

ST. OLAF HONOR COUNCIL

Spring 2010 Election Candidates

Vote online at www.Oleville.com

Candidates were asked to answer the following questions:

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Honor Council? What professional skills do you hope to gain from the experience?
2. What skills do you bring to the Honor Council that will make you an effective member?
3. What role do you feel the Honor Code and the Honor Council should play in the college judiciary?
4. Please add any other information you feel will be helpful

Class of 2013

Jennifer Arnspang

Majors: English, Education in English and Spanish

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Extracurricular activities: Philharmonia Orchestra, Thursday Night Bible Study, Collegium Musicum

Questionnaire Responses:

1. **Why are you interested in serving on the Honor Council? What professional skills do you hope to gain from the experience?**

Ever since the Week One program about the St. Olaf Honor Code, I've been enthralled with the idea of becoming an Honor Council member. During Cody Venzke's Powerpoint presentation I beamed with pride for the way St. Olaf as an institution fosters integrity in its students through the Honor Code. Perhaps this fascination took such deep root in my thoughts because I have always been the student unafraid to call others out on dishonest behavior. Among friends I refuse to let my work be copied. I am "that girl" who spends a dedicated time on her work because I care to be taught and to learn. In high school most of the cheating I witnessed was outside of class, and I always spoke out against students—whether friends or strangers—who blatantly disrespect the work of their peers and the trust of their teachers. Although I do not believe grades are a sufficient way to measure a person's grasp of the knowledge in a class, I want them to be accurate for what they are meant to be: an indication of how well or poorly a student was able to answer questions about a particular subject on a given day. So although no system can ensure complete fairness, I really want to be a part of the process that distinguishes St. Olaf among other institutions in placing the monitoring of academic honesty into students' hands.

If elected to serve on the Honor Council, I hope to augment my ability to work through difficult situations effectively in a professional community. I also believe that operating by

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the policies of the Honor system in dealing with cases will teach me to respect the process of the law and the steps required for change in policies. Accountability to the St. Olaf institution is a commitment I do not take lightly.

2. What skills do you bring to the Honor Council that will make you an effective member?

I believe that as a member of the Honor Council I will exercise unbiased justice and be a part of a community of people who value honesty. I am an articulate speaker and a fair writer, however the most important quality I would add to the group would be my conviction for what is right and what is wrong, yet, I trust a person until they break that trust or act in an unloving way.

3. What role do you feel the Honor Code and the Honor Council should play in the college judiciary?

I feel that I am a perfect fit for the Honor Council because I am very good at keeping encounters confidential. The fact that I take no delight in gossip and do not have Facebook (o my! Yes, it's true!) allows me to be unequivocally unbiased towards people who have been on trial. I am a very respectful person who appreciates the goals of the Honor Council and would not dream of ruining the atmosphere of professionalism that is required for such serious business.

4. Please add any other information you feel will be helpful

One last thing to note: I will be an energetic member of the Honor Council team!

Kathryn Geskermann

Majors: Economics and Spanish

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Extracurricular Activities: Track and Field, APO, SCC

Questionnaire Responses:

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Honor Council? What professional skills do you hope to gain from the experience?

The Honor Council represents a body of students whom have St. Olaf's desired character and work to challenge and enhance the characters of others on campus. I think that the Honor System here is a representation of the community of St. Olaf; people trust one another and have integrity. I would like to help to work in maintaining that reputation of the school through serving on the Honor Council.

Knowing that Honor Council would give me more of a say at St. Olaf and be able to work with the college judiciary, I know that I would gain further leadership and teamwork skills. The added part of challenging character and ethics would give me the knowledge to also challenge my character and carry on the College's ethics into the work place. Overall,

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I believe that serving on the Honor Council presents an opportunity to grow and learn, and also apply those gained skills to the present and future.

2. What skills do you bring to the Honor Council that will make you an effective member?

In high school, I served as secretary for the National Honor Society. Our group was fairly large, about 120 members, and therefore things such as attendance, meeting hours/deadlines, and questions of character were present. As an officer, I frequently dealt with as an individual and as a team (with the 3 other officers and our advisor), these problems. I had to give my input and use my ethics to help in investigating the problem and determining the consequences. I strive to better myself in character and expect that others do so also. Therefore I believe that I would bring forth my previous experience, integrity, and skills of teamwork to the Honor Council.

3. What role do you feel the Honor Code and the Honor Council should play in the college judiciary?

I feel that the Honor Council should play an active role in the college judiciary. The Honor Code, as mentioned previously, is a representation of St. Olaf's character. If it is violated, the school's reputation is at hand, and therefore each case should be looked into. The college's judiciary and the Honor Council are working to better the school, and maintain its integrity. Therefore, the Honor Council I believe should work hand-in-hand with the college judiciary at St. Olaf.

4. Please add any other information you feel will be helpful.

As a student here, having an Honor Code is a stark contrast to test taking in high school. A teacher was always present and anxiously watched for cheating amongst the students. Coming here and taking the first tests, I was surprised to see the teacher proctor the test and then go to another room, available for questions and to turn in the test, but absent in the classroom. I can honestly say that I appreciate the Honor Code. Technically as an adult, I think that I should be expected to not cheat, and that a classroom should be trusted while taking a test. Other students will notice if someone is cheating, which makes sense for the option of not signing the Code, but allowing peers to honor the system is something that should be expected at our ages. It's a good thing to have and also demonstrates our school's character.