

# HONORS EXPRESS

Monthly updates of developments within the Honors community

## Notes from Our Director

**“Democracy, in its essence and genius, is imaginative love for and identification with a community with which, much of the time and in many ways, one may be in profound disagreement.”**

~ Marilynne Robinson

I have only experienced vertigo twice in my life, most memorably while at home with our oldest daughter who was a toddler at the time. The only thing I wanted to do – the only thing I could do – was lie prone on the floor, feebly attempting to communicate to my child the need to get the phone so I could call for a parental assist from a family friend. Vertigo rendered me incapable of even the most basic functions of caring for my most vulnerable dependent.

The political theorist Iris Marion Young talks about the “vertigo of political responsibility” we experience when faced with the challenge of responding appropriately, constructively to the various forms of injustice that threaten to undermine our commitments to one another as fellow human beings. The dizziness, the loss of balance – the *vertigo* of political responsibility – renders us incapable of caring for each other – especially those with whom we disagree – and for shoring up the most basic functions of our ongoing experiment in democracy.

Love is rarely the word used to describe relations between citizens in a democracy. It seems more appropriate for family and friends. But it is February, a month that has come to represent the contortions and distortions of love in modern society. Robinson’s hopeful assessment of the “essence and genius of democracy” is a reminder that if we are to regain a sense of balance, then our shared lives together will require not only a commitment to justice but also a commitment to love.

For reflection: The 2020 political campaigns officially kickoff on Monday with the arcane caucuses in a state I (and Marilynne Robinson) call home. How will you respond to the vertigo of political responsibility? What do you – many of whom are first-time voters – owe one another? What does the democracy you will help sustain look like when “love rises above justice to exceeds its demands”?

-Matthew Bersagel Braley

## Strength for Your Day

When someone has explained something to u 7 times and u still don't get it and u hope they forgive how stupid u are

@beentheretho



Honors Programs Annual

## CHILI COOK-OFF




**Tuesday, Feb. 11**  
**11-1:00 pm**  
**1st Floor Nursing Lobby**

Free will offering.  
Winner chooses charity for collections.

Want to compete? Email Marne Boehm  
at [mboehm62520@viterbo.edu](mailto:mboehm62520@viterbo.edu)

# Events


# FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
						
2	3	4 	5	6 <i>Identities</i> <b>PROJECT</b>	7 	8 
9	10	11  	12 	13	14 	15 Homecoming
16	17	18 <i>Identities</i> <b>PROJECT</b>	19	20 	21	22 Service Saturday
23	24	25	26	27	28 	29 


 Jan. 31: **Failure: A Love Story** @ 7:30pm in Black Box  
Feb. 1: **Failure: A Love Story** @ 7:30pm in Black Box


 Feb. 6: **Identities Project: Panel on Microaggressions** @ 7-8:30pm in NRC 196

 Feb. 7: **Failure: A Love Story** @ 7:30pm in Black Box  
Feb. 8: **Failure: A Love Story** @ 7:30pm in Black Box  
Feb. 9: **Failure: A Love Story** @ 2:00pm in Black Box

 Feb. 11: **Honors Program Chili Cook-Off** @ 11-1:00pm in 1st Floor Nursing Lobby


 Feb. 14: **Valentine's Day**

 Feb. 15: **Homecoming**

 Feb. 18: **Identities Project: Civil Dialogue on Reproductive Rights** @ 7-8:30pm in NRC 196

 Feb. 22: **Service Saturday**

 Feb. 28: **FREE Tickets to Proof** @ 7:30pm in Weber Center. Honors debrief to follow.

 Feb. 28: **Twelfth Night** @ 7:30pm in Weber Center  
Feb. 29: **Twelfth Night** @ 2pm in Weber Center  
March 1: **Twelfth Night** @ 2pm in Weber Center



## Birthdays



Feb. 4: Destiny Brown

Feb. 11: Theodore Braman

Feb. 12: Zachary Schmit

Feb. 20: Yazan Masri

Feb. 27: Griffin Finnestad

