

Meet Tori Jackson: Honors GA

By Ashley Murphy, HC XII

Good leaders try to learn from those around them and, as members of the Honors Student Association, we have the privilege of working with some pretty fantastic leaders. Last week I had the pleasure of interviewing one of these leaders: our Honors Graduate Assistant, Tori Jackson. A member of HC X, Tori has the unique experience of having experienced Honors from the inside, as an undergraduate student, as well as from her current administrative position. She was gracious enough to pass some of these insights along.

Tori noted that her favorite part about her experience with Honors as an undergraduate was “the community aspect.” She went on to say that “I loved showing up on Day 1 knowing that I had forty-two people I already knew.” As her experience continued, she was constantly reminded of the importance of getting involved and engaged in the community. “I know of a lot of kids who go through college not feeling connected,” she explained. “College was about more than just taking classes... the Honors College gave me the tools and opportunities to recognize that.”

Now, as a GA, Tori has the ability to help others recognize those opportunities. One of her major duties is working with the Immediate Past President, Daniel VanHassent, on the Involvement Coordinator meetings with the freshman class. Her other major projects include working on the five year review and helping to develop assessments to continue to improve the Honors community. She currently has office hours on the first floor of the Honors House on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and is there to provide a resource for everyone in the Honors College and is an excellent source of support whether you want to talk about classes, Honors or just life in general.



Left to right: Honors alumni John Russell, Tori, Patrick Melvin, Katie Stull, Matt Whittall

Upcoming Dates:

Dance for a Chance Canning: October 26
General Assembly Meeting: October 31, 8 pm
Autism Speaks Walk: November 2, 11 am
17th Annual Bear Fair: December 7, 5:30 pm

Congratulations to the following students, who received the **2013 Dr. and Mrs. Charles S.**

Swope Memorial Foundation Award:

Melissa Christie
Alissa Conway
Brianna Plaxe

Get More Involved!

By Allison Velez, HC XIV

As much as we wish we could, HSA is not able to organize volunteers for every opportunity on campus. Here are some upcoming events that could use *your* help!

Blood Drives. The American Red Cross has several blood drives on campus this month! Give the gift of life on October 24th (Allegheny Hall), or 30th (The Village)!

Global Aid Network Packing. Help the Global Aid Network (GAIN) by packing food, seeds, and school supplies to send to needy areas around the world! Volunteers are needed from WCU on Tuesday—Saturday 8:30am-4:30pm; Wednesday 6:00pm-8:00pm, and Friday 6 pm - 8 pm. For information go to www.gainusa.org/gdc or call (717)-285-4420.

WCU Tree Planting: WCU is teaming up with the Brandywine Valley Association to plant 600 trees along Plum Run to increase biodiversity on November 2nd from 8 am to 12 pm. For more information contact Mauricio Martinez at MM758713@wcupa.edu.

Fall Clean-Up at The Hickman. On Saturday, November 9th from 8 am to 12 pm The Hickman, a local retirement community, is looking for volunteers for their Fall Clean-Up and will thank their volunteers with a free continental breakfast! To sign-up, contact Jen Harris by November 1st at (484)-760-6360 or jharris@thehickman.org.

Fall Clean-Up at Everhart Park. Help clean up our own Everhart Park in town on November 16th! Volunteers are gathering between 9 am and 12 pm at the Green Activity Building on West Union Street. RSVP in advance by contacting Herb Schwabe at (610)-517-7645 or herbschwabe.Realtor@gmail.com.



AIDS Walk Philly 2013



International Coastal Cleanup 2013

Arts & Crafts at the Kennett Area Senior Center. Enjoy crafting with the seniors at the Kennett Area Senior Center on Monday, Tuesday and Friday! For details and specific times contact Tom Hoehle at (610)-444-4819 or thoehle@kennettseiorcenter.org.

Chester County Food Bank. Volunteers are needed for a multitude of tasks all year round; visit www.chestercountyfoodbank.org/donate/volunteers to see what you can do to help the hungry in our community.

HSA Event Spotlights



HSA members enjoying last year's "Luau" event!

For the third year since its debut as Honors College alumna Alexis Stinson's Capstone Project, **Dance for a Chance** will be held on November 9, 2013 in the Sykes ballrooms. This year's charity dance marathon, under the leadership of sophomore Jackie Iovine, is centered around the theme "Superheroes." Dancing from 10 am to midnight, partners will compete to be the last ones standing on the dance floor. The top partners' prizes? Donating a percentage of the proceeds raised from the event to the charity of their choice.



The TAG committee will be holding a **Pumpkin Decorating Social with the senior residents of Barclay Friends** on October 26 at 2:45 p.m. Transportation will be provided! Email Emily (EP766180@wcupa.edu).

The Library Resource Committee will be holding the annual **Library Scavenger Hunt** on Saturday, October 26 at 10:30 a.m. Come out and enjoy bagels as you learn more about the available resources for students and take a behind-the-scenes tour!

This year, **Aid to South Africa** will be held on **Sunday, April 6, 2014 from 12 - 4 pm**. This innovative committee, led by director Zachary Wooten, is working on adding a 5K to the event! Save the date and stay tuned for more updates.

Paperless Way to Submit Service Hours

By Christine Klingaman, HC XII

Members of HSA have historically logged impressive amounts of community service each semester, especially after the institution of the Donna Carney Award for sustained community service. This year, we have developed a new and improved method for submitting service hours through the OrgSync portal. Members can easily log-in and submit service hours on a rolling basis. After submitting hours, each individual can access their past submissions to keep track of their total hours of service. At the end of each semester, the OrgSync service submissions will be used to award service certificates to members who have completed at least 30 hours of service over the course of the semester.

How to submit hours:

1. Log on to your OrgSync account (request to become a member of HSA if you aren't already).
2. From the "Events" tab on the left-hand side, select "Timesheets."
3. Enter the information pertaining to each service event and click "Add."
4. Your submission will be reviewed and verified by an executive board member.

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Historian

Haley Paiva

TAG

Emily Polefka

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Marissa Giovinazzo

Web Master

Joseph Cosentino



Thank you to Dr. and Mrs. Weisenstein for hosting the President's Welcome Back Picnic once again!

Capstone Corner

Do you have a talent for the performing arts? For her capstone project,

Lindsey Donahue is teaming up with Autism Speaks U to coordinate a holiday charity concert!

Any musical performers or other entertainment acts interested in performing at this great event should contact Lindsey at LD739141@wcupa.edu. All proceeds raised will benefit Autism Speaks!

Kim Bydlon is beginning to organize her capstone project, WCU's first Dress Drive!

A meeting will be held for students interested in volunteering to organize and execute the event on **Wednesday, November 13th at 8 pm in Sykes 252**. At this meeting, potential volunteers will learn about the event and what being a volunteer means! Students interested in event planning, community service, fashion and education will gain valuable experience through volunteering. Students and non-student members of the community are welcome to attend. Stay tuned for information about the "Once Upon a Prom" Dress Drive, which will occur in April 2014!

Danielle Tucci is working on her Capstone project, **science-based workshops for children ages 8-12.**

Each **Saturday (November 2nd, 9th and 16th) from 12:30 – 2**, volunteers are needed to help run the program at the West Chester Public Library (on Church Street). Don't worry, you don't need a background in science – basic experiments will include homemade ice cream, silly putty, and more! Contact Danielle at DT734272@wcupa.edu.

HSA Happenings is a student-produced monthly newsletter created and distributed by the Honors Student Association.

Its purpose is to supplement West Chester University community's knowledge of the Honors Student Association's activities and endeavors.

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