FACULTY HONORS SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY: SPRING 2018
HONORS PROGRAM: WOR-WIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE

AWARD: $500.00

ELIGIBILITY: Students who meet the entrance criteria for the Honors Program and who have successfully completed one or more Honors courses or who have registered for an Honors course for the spring semester of the scholarship award may submit an essay.

TOPIC: Thanks to the open nature of the internet, information is spreading more rapidly than ever before. However, this information is not always reliable. Stephen Colbert of Comedy Central coined the phrase “truthiness” to describe what speakers want to be true rather than what they know is true, and nowhere was this more evident than the 2016 election. Partly this was achieved through fake news websites, often spread through social media outlets like Facebook, influencing public opinion. According to The Guardian, fake news is “completely made up and designed to deceive readers to maximize traffic and profit… and can include websites that circulate distorted, decontextualized or dubious information.” Famous 2016 headlines included the Pope endorsing Donald Trump, Donald Trump sending his own plane to rescue 200 stranded marines, and the infamous #Pizzagate, where leaked e-mails from John Podesta were assumed to contain coded references of “cheese pizza” to child-trafficking rings involving Clinton and other Democrats. One man, Edgar Maddison Welch, even fired three shots into the Comet Ping Pong pizzeria in order to rescue the alleged sexually abused children, finding nothing but families and pizza.

In a research-based argument, explore the impact fake news is having on our culture and what, if anything, you believe we can do about it.

FORMAT: Three to four pages, double-spaced, typed using a 12-point font (Times New Roman or Arial). Use MLA style documentation and include an MLA style Works Cited page as the fourth or fifth page. Include a title for your essay and at the end of the essay, include your full name, address, phone number, and your email address.

SUBMISSIONS: Attach your essay as a Microsoft Word file (.doc or .docx) to an email to mreddish@worwic.edu. The deadline for submissions is November 17, 2017. An award decision will be made on or before December 4, 2017.

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