**Cohort Eight: A new addition to the family**

**Claire White**

COHORT EIGHT, MY FRIENDS, this is very much directed at YOU, my young, determined creatures brimming with potential and at least a few years of racing people to parking spots in Parking Structure II.

Nerves. Excitement. And more nerves. This about describes the typical freshman’s first days of college. Don’t worry. We all yearn to find something that makes us feel accepted and encouraged amidst the confusing whirlwind that is college. Perhaps at freshman orientation you were drawn to the Honors program table, gawking at it, reveling in the possibility of it becoming your “something.” Or maybe you just thought it would look fancy on a grad school application.

Regardless of your reasons for joining Honors, it is important to understand that our excellent program is worth more than bragging rights and claims to high IQs. Many people can regurgitate facts or brag about reading twenty-seven philosophical books by old men. But, belonging to a group such as Honors, is about expanding your horizons, as the adage goes. Being a real intellectual who strives for growth and truth, an Honors member should acknowledge her/his biases and try to understand perspectives and techniques that she/he has never analyzed.

In sharing new knowledge or advancements, or even well-intentioned opinions.

Community is also at the core of our society. Honors is about building lasting relationships, if you choose to get involved. We, the members of the Honors Program, are each other’s home. If you choose to reside in it. Yes, we are a weird, eclectic family, but nonetheless, we belong to each other. We are here to push each other to excel and to support each other in various passions and pursuits.

Thus, dear members of Cohort Eight, we welcome every one of you to the family! Share with us, ask us questions, and let us know if you need help because everyone does at some point. We are ecstatic you are here, so come show us what you’re made of! Your time and talent will shape the future of the Honors Program. You are wonderful, valued, and appreciated. Welcome, welcome, welcome!

**Words of Advice**

**Joshua Cosico**

- Honors Student Committee President

In my four years on campus and in the Honors Program, I think I have experienced a good deal of academic glory and defeat. I wanted to share with you four things I have learned from those highs and lows:

1. **Sleep**
   
   I can’t stress this enough; get sleep! You can’t expect to perform at your peak level without adequate rest. All those late night study sessions are not nearly as productive as you think. Instead, get a solid night’s rest and pick it back up early in the morning. I promise that you will retain the material better.

2. **Buy (and use) a planner**
   
   Geez Louise this has saved my life. For all the hype and hoopla of smartphone calendar productivity and connectivity, there’s something primal and cathartic about crossing something off your “to-do” list with ink.

3. **Take chances**
   
   The papers and projects I enjoyed and learned the most from were the ones where I stepped outside my comfort zone. I will never forget those Honors 2 essays where I tried to argue against the authors. It may have been harder work (since most of my notes from class affirmed their positions), but I really learned more about the material in the long run. I got a real kick out of stretching my creative powers, and I know you will too. (Note: For all you HONR 102 students, make the movie instead of the final essay. You won’t regret it.)

4. **“Hustle Your Face Off”**

   Frankly, I stole this from some Buzzfeed post about how to succeed at work, but I think it’s awesome and fitting for this list: “No matter what you do, do no matter where you go, always be hustling. Work your ass off. Remember that it is okay to make mistakes and to ask questions.”

   Don’t be afraid of hard work and staying busy.

   Have a wonderful semester, everyone! I hope to see you all at an event sometime!