Welcome to The Honor Newsletter! This twice-a-semester update is your one-stop-shop for all things Honor.

I. Honor Elections

University-wide elections will take place from February 20-26. Voting in elections is the simplest way to support our system of Student Self-Governance at the University of Virginia. Please visit uvavote.com to make sure your voice is heard!

Each student has the opportunity to vote for the Honor Committee Representatives for his/her respective school. Additionally, this year there are three student-proposed referenda concerning the Honor System on the ballot:

- Referendum 1: A binding constitutional amendment that would require that the Honor Committee hold a bi-annual assembly to gauge the opinion of the student body.
- Referendum 2: A binding constitutional amendment that would require that, if a majority of the student body votes affirmatively on a non-binding issue concerning the Honor System, the Honor Committee propose a binding constitutional amendment on the same issue in the following year.
- Referendum 3: A non-binding poll of student opinion, asking the question, “Should the Honor Committee consider implementing a multi-sanction system?”

Want to know what your elected representatives think about the proposed referenda? Visit http://www.virginia.edu/honor/2015-Committee-Response/ or the “What do your Representatives Think?” Facebook page to find out more. Additionally, join the Honor Committee for a panel discussion about the referenda on Tuesday, February 17 at 5PM in the Chapel.

II. Upcoming Events and Co-Sponsorships

Honor Committee College Candidate Panel
Sunday, February 15 | 3:00PM | Ern Commons
Want to learn more than who has the best chalk about the candidates running for Honor within the College of Arts and Sciences? Attendees will be able to submit questions to ask the candidates, there will be a meet and greet with the candidates following the panel, and pizza will be provided.
Vigil of Solidarity with UNC
Sunday, February 15 | 9:00PM | Amphitheater
Join the Muslim Student Association, the Honor Committee, and other sponsoring organizations for a Vigil of Solidarity with UNC to honor the lives of Deah Shaddy Barakat, Yusor Abu Salha, and Razan Abu Salha.

Latinos and Honor: LSA General Body Meeting
Monday, February 16 | 7:00pm | Newcomb Hall Kaleidoscope Room
Join the Latino Student Alliance (LSA) and the Honor Committee for a round-table discussion on Honor in the Latino community.

Why are Latinos underrepresented within Honor?
What's your opinion on the referenda?
Do you know what Honor does?

**FREE CHIPOTLE will be provided!**

What Do Your Representatives Think? A Panel Discussion on the Proposed Reforms
Tuesday, February 17 | 5:00pm | The Chapel
Two students have proposed two constitutional referenda and one non-binding question of opinion pertaining to the Honor Committee for the upcoming university-wide election. Your elected Representatives on the Honor Committee believe that it is necessary to share how we feel about the upcoming vote. We will be hosting a panel to address the referenda on Tuesday, February 17 at 5:00 PM in the Chapel. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Additionally, you can find thoughts about the referenda from many of the Committee Representatives at this website: http://www.virginia.edu/honor/2015-Committee-Response/

BSA & Honor Roundtable
Friday, February 20 | 3:00pm | Newcomb Hall South Meeting Room
Please join us for this open round table to share your concerns pertaining to Honor and the Black community, and to discuss referenda directly impacting the Honor System and the University Community. Be seen, be heard!

III. 2014 in Review

Here's a look at the cases of 2014, by the numbers:

Fifty-three reports were filed with the Honor Committee. Nineteen of those reports are currently under investigation.

Eight students have submitted Conscientious Retractions, and twelve have submitted Informed Retractions.
Ten cases have been dropped.

Two students have Left Admitting Guilt.

Thirteen trials have been held. Two students were found guilty. Eleven were found not guilty.

IV. Informed Retractions

Four students have filed Informed Retractions since the previous newsletter. (To learn more about the IR, click here.)

IR 1: In September, a student submitted an Informed Retraction for lying about giving a meal card to a roommate.

IR 2: In November, a student submitted an IR for plagiarism on a paper.

IR 3: In May, a student filed an IR for cheating by plagiarizing portions of a paper he submitted under his own name.

IR 4: In December, a student submitted an Informed Retraction for cheating on a homework assignment in a Computer Science class by copying the work of another without permission.

V. Honor Trials

Five public summaries of trials have become publishable since the previous newsletter. Note: all public summaries are written using the masculine gender for purposes of confidentiality.

Trial 1: A student in the College of Arts and Sciences was accused of cheating on two homework assignments in an economics course. The case was reported by the course professor. The Community argued that the Accused Student used the work of other students from past semesters to complete his homework assignments. The reporter testified that the use of outside sources on assignments was forbidden by the course policies, and that any reasonable University student would know that this could be considered an Honor Offense.

The Accused Student argued that the syllabus allowed consultation of outside sources on assignments that were not graded and that the outside source was consulted for data only. The Accused Student also claimed that he made a good faith effort to interpret the data and provide original analysis.
A panel of randomly-selected students found the Accused Student **not guilty** on the basis of Act and Knowledge.

**Trial 2:** A student in the College of Arts and Sciences was accused of cheating on two homework assignments in an economics course. The case was reported by the course professor. The Community argued that the Accused Student used the work of other students from past semesters to complete his homework assignments. The reporter testified that the use of outside sources on assignments was forbidden by the course policies, and that any reasonable University student would know that this could be considered an Honor Offense.

The Accused Student argued that the syllabus was ambiguous and that it could be interpreted to allow the use of outside sources on ungraded assignments.

A panel of randomly-selected students found the Accused Student **guilty**.

**Trial 3:** A student in the School of Continuing and Professional Studies was accused of cheating on an online discussion by misrepresenting an outside document as his own work. The case was reported by a student in the class.

The Community argued that the Accused Student copied language from the outside source, without citation, and pledged the work as his own, which proves beyond a reasonable doubt that he committed the Act of cheating.

The Accused Student acknowledged that his response came directly from the outside source, but that this type of comment was permissible within the framework of the class. Further, the course professor testified that the student worked in accordance with the course Honor policies.

A panel of both randomly-selected students and Honor Committee representatives found the Accused Student **not guilty** on the basis of Act and Knowledge.

**Trial 4:** A student in the Curry School of Education was accused of lying to a police officer during the course of an arrest, and accused of the separate act of lying to a University administrator. The case was reported by an administrator.

The Community argued that during the course of an arrest, the accused student knowingly misrepresented his identity to a police officer. Furthermore, this act of lying was done in an attempt to avoid the consequences of his arrest. The accused student argued that while he did initially misrepresent his identity, this was due to the confusion and stress of the arrest, and he
later correctly identified himself. In a second act, the Community argued that the accused student lied regarding his presence on grounds to a Curry faculty member and academic dean. The accused student argued that he misunderstood when the question was referring to, and had he been asked more specifically, he would have answered correctly.

A panel of randomly-selected students found the accused student **guilty** of both offenses.

**Trial 5:** A student in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences was accused of cheating on multiple graduate school applications by soliciting unauthorized aid on an online platform for the applications’ completion.

The Community argued that by using this online platform, which connects clients with freelance workers, the Accused Student knowingly used prohibited resources by paying another individual to complete his graduate school applications, thus gaining undue benefit, credit and acknowledgment for the work. Further, the Community argued that a reasonable University student would have known that his explicit online request for information could constitute the use of unauthorized aid, and that this significant act would compromise the community of trust.

The Accused Student argued that merely soliciting feedback on assignments was not equivalent to employing this assistance in the assignment’s completion. Because no evidence could prove that the student received unauthorized assistance through his online post, or that he subsequently used this assistance in his graduate school applications, the criterion of Act was not fulfilled.

A panel of randomly-selected students founds the Accused Student **not guilty** of cheating on the basis of Act and Knowledge.

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Newcomb Hall
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