to recent weather. February 19th's game against Francis Marion, which was rained out, is now scheduled for Wednesday, March 27th.

Softball

The Crusader's softball team underwent a change in coaching staff this season, but seem to be adjusting well to the change starting off their spring season with a home sweep against Saint Andrews. At home, the team is 4-0. Currently ranked 4th in conference, the team is 6-4 overall. Last year, they finished 6th in the conference with a 19-34 record and losing to the number 1 seed Limestone at the conference tournament.

Men's and Women's Golf

Both the men's and women's golf team began their 2019 spring season February 11th at the LMU Spring Kickoff. The



Belmont Abbey women's golf team tied for eighth, shooting a 632 in two rounds. Jenna Nagy was the top finisher for The Abbey as she claimed a share of seventh place. The men's team finished in 12th and shot a 927 over their three rounds. The Crusader men will tee-off for the Southern Tide at Green Valley Country Club March 4-5. While the women are preparing to travel to South Carolina for the Battle at Hilton Head Feb. 25-26. Last year, the women were named the Spring Team Messick Sportsmanship Award winners for 2018.

Men's Lacrosse

According to Conference Carolinas coaches, Belmont Abbey enters the season as the favorite to win the Conference Carolinas Men's Lacrosse Championship. The Crusaders finished 2018 as the winner of the Conference Carolinas Men's Lacrosse Championship after going 14-4 overall. They began their spring season in Savannah, Georgia February 2nd, beating #6 Tampa and are currently 4-0 overall.

Women's Lacrosse

The women's lacrosse team began their season with a loss to Lenoir-Rhyne on February 8th but came back to beat Tusculum February 16th. The team is currently 1-3 overall. They are ranked 3rd in their conference and went 8-2 in Conference Carolinas play and 14-6 overall in 2018.

Men's and Women's Tennis

The Crusader men begin their spring season ranked second in the conference, after last season's 7-3 conference record. They began their spring season February 1st at Presbyterian and are currently 6-9 overall. The women's team currently sit in 6th, going 7-4 in last season's conference matches. They also began their spring season February 1st at USC Aiken and are currently 2-6 overall.

Men's Volleyball

The men's Volleyball team is ranked third in pre-season rankings. Last season, the Crusaders went 13-16 overall and 8-8 in conference. They were also awarded the Spring Team Messick Sportsmanship Award for 2018. They began their spring season in Harrogate, Tennessee January 12th, splitting the day with a win against Campbellsville and a loss at Lincoln Memorial. They are currently 8-4 overall.

By Katie McCarthy

The Spontaneity of Agora Events



Looking for a creative outlet, or simply a place to experience new and intriguing works of art? Come to events hosted by the Agora group on campus! The Agora events attract people of all different backgrounds and interests who share the same appreciation for creativity.

Prior to spring break, Agora hosted the first poetry, song, and story night of the semester. Students of various majors and interests came to our event to enjoy an evening in which others volunteered to sing, recite poetry and excerpts from their favorite works, and to even share their original pieces. Agora has been an outlet for a variety of people; even professors from different departments such as English, Psychology, and History have come to listen and participate.

When you come to our "open-mic" nights, you never know what you'll hear. At the last event, those who came heard poems from Keats, excerpts from Tolkien, original works from both students and teachers, and even works sung and spoken in other languages. Theresa Wilson shared with us the original Chinese myth that the movie Mulan was based on and read in both Mandarin Chinese and English. The Grace auditorium echoed Bethany Gareis's angelic voice as she sang an Irish tune "Black is the Color" in the famous style of a beloved Irish musician. Keegan Reeve sang "Auld Lang Syne" in the Scottish Ayrshire dialect. The audience was also privileged to hear original poems from students like Marc Chiurco and original short stories from Dr. Wren.

There was no shortage of new and interesting poems, short stories, and songs thanks

to those who were willing to share. So the next time you are in need of an entertaining night to either participate, or simply listen to, creative performances, with yummy food included, feel free to come to our Agora nights. Remain on the lookout for another Poetry, Song, and Story night hosted by Agora before the semester comes to a close. We Agora Elves hope to see you there!

By Isabella Bruno, Agora Editor

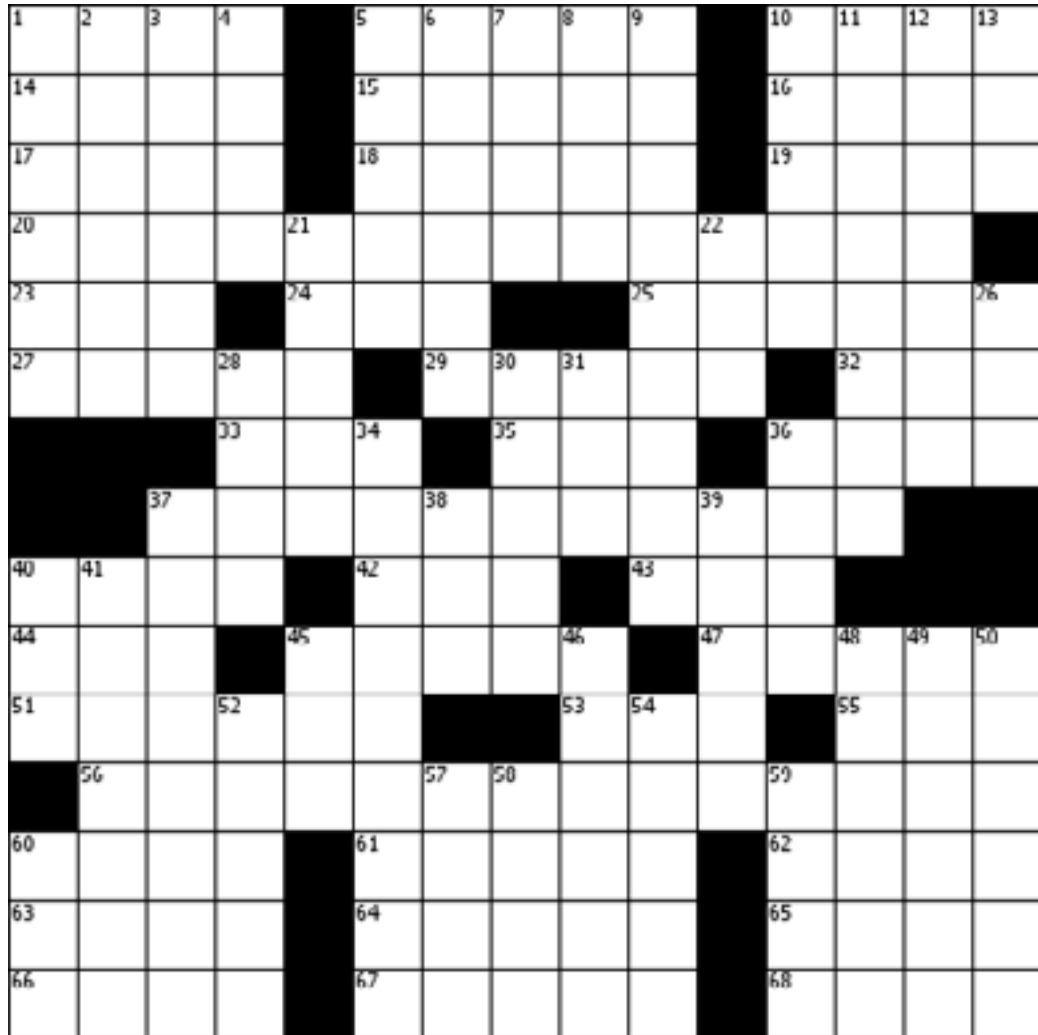


Across

- 1. Pierce with a fork
- 5. Top floor topper
- 10. Zapata "zip"
- 14. Discredited (with "down")
- 15. Semi-soft cheese
- 16. "---- a Song Go Out of My Heart"
- 17. Cain's victim
- 18. Cutting light
- 19. Chowder choice
- 20. Shout from an exhausted spelling bee contestant?
- 23. Homer Simpson says it
- 24. Condition of wow
- 25. Slicker
- 27. Football coach Amos Alonzo ---
- 29. Prepares for press
- 32. Swindle
- 33. Bumbling one
- 35. Tolkien forest giant
- 36. Interruption starter
- 37. Shout to someone with a blindingly bald head?
- 40. Border upon
- 42. Computer option
- 43. --- Xing (street sign)
- 44. Ryan of "Sleepless in Seattle"
- 45. Arm wrestler's pride
- 47. --- and all (as is)
- 51. Corresponding partner
- 53. Ballpark fig.
- 55. It might follow you
- 56. Shout to a talkative butcher?
- 60. Home of a famous listing
- 61. Telegraph developer Samuel
- 62. Redding of R&B
- 63. Divisible by two
- 64. Girl with a gun
- 65. Cool off like a boxer
- 66. Sign over
- 67. Like Fran Drescher's voice
- 68. Waffle brand

Down

- | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Where to find fans | 21. Continually find fault with | 45. 1987 hit for Michael Jackson |
| 2. As well | 22. Ill. neighbor | 46. Omar Khayyam's land |
| 3. "Queen of Soul" Franklin | 26. Tach letters | 48. Disorderly |
| 4. Dracula portrayer Lugosi | 28. Joint problem | 49. Setting straight or righting |
| 5. Radiant | 30. Spread salt in winter | 50. Is responsible for |
| 6. Perfectly | 31. Neither Rep. nor Dem. | 52. 747, for example |
| 7. Derri?re | 34. Nicolas Cage flick (with "The") | 54. Type of trap or wool |
| 8. --- fixe (obsessive thought) | 36. Verdi work | 57. Geraldine Chaplin's mother |
| 9. Redheaded comedian | 37. Having a turned-up snoot | 58. Java vessels |
| 10. Williamson of "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" | 38. Fond du ---, WI | 59. Negative slang word |
| 11. In satisfactory condition | 39. Not yet familiar with | 60. Muscle used in push-ups |
| 12. Sure shooter | 40. Current unit | |
| 13. Source of PIN money? | 41. Apt place to shout, "Honey, I'm home?" | |



BYEBYE BIRDIE

April 4-6 & 11-13 (8pm)

April 6 & 14 (2:30pm)

Book by Michael Stewart
Music by Charles Strouse
Lyrics by Lee Adams

DIRECTED BY JILL BLOEDE
MUSIC DIRECTED BY JIM EDDINGS

Belmont Abbey COLLEGE

THE HAID THEATRE
100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Road
Belmont, NC 28012

For reservations & information:
www.AbbeyPlayers.org
AbbeyPlayers@bac.edu
704.461.6787
All tickets \$18

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The Crusader?

Your submissions are welcome! Please email
The crusaderbac@gmail.com to find out more about
writing for the official student newspaper of Belmont
Abbey College!