

## A Wonderful Welcome to Dr. Hyer

This fall, the Honors Program is welcoming a new member to our staff, Dr. Joel R. Hyer. Before coming to Missouri Western, Dr. Hyer was a history professor for 10 years, and then a Dean for 8 years at Chadron State College in Nebraska. Since the summer of 2019, Dr. Hyer has been the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Missouri Western. Now, Dr. Hyer will also be serving as the Honors Director. Dr. Hyer was asked to take on the role of Honors Director due to the recent decrease in staff at Missouri Western, and he is now more than excited to immerse himself into the program, so that he can learn and be an active member of the program. Dr. Hyer is especially enthused about the addition of UNV 201 to the honors requirements. In Dr. Hyer's eyes, being able to give back through volunteering is a great way to think of others during a time period when students are focused primarily on homework and related matters. He also advocates strongly for students to travel during their undergraduate experience. Dr. Hyer and his family retain this idea and are invested in traveling and experiencing new things. He knows that applied learning, whether through research, studying abroad or hands-on activities in class, is a major attraction for students to come to Missouri Western, and wants to push that objective forward even more and increase the amount of applied learning opportunities that the Honors Program is offering.



## Madness to Reason and Multimedia Storytelling

If you have not heard the buzz around campus yet, next semester there will be a travel opportunity offered through a cross-listed taught by Dr. Teddi Dekka and Dr. James Carivou. Studying many benefits and advantages, which includes a resume builder, an increased development of critical skills like self-awareness and great confidence, as well as international exposure to make you a global citizen. In this colloquia class, you will have the option to opt in to either Dr. Dekka's PSY460: *Madness to Reason* class or Dr. Carivou's JOU428: *Multimedia*



class. The travel opportunity for these classes is a 10-day trip to both London and Paris, where students will be traveling to sites that have both psychologically and journalistic historical sites. After the trip to Europe, students will incorporate their travel experiences into their final projects. Only 30 students will be accepted into the classes, including the Psychology, Journalism, and Honors sections, so sign up as soon as possible. To sign up, it is best to email Dr. Dekka [deka@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:deka@missouriwestern.edu) for more information and the form to apply for the class. For the best price and discounts, sign up before the end of October.

***Congratulations Graduates of  
Fall 2021***

***General Studies Honors***

- *Maelea Couson*
- *Megan Drannan*
- *Kaitlyn Lux*
- *Erin Richards*
- *Ali Tauchen*
- *Ashlyn Voetberg*

***Majors Honors***

- *Kaitlyn Lux*



***New Honors Program and Requirements***

As of this fall, the Honors Department has implemented a new program for both General Studies Honor's completion as well as Majors Honors completion. The biggest change in these two programs are the required credits of UNV 201 through the Honors Department's collaboration with the Center for Service. All incoming freshman honors students are directly accepted into this new General Studies Honors program when they enter Missouri Western and returning honors students now have the choice to switch to this new program or to continue with the old program. Overall, the new program has switched from a previous 24 credits of required Honors coursework to 18 credits. These 18 credits of required coursework includes 12 hours of honors general studies courses, 4 hours of colloquia, and 2 hours of UNV 201.

In addition to General Studies Honors, Majors Honors has also received a new program. Majors Honors has gone from a previous required 12 credits of honors coursework to 9 credits. These 9 credits include 6 credits of upper-level majors coursework, 2 credits of colloquia, and 1 credit of UNV 201.

***Senior Spotlight***

My name is Ashlyn Voetberg. I will be graduating in December with my bachelors in Economics and minor in general business. I have been a full-time Missouri Western student since the fall of 2018. I have been a part of the Honors organization on campus, the marching and concert bands, and the accounting club. I have also held two jobs, one at HNB Bank, and one at Price Chopper. When I graduate in December, I will be taking about a week off work to celebrate and see my friends. At the beginning of January, I will be starting my first full-time job. I will be working at RTS Financial in Kansas City as a Financial Onboarding Representative. While working, I am planning to continue my education and become a Certified Financial Analyst (CFA) as well as a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) within the next 10 years. I would also like to pursue a second bachelor's degree in American Sign Language (ASL). All of this will take time of course, and it will all be done part-time, as I will be building my career at the same time.

