On December 17th, SEMO held its annual fall commencement. It was a day full of tears and high-fives for our graduates. Tears for saying good-bye to our friends, and high-fives to congratulate them and wish them the best of luck with whatever their future might hold. Thirteen of those students graduated as Honors Scholars.
We are excited to announce that in Fall 2017 we are moving the honors floor to LaFerla Hall. LaFerla has many cool features that would be beneficial to honors students:

- Study rooms with white boards on each wing
- Lounges, microwaves, and TVs
- A large lounge on the first floor with TVs, a full kitchen, free laundry, pool tables, and a multipurpose space
- Less than a 5 minute walk to the Recreation Center/Show Me Center
- Close proximity to several academic buildings including Dempster, Johnson, Scully, McGill, and Polytech
We would like to welcome Ms. Sammy Hasler our new honors floor RA! Sammy is from Waterloo, Illinois and is majoring in Physics with minors in Math, Chemistry, and Biology. Her involvement on campus includes Phi Eta Sigma and the Physics and Engineering Club. She plays both the piano and trumpet and has an avid love of traveling. After SEMO, she plans to pursue a career in either Astrophysics or Aerospace Medicine. She would ultimately like to be able to work for NASA or SpaceX one day. The honors program has also had an impact on her college career. During her freshman year she lived on the honors floor in Merick. The first thing that she experienced at Southeast was some of the wonderful people involved in the Honors Program. She feels that the Honors Program has allowed her to meet many amazing students and faculty members that she would not have had the chance to meet without the Honors Program. Her favorite part of the honors program is the atmosphere that comes along with joining and participating. She says that, “Everyone I’ve met in the honors program is very welcoming. The honors faculty members also seem to truly care about the education of their students.” Sammy’s favorite honors faculty member is Dr. McGowan. Dr. McGowan taught her first class that she had freshman year. “He wears the best ties and always made our mornings a little more fun, even if it had to be at 8:00 a.m.! He made the class very enjoyable and I’ll always be glad I took it!” Sammy is excited and honored to be our new RA. In fact, she has set goals to make the students on her floor feel more welcome and outgoing during their time at Southeast. She wants to get the students on the honors floor even more involved in honors programs. She also hopes to help them become more involved at Southeast, if they aren’t already. “I am so excited to get to know all of the students living on the floor and look forward to the rest of the semester!” We send our best wishes to Sammy on achieving her goals for the floor, we know she will do a great job and we can not wait to see the astonishing things she will accomplish!
Alex Mullink is a senior Honors student who just got accepted to medical school. She is from Girard, Illinois and is majoring in Biomedical Sciences/Pre-Med. Her involvement during her time here at Southeast includes being a member of Student Medical Society, President of Alpha Epsilon Delta Pre-professional Honor Society, member of Tri Beta Biology Honor Society, member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Vice President of the National Residence Hall Honorary, and Resident Assistant on campus. She also has over 100 pairs of shoes! Alex truly experiences the farm life and has 14 pigs, 4 dogs, 1 cat, and soon to be some calves and chickens on her farm. She has also taught herself how to knit off of YouTube. Ms. Mullink has not decided 100% what she wants to study in medical school; she is thinking pediatric surgery. She wants to become a pediatric physician and practice at a hospital somewhere not too far from her family. “The honors program has really helped me take initiative of my own education. With my major I was forced to do contracts in order to keep up because not a lot of the classes I needed were available as honors.” With that being said, aside from the various fun events that the honors house put on, her favorite part about the program was being able to control what she was taking and the pace at which she finished projects. Her favorite honors faculty member is Dr. Lilly. “He is my adviser as well and has helped me so much in really everything I’ve done since I got here. He helped me stay on track with the program, let me do contracts with him for other classes if I couldn’t find another honors staff member, and he is helping me finish my senior honors contract.” We are proud of your many accomplishments during your time here at Southeast, Alex. We wish nothing but the best for your career aspirations and we can’t wait to see the impact you make in the world!
**Upcoming Events**

- March 3rd @ 6:30 p.m. - Trivia Night at the Honors House
- April 8th @ 1 p.m.- Messy Olympics: Easter Edition at the Honors House

**Honors Contract Information**

Many of us struggle to find honors sections of courses for our credit requirements. There is an alternative method of receiving those hard to find credit hours, and that is completing a honors contract with honors faculty in their classes. The council has noticed that there are many honors students that do not know that contracts even exist. If people are aware of the contracts, they usually struggle in finding eligible faculty members to complete the contract with. To solve these issues, we decided to share the information about honors contracts and provide the web links to help you complete them below.

**What is an honors contract?**

While enrolling in an honors class is the preferred method of receiving honors credit, an honors contract may be completed to receive honors credit for a non-honors class taught by honors faculty. To determine whether or not your faculty member has honors faculty status visit [http://semo.edu/honors/academics/faculty.html](http://semo.edu/honors/academics/faculty.html). Some honors students find it difficult to enroll in an honors class during a particular semester due to scheduling conflicts; however, they want to complete the Jane Stephens Honors Program. Thus, an honors contract, additional assignments, projects, or presentations (arranged between the student and professor) helps you progress toward completion of the honors program.

**What do I need to do to complete an honors contract?**

The process to complete an honors contract and receive honors credit for a non-honors class is straightforward.

1. Enroll in a class taught by a member of the honors faculty.
2. At the beginning of the semester, meet with your professor and ask if he or she is willing to sponsor your honors contract.
3. Plan your honors assignments/activities/projects with your professor and begin working on them.
4. In collaboration with your professor, complete the Online Honors Contract System before the approval deadline listed on the website.
5. Finish your assignments/activities/projects by the completion deadline listed on the website.
6. Enjoy remaining actively involved in the Stephens Honors Program and receiving honors credit hours.

**Online Honors Contract System**

To submit an honors contract, login with your Southeast Key and password at [https://faculty.semo.edu/honors](https://faculty.semo.edu/honors). With this system you or your honors faculty member can create, edit, and approve an honors contract. Once a contract has been approved by you and your honors faculty member, the director can then approve the contract. You can view the status of your contract at any time in this system. Once complete, your honors faculty member can mark the contract as complete in the system.

If you have questions, please contact the honors program at [honors@semo.edu](mailto:honors@semo.edu) or (573) 651-2513.
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We're on the web! Find us at semo.edu/honors.

You can also join our Facebook group: “Jane Stephens Honors Program At Southeast — OFFICIAL GROUP” or you can follow us on Twitter: @SE_Honors.

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