

# HSA Happenings

Photo creds: Jacob Mann

*Happy Holidays from HSA! In this issue, we covered topics ranging from holiday celebrations to puppies and sweets for a cause. We also covered the ADP speech competition and Conversation Day, both events attended by members of the Honors College. So grab your holiday drink and enjoy our final HSA Happenings of 2017!*

— Camryn Carwill, Editor

## Nobel Peace Leadership Series

By Hannah Laboski

On December 6, students joined together at the finale of the Nobel Peace Leadership Series. The series began in early November and was spearheaded by an Honors class on leadership through the Nobel Peace Prize lens. Students conducted a series lasting 5 weeks to educate other first year students on peaceful leadership. Each week two new Laureates were introduced and studied to further understand what it means to be a peaceful leader. The students participating in the series had the opportunity to help in the selection process of West Chester University's Nobel Peace Prize nominee. Students had the chance to choose their top three candidates from a pool of candidates nominated by Honors Societies and the Honors Student Association's International Outreach committee. The top three finalists were Leonardo



Photo creds: Jackie Aliotta

DiCaprio, Paul Farmer, and Umra Omar. The eight students in the Honors Peace class then debated on the three candidates. At the celebration, the nominee was revealed. West Chester University's 2018 Nobel Peace Prize Nominee is Umra Omar. Umra Omar and her group,

Safari Doctors, work tirelessly to provide healthcare for citizens in Kenya. Umra risks her life every day to set up areas to help the sick and those in need. Students are honored to nominate Umra and are excited for the continued partnership and work with the Nobel Peace Institute. ♦



Photo creds: Meg Niiler

# A Day of Conversation

By Jacob Mann

An important part of understanding others comes through interaction. With interaction we are able to build connections and establish interpersonal relationships to better our knowledge of each other. This holds true when getting to know students who are English Language Learners, or ELL's for short, as there stand countless differences among the languages and cultures of different areas. Whether it be students from a different region of the state, or perhaps a country across the globe, it remains imperative that we take the time to establish some sort of relationship, if we intend to gain knowledge on the process of acquiring English through the educational system.

Honors 322: Developing Leadership with ELL's provided a platform to tackle the previously mentioned task when the class held Conversation Day with the students of the ESL program.

During this time, organized by Honors 322 professor Meg Niiler, students of from the ESL program and the honors course had the opportunity to converse and bond over coffee and bagels. Conversations ranged from questions about hometowns and customs, thoughts on current politics, to sports and hobbies, etc. However, most conversations seemed to be on the topic of food, perhaps the most universal language of all.

As a student who participated in this event, I can say with absolute certainty that it was a positive and perspective altering experience. The ability to hear stories about the process of school through the eyes of an ELL student was very insightful and helpful in terms of understanding the struggles they may face, but also in understanding the breakthroughs and rewarding moments of great importance that drive these

students to continue their progression toward fluency in the English language. Not only did I gain a greater sense of knowledge about other languages and cultures, but I, as well as many others from the class, exchanged contact information with several of the ESL students and created new and hopefully lasting friendships. ♦



Photo creds: Meg Niiler



Photo creds: Sean Reitze

# Walking in a Winter Puppyland

By Allison Davis

On December 7, 2017, HSA members and puppies came together to raise money for Barclay Friends Senior Living Community, which suffered a devastating fire on November 16, 2017. Barclay Friends has a special place in HSA's heart, as its Traveling Across Generations committee regularly visited with the residents. TAG has been heavily involved in efforts to help Barclay Friends recover since the fire.



The event, called Winter Puppyland, was organized by Danielle Gendler, Aria Swanson, and treasurer Archana Chungapally, who collaborated with the Brandywine Valley SPCA. Fourteen puppies were brought to Sykes Ballroom

from the BVSPCA, all of which were available for adoption. To attend the event, people had to pay \$3, and then they could play with the puppies for as long as they wanted. There were also various tables set up where they could get information about the BVSPCA and the Barclay Fire, and buy baked goods, hot chocolate, and tickets for the raffle. Volunteers from HSA, the BVSPCA, and Fiji helped to run the event.

Many students attended Winter Puppyland, as well as locals. The puppies were the center of attention, getting lots of cuddles and playtime

with toys, and most importantly meeting many people to possibly give them a home. The event was a big success: there was a constant line of people waiting to see the puppies, and approximately \$2,500 raised to help the displaced residents of Barclay. Not only did Winter Puppyland benefit HSA's senior friends, but adorable puppies waiting for a home for the holidays as well. ♦



Photo creds: Sean Reitze



Photo creds: Camryn Carwill

# ADP Speech Competition

## By Doménica Castro

Friday, December 1st witnessed some of West Chester University's public speaking tutors judge students in the Academic Development Program compete in their annual speech contest held in Main Hall. All contestants were first-year students who were enrolled in A.D.P. public speaking classes. The contestants were selected by their peers and professors to present their persuasive speeches in front of a panel of judges including the public speaking tutors, who were all members of West Chester University's Honors College. Over the semester, the A.D.P. students worked with their tutors to perfect the outline and delivery of their speeches. All speakers received feedback sheets at the end of the night with tips from professors and tutors as to how their argument or delivery could be improved. The competitors presented their speeches over a series of rounds; only the top five best scores advanced

to the final round on the following Monday, December 4th.

The five finalists were Alyson McMullen, Erin Murphy, Mariely Nogueta, Ashley Santana, and Justin Wylie. Doctor Dean hosted the event and greeted students with encouragement and praise. The delivered speech topics covered important subjects such as later start times for school, climate change, PAL, distracted driving, and restoring East Goshen park to its former grandeur. Alyson McMullen came in first place with her speech on climate change. All of the speech topics covered issues worthy of discussion and were delivered with pride and thoughtfulness. The event provided a celebratory space to honor the hard work and achievement of the A.D.P. students as the semester drew to a close. ♦



Photo creds: Helena McKendrick



Photo creds: Max James

# Dr. Dean's Annual Holiday Party

By Max James

On December 3rd, members of the Honors Student Association attended a holiday party on the campus of Princeton University. Dr. Kevin Dean, clad in the garb of jolly Saint Nick, beckoned the busloads of students to the event. Party-goers toured the campus, ate some fantastic hors-d'oeuvres, and socialized with friends and strangers alike.

The party was a welcome diversion as students jumped into the heavy workload between Thanksgiving break and finals. Past the fudge and sherbet punch, the event was jam packed with pastries and entrees galore. This is, of course, not even beginning to mention Dr. Kenda Dean's wonderful wassail recipe.

During the campus tour, students were given a small history lesson on

the architectural prowess of Princeton University. The Honors Choir sang a selection of holiday melodies, before inviting students (and passersby) to join in the caroling as well.

After the caroling, a selection of students partook in a "Secret Santa" gift exchange, a process in which student names are randomly received and one has to figure out the best gift for the other. No matter the holiday one celebrates, the



Photo creds: Camryn Carwill

Honors Student Association created a welcoming and warm environment for all. ♦



Photo creds: Hayley Sholansky



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# Happy Holidays from HSA!

By Anna Hewitt

As the smooth timing of jazz fills the Sykes Theatre, the Jazz Trio took the stage. Members of the trio include Alex Dwyer, Matt Dabertin, and James Weber. As their first song proceeded, James began a melodious sax solo, followed shortly by an awe-inspiring trumpet solo from Alex. Matt brought up the conclusion of solos for the first song on sax before all three performers joined together for a strong conclusion to their first song. Their setlist also included an amazing rendition of "Jingle Bell Rock" which had all the audience members dancing in their seats. Alex Dwyer also made the announcement that they are looking for anyone who plays drum, piano or bass that would like to join the band.

Following the Jazz Trio, the HSA Dance Team took the stage to perform an updated version of their routine from Homecoming. Their routine included a remix of the songs "Disturbia," "Ghostbusters," "The Monster," and

"This is Halloween." The six dancers commanded the stage, amping up the crowd and having a blast. A dancer performed a flip on stage in the middle of the dance. The girls concluded surrounded by Kathleen Shultz as she donned a Santa hat, marking herself the Queen of Christmas.

The HSA Honors Choir followed with amazing performances of "Hallelujah" and "Ring Christmas Bells." Nicole Faiola had an amazing solo at the beginning of "Hallelujah," followed by a strong alto presence in the second verse of the song. Their singing was amazing, and they put on a great performance.

After the choir, the HSA Dance Team took the stage again to perform, this time to a remix of "Baby It's Cold Outside," "Last Christmas," "All I Want for Christmas," and "Santa Tell Me." Hats were thrown during

"Baby It's Cold Outside," and the team mastered the Can-Can during "All I Want for Christmas." The group concluded with the iconic meme "Merry Chrysler" to conclude the night's performances.

However, the night was far from over. Nicole took to the stage to lead the audience in a selection of carols, including "Deck the Halls," "Holy Night," and "We Three Kings." The caroling quickly spiraled into karaoke with "All I Want for Christmas," "Santa Tell Me," "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," and many more. The night was a blast, filled with Holiday spirit and fun. What better way to decompress before finals. ♦



Photo creds: Hayley Sholansky

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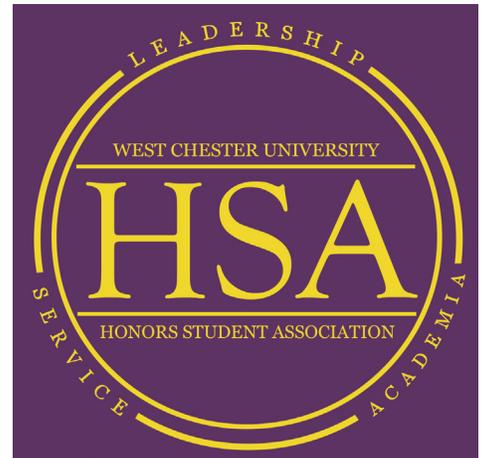
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*HSA Happenings is a student-produced monthly newsletter created and distributed by the Honors Student Association. Its purpose is to supplement the West Chester University community's knowledge of the Honors Student Association's activities and endeavors.*

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