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

I. Honor & Finals

Every finals season, Honor gives out free green books, bagels, energy drinks and more. Find out where to get some by visiting the event page on Facebook!

II. The Year in Review

Here's a look at the cases of 2013, by the numbers:

- **Thirty-four** reports have been filed with the Honor Committee. **Three** of those reports are currently under investigation.
- **Seven** students have submitted Conscientious Retractions, and **seven** have submitted Informed Retractions.
- **Ten** cases have been dropped.
- **Three** students have Left Admitting Guilt.
- **Sixteen** trials have been held. (Three of these were joint trials for students accused of collaboration.) **Seven** students were found guilty. **Twelve** were found not guilty.

III. Conscientious Retractions and Informed Retractions

Seven students have had the courage and integrity to come forward and file Conscientious Retractions over the past year. Three have filed CR’s since the previous newsletter. (To learn more about filing a CR, click here.)

**CR 5:** In October, a student filed a CR for telling a lie during a job interview.

**CR 6:** In November, a student filed a CR for cheating on an assignment by using information found on the internet.

**CR 7:** In November, a student filed a CR for lying to a professor in order to skip class.

Seven students have filed Informed Retractions over the past year. One student has filed an IR since the previous newsletter. (To learn more about the IR, click here.)
IR 7: A student was reported for cheating on a homework assignment by using answers from a previous semester. The student admitted to the Act and filed an IR.

IV. "LAGs" and Honor Trials

Three students have Left Admitting Guilt ("LAGGED") over the past year. One student has LAGGED since the previous newsletter.

There have been sixteen trials over the past year. Time has elapsed such that seven public summaries have become publishable since the previous newsletter. Note: all public summaries are written using the masculine gender for purposes of confidentiality.

Trial 8: A student in the College of Arts & Sciences was accused of cheating on a midterm in his economics course using notes stored on an iPhone that was confiscated from the student’s desk. The case was reported by the student’s professor.

The Community argued that the phone was too large relative to the size of the desk for the student to have been unaware of its presence in the ten to fifteen minutes before it was confiscated. The Community further asserted that the phone’s settings (the screen was kept dim and was prevented from automatically locking), the organization of the notes, and other circumstances proved beyond a reasonable doubt that the student intended to use the phone to cheat. The Accused Student argued that he left his phone on his desk by accident and did not realize that it was there until his TA confiscated it, as he was focused only on the exam.

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

Trial 9: A student in the College of Arts & Sciences was accused of Cheating on a final exam in a Physics class. The case was reported by the teaching assistant who proctored the exam.

The Community argued that the teaching assistant who reported the case and three other proctors witnessed the Accused Student looking at exams of several students next to him. Community witnesses noticed him looking around the room with unusual frequency, often looking intently at other tests, flipping through his own exam, and marking and changing answers accordingly. The proctors remembered that the student’s behavior was so noticeable that they issued a verbal warning for students to keep their eyes on their own exams. The Accused Student argued that a medical condition made it difficult for him to concentrate during the exam. The Accused Student also pointed to the course grader’s statistical analysis, which suggested negligible correlation between his test and the tests of the students sitting around him. The Accused Student also testified that he had retaken the exam under close supervision and had done well on the re-take, suggesting he had no motivation to cheat.

A panel comprised of randomly-selected students found the Accused Student not guilty on the basis of Act and Knowledge.

Trial 10: A student in the College of Arts & Sciences was accused of Cheating on a final exam. The
case was reported by the course professor.

The Community argued that the student had cheated on a final examination by looking at unauthorized notes that he brought to class. The primary witness for the Community claimed to have seen the Accused Student reading essay outlines while he was writing his exam and suggested that he could have created the outlines before the exam, because the professor had sent out the essay prompts in advance. The witness testified that the Accused Student shuffled through papers on the floor under his desk. The Accused Student said he never referred to any unauthorized sources while he was taking his exam. Students had to write different essays in different blue books and write their student ID numbers on their blue books for the purpose of name-blind grading; the Accused Student said that, at one point during the exam, he shuffled through his blue books on the floor to copy his student ID number from one blue book to the others. The Accused Student also said that his handwriting was too small for him to have read any papers that he would have tried to read from the floor.

A panel comprised of Honor Committee members found the Accused Student not guilty on the basis of Act and Knowledge.

**Trial 11:** A student in the College of Arts & Sciences was accused of Cheating by unauthorized collaboration on nine assignments in five classes. The case was reported by a person not affiliated with the University of Virginia.

The Community argued that the aid the student received went beyond mere peer editing. They presented evidence of emails and online chat messages in which the Accused Student and the Reporter discussed the Accused Student’s papers and assignments. The Community argued that the Reporter discussed the ideas behind the papers, helped refine the Accused Student’s arguments, and provided guidance on how to argue most convincingly, going far beyond simple grammatical or “structural” suggestions. The Community also presented course syllabi that forbade students from gaining help from anyone but those course professors and a voicemail in which the Accused Student called the Reporter and thanked him for writing a paper for him. The Accused Student argued that he only received aid for grammar and stylistic changes on these assignments without any alteration of ideas or content. He presented a course syllabus in which the professor suggested going to the U.Va. Writing Center for help and argued that the help he received from the Reporter did not go beyond the help he would have gotten from a Writing Center employee.

A panel comprised of randomly-selected students found the Accused Student not guilty on the basis of Act and Knowledge.

**Trial 12:** A student in the College of Arts & Sciences was accused of Lying to postpone the date of his final exam. The case was reported by his professor.

The Community argued that the student lied to the testing coordinator to postpone the date of his final exam. The professor had not given the student permission to move the exam, but the testing coordinator claimed that, when asked if he had permission to move the exam, the Accused Student said he had the professor’s permission. The coordinator said that the policy is never to move an exam unless a student affirms he has his professor’s permission and that he never would have moved the exam without such confirmation from the Accused Student. The Accused Student argued that he only told the test coordinator that he needed to change the time of his exam without any reference to receiving permission from his professor to do so. The Accused Student had made previous short notice arrangements with this testing coordinator. He called a witness who claimed to have heard him
speak with the testing coordinator and not heard the student mention professor permission.

A panel comprised of randomly selected students found the Accused Student not guilty on the basis of Act and Knowledge.

**Trial 13:** A student in the College of Arts & Sciences was accused of Cheating on two economics assignments by using a past student’s work. The case was reported by the course professor.

The Community argued that the Accused Student had used another student's work from a past semester to complete the assignments. The professor testified that he used very similar assignments from semester to semester with subtle differences in specific details not relevant to solving the problems and that the Accused Student’s work contained the modified details that matched the previous semester’s assignment. The Community also argued that the electronic file’s metadata, including when the document was created, when it was saved, and for how long it had been edited, was inconsistent with any document that would have been created in that semester. The Accused Student argued that he had completed the work on his own in a timeframe consistent with his group’s email thread and that he had not submitted work from the previous semester with the intention of passing it as his own. He said that on one of the assignments, he had changed some subtle formatting details and did not realize those specific changes would coincidentally make his work resemble the previous semester’s version of the assignment. He also said that, for another of them, he had unintentionally attached and sent his group an old copy of the assignment which he had received from a friend for studying purposes and which he had not used to complete his own work and that this mistake should not be considered cheating.

A panel comprised of randomly selected students found the Accused Student not guilty on the basis of Act and Knowledge.

**Trial 14:** A student in the College of Arts & Sciences was accused of Cheating on his final exam in a French class. The case was reported by another student in the class.

The primary witness for the Community claimed to have observed the Accused Student referring to note cards in his bag and his sweatshirt pocket during the exam. The Community also said that the student made unauthorized use of his cell phone during the exam while concealing his actions inside the bag beside his desk and provided evidence that the student received a text message that he admitted to reading during the test. The primary witness also observed the Accused Student looking at an exam that another student had turned into the professor’s empty desk and making changes to his own exam before turning it in. The Accused Student said he had looked in his bag because he was expecting an important message. The Accused Student also said that he did not have note cards but that he did have a review packet, which he hurriedly put in his pocket before the exam began and placed in his bag once he had completed his exam. When taking the exam to the front of the room, the Accused Student said he decided to make a last minute change to a couple of his answers and that he did not look at the exams that were already submitted before completing his own.

A mixed panel of randomly-selected student and Committee members found the Accused Student not guilty on the basis of Act and Knowledge.
Follow us on Twitter
Visit our website