



A Note From Your President

By: Daniel VanHassent, HC XII

Welcome to the Honors Student Association for the 2012-2013 School Year! With over 200 members, HSA is focused on leadership and service to the WCU campus community and the greater community. In the past, HSA has been recognized as one of the most outstanding on the WCU campus including being named the “Organization of the Year for 2010-2011”, as well as receiving the “Community Service Leadership Award for 2011-2012”.

The 2011-2012 school year was a great one for HSA. The addition of a new event, Dance for a Chance, provided immediate involvement for old and new members in order to work towards a common goal. Dance for a Chance is an overnight dance marathon to raise money towards the winning couple’s charity of choice. Our largest major event, Aid to South Africa, raised upwards of \$14,000 for Nkosi’s Haven and Sparrow Village AIDS Orphanages in Johannesburg as well as H.E.L.P. Ministries in Cape Town. In addition to our major events, we added the following committees to our organization: Music & Performing Arts, Library Resources, Diversity and Seminar Recruitment. Finally, HSA members completed over 4,000 hours of community service!

So, let’s get to this year! The Executive Board and Committee Chairs have been hard at work in order to get this year off to a great start! Socials, meetings, talent shows, fundraising events and many others are already in the works for your enjoyment. Some of our goals for this upcoming year include: increasing engagement and participation amongst members, increasing our campus awareness (getting our name out there!), encourage community service opportunities and the Donna Carney Community Service Award, and involve more Seminar Program students in HSA events! So with these overall goals in mind, let’s make this year another fantastic one for HSA. I am very excited to work with you and get to know all of you throughout the school year!

Exploring Committees in HSA

By: Emily Polefka, HC XIII

Hey HSA members! It’s that time of the year again to engage in our program, and get involved with all of the wonderful committees gearing up to make a change on campus! From writing, to playing sports, to dancing for 16 hours (only for the strong of heart), there is something for everyone to do this semester! We have a lot of new people active in HSA this year and it is important to know who is out there and what they’re doing to make Honors a growing and serviceable organization.

Committees and their roles:

Aid to South Africa – Victoria Ravenelle – ASA is one of the highlight service events held by the honors organization. However the work starts early! There is a lot of planning, advertising, and coordination that is required to raise money for those in need in South Africa!

Alumni & Alumni Database – Elizabeth Sherman/ Skye Hisiro- Giving back to those who blazed the trail for us is just as important as creating a strong future! Many of our Alumni need to be recognized and praised for the opportunities they’ve opened for us here at West Chester! Creating this comprehensive database and coordinating events to honor the Alumni is a positive way to show those who have accomplished what we hope to do that we care.

Awards & Recognition – Marissa Caldwell- All of our professors in the honors classrooms put in countless hours into creating beneficial experiences for us as students, and it is important to be able to give back to them and show our appreciation. Recognizing these truly inspiring teachers validates their hard work and ensures that they will continue to help us in and out of the classroom.

Buddy Coordinator – Jenn Matuza – Creating buddy events brings every generation in the Honors College together. The mentorship program in which an upperclassmen is “buddied” with a freshman is a great way to create interactions between every class and give those new to the program a great resource. There are many socials in which we get to hangout and get to know our buddies, along with eating delicious snacks and creating the occasional tie die shirt.

Community Service – Melissa Christie - Community service is the backbone of our organization. *To be honorable is to serve* is our mantra, and without this chair we wouldn't be as active in the community as we are today. Melissa and those involved with finding and attending the events assures that honors has a presence on campus. With over hundreds of hours of service completed each semester, it is safe to say that there will be many opportunities this season to give back and make a change.

Curriculum & Community – Dana Fillman - Having a beneficial curriculum is one of the most important parts of the Honors curriculum. This committee gives all honors students a voice in what they are learning, and allows for change to occur. This committee is great for those looking to get involved. From handing out surveys, to meeting with teachers, to analyzing the data, there is a job for every interested student!

Dance for a Chance – Alexis Stinson - This year marks the second annual Dance for a Chance! Last year the sixteen-hour dance-a-thon had its first event to great success! This year those involved look for more help to create a memorable event. The fact that all of the money raised go to charities of the winning dancers' choice is all the incentive we need to make the event even greater this year!

Diversity – Samantha McGinty - Embracing diversity in the community is a large part of the honors program. With recurring events like the sleep out to end homelessness - and with new ones like the upcoming seminars and speakers to raise awareness about diversity - it looks like there will be many opportunities to embrace the diverse community present both within HSA and across campus.

Fundraising – Alissa Conway - Honors is able to be active largely because of the fundraising. This is one committee that can always use creative thinkers and passionate workers. Returning chair Alissa Conway has had great success with events like the Date Auction last year, and we can only hope that there are some eligible honors bachelors that are up for the challenge this year.

Graduate School Fair Coordinator - Hannah Velez- Many honors students look toward the future, and the Grad Fair is a great way to start getting ideas about what's to come. This is a daylong event that has a variety of schools come in and give some insight and information about our options post-undergrad.

Historian – Elise Lerario - Chronicling all of our wonderful events and fun socials is a great way to look back on all of Honors events throughout the year! Lets all help our chair Elise Lerario by taking and sending her pictures of all of the great functions and silly times that happen throughout the organization!

Housing – Rachel Polgardy - Just knowing how much time I spend on the seventh floor of Allegheny alone, it is safe to say that housing plays an important role in our daily lives! I can already say that I've used everything Rachel put in those wonderful welcome baskets for us. It is important to keep where we live a productive, safe, and fun environment. Housing helps promote bonding throughout the floor as a hole, while giving us a clean and beautiful place to call home.

HSA Happenings Editor - Ashley Murphy – HSA Happenings is a great way to stay up to date with all of the happenings in our community! It also allowing honors students to stretch their writing chops and submit an article to have published! With the second annual arts edition set to come out this year, I cannot wait to see all of the creative pieces submitted and published within our community!

Library Resources – Olivia Kenney – One of the most important and underutilized places on campus is our library! There are so many things we can do there, from renting classrooms to ordering books from libraries across state lines. Creating awareness about the key tools at our disposal is an important part of having a successful academic year!

Do like writing?

Taking pictures?

Want to see your name in print?

**HSA Happenings
is for you!**

Contact Ashley Murphy for more details:

am738358@wcupa.edu

Take an interest in politics:

**Come to the
Debate Watch**

Wednesday, October 3rd

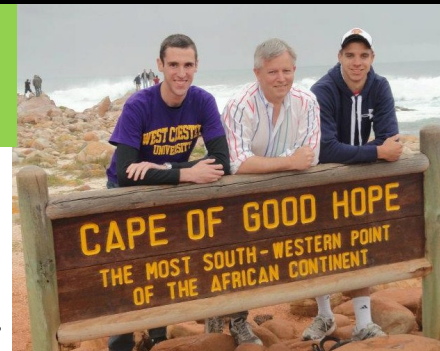
8:30-11

Sykes Ballrooms

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Director's Corner:

To be honorable is to serve – *Get it?*



If you are like most people, you have been in a situation where someone didn't get the joke, and the situation became humorous for those around them. Not too long ago I was with two friends and one, nodding at me, said to our third friend, "hey I have a great game we could play, 'who can hit lightest', and you can go first." Without much thought, my challenged friend gently poked the initiator, who then let go with a fairly strong punch to the arm and exclaimed, "I lose!" Clearly, our third friend simply didn't *get it*.

The ability to *get it* can make us feel smart, privileged, a part of the "in group." *Getting it* is empowering when we discover the solution to a complex math problem or master the notes of a new score of music. *Getting it* is also a crowning victory at commencement when you walk across the stage in Ferrell Stadium to earn your undergraduate degree; you hear your name, you shake the President's hand, you receive your diploma, and you know that *you got it!*

Getting it is all about a personal realization of shared insight. While it is possible that *getting it* can be inspired and nurtured by others---family, faculty mentors, an upper-class student, your roommate---actually *getting it* cannot be gotten directly from another person; you must *get it* yourself. To achieve that end requires an element of trust and faith in community.

You will never really understand Honors education unless you receive what the Honors community has to offer. I have watched a number of people spend a lot of time, energy, emotion, and even tears in wrestling with skepticism and uncertainty during their time at WCU. Some people waste precious resources in trying to figure out the angle, the motivation, the purpose to their college experience and, in doing so, lose much of the value of a college experience. These people don't *get it* because, literally, they are too busy angling to receive what the community has to offer them.

Getting it stands at the very core of the Honors College through our motto: *to be honorable is to serve*. Sure, we understand what that means. And yet, sometimes we're so busy figuring out what we need to do that we forget to just "*get it*"--to receive the experience of the Honors community and not just clock hours or check off course requirements. Every year people entering the Honors College inevitably ask, "So, how many service hours do we *have* to clock?" The look on their faces is one of confusion and disbelief when they hear the answer: none. "How can that be? What is the catch? If the motto is all about service then how is it possible that we don't have some mandated method of accountability?" Clearly these folks don't *get it*.

Self-understanding through service is one of the insights students receive through Honors. Transformation is not the result of the number of hours in a ledger. Just as an academic doesn't punch a time clock on how much studying maintains a 4.0, and just as a swimmer doesn't stop mid-lap in the pool once she has hit her forty hours of swim time because that is what she agreed to, the spirit of service that pervades Honors is spirit based on intrinsic motivation. Honors students know that service requires sacrifice, and that sacrifice requires the ability to put yourself in the shoes of another, and that putting yourself in the shoes of another is what transforms an acquaintance into a friend.

In spring 2011, then-Associate Provost Dr. Darla Coffey, in her nomination letter for the Honors College to be recognized as **Organization of the Year**, wrote: "When the Director of the Honors College and the Honors College Advisory Board made the decision that 'leadership and service' would be the hallmark and guiding principles/values of the West Chester University Honors College, I do not believe that they could have possibly anticipated how the student body would breathe life into a 'feel good' slogan. Each and every year, the students of the Honors Student Association outdo themselves in terms of the many avenues of leadership and service that they provide, collectively and as individuals, to the university campus, to the region, and yes, to the world."

For those of you who are just entering our Honors Community: we are excited to have you with us. We have faith that you understand that "to be honorable is to serve" -- and that only by receiving what the Honors community has to offer will you truly understand what Honors education at WCU is about. And once you get that--*you've got it*.

Community Service Opportunities :

Sep 6– Miller-Keystone Blood Drive Sykes 10-3

Oct 21– AIDS Walk Philly

Sep 12– Volunteer Fair 11-2

Nov 17– Hanging of the Greens

Sep 15-Walk Now for Autism Speaks

Dance for a Chance

Getting Involved Around Campus

By: Marissa Caldwell, HC XIII

Looking for ways to get involved on campus and meet new friends? Check out some of these awesome clubs and organizations on campus! West Chester University has over 200 student-run organizations that represent an incredible variety of hobbies and passions.

Service

Alpha Phi Omega; co-ed service fraternity

Tenants: Boy Scout principles, Leadership, Friendship and Service

Meetings: Sundays at 8 pm in Sykes

Circle K International; collegiate club dedicated to serving the community

Tenants: Service, Leadership and Fellowship

Meetings: Tuesdays at 7:30 pm in 033 Brandywine Hall

Colleges Against Cancer; collegiate chapter of the American Cancer Society

Focus: Cancer education, advocacy, and survivorship efforts

Meetings: Wednesdays at 7 pm in Sykes Ballroom C

Politics

College Democrats

Meetings: Thursdays at 7 pm in Ruby Jones Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room

College Republicans

Meetings: Mondays at 7 pm in Sykes Room 251

Promoting Diversity

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning Ally Alliance

Meetings: Mondays at 4:30 pm in Sykes 252

Religion

Campus Crusade for Christ; promoting spiritual development campus-wide

Meetings: Thursdays 8 pm in 168 Main Hall

Young Life of Chester County; Christian students working with local high school kids to bring Jesus Christ into their lives

Meetings: Mondays 9 - 10:30

Student Affairs

Student Activities Council; brings entertainment to campus through weekly movies, concerts and other special events

Meetings: Tuesdays at 3:30 pm in Sykes 252

Student Government Association; support student organizations, distribute budget, vote on bylaws

Meetings: Tuesdays at 7:15 pm in Sykes Ballroom C

You can also find academic-based organizations in every subject, as well as clubs for pretty much any sport imaginable. For a complete list of West Chester University's student organizations please visit <http://wcu.orgsync.com/> Organizations and get involved!



Welcome HC XIV!

A Glimpse into South Africa:

A Note from the Editor:

Over the summer, I was given the opportunity to travel with 32 other Honors students and 4 professors to South Africa. While there will be an issue of *HSA Happenings* dedicated solely to what we witnessed and the work we accomplished in the ten days we spent in South Africa later in the year, I will include periodic “sneak previews” in the regular editions of *HSA Happenings*.

~Ashley Murphy



At Nkosi's Haven, I gifted a boy around eight years old a dragon beanie baby and ended up spending the rest of our time at the center with him. He climbed up into my arms and we ran around the play area. At one point, we were looking over the city, and I started singing the South African National Anthem to him. He finished it with the parts that I didn't know and that's when I felt a true connection with him and the whole experience, like there was a string holding us together even though we were completely different.

~Tricia Finn, HC XII



Gail Johnson is coming to speak at West Chester: September 13th at 8:00pm Main 168 Don't Miss Out!!



Below is an excerpt from a note the Rev. Cecil Begbie sent to Dr. Dean earlier this summer in regards to the money we had raised for him at ASA in 2012.

I am forwarding to you this notification that I received from the bank that an amount of R20418.25 (aprox \$2,500) was paid into H.E.L.P. Ministries Bank Account which you and the students handed over to me when you visited our Soup Kitchen Project on May 21st this year. Your contribution was very special to us because we are aware that the students worked hard to raise it. Once again, please convey our grateful thanks and deep appreciation to the students and staff at West Chester University and all who were involved in Aid to South Africa. Thank you also for the copy of the video on the soup kitchen that you handed over to me. May God bless you all richly and multiply all that you entrust to Him.

Honors Student
Association
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Daniel VanHassent

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Sports &
Recreation
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Historian
Elise Lerario

Technology
Taylor Holt

Housing
Rachel Polgardy

TAG
Emily Polefka

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



Our sincerest thank you to President Weisenstein and his wife for hosting such a wonderful picnic! What a delicious way to kick off the new semester!

Music & Performing Arts – DJ Matsko - We have so much undiscovered musical talent in the honors program, and it is very exciting to see what is in store for the Music and Performing Arts group lead by DJ this year! From caroling to playing at the Awards and Rec ceremony, all of those with musical inclinations get a chance to shine. This year only promises more opportunities to tap into the great talent present in our organization.

Public Relations – Tony LaFratte - Honors students are constantly accomplishing things on every part of campus! Tony and all of those helping get the word out to newspapers that we have wonderful members who are making notable moments both inside and outside the classroom!

Honors Core & Seminar Recruitment – Nicole Medeiros – Kristina Lail – Every year Honors gets a passionate and excited incoming class. Without the Recruitment chair and all of those involved with the choosing process, we would not be sitting here today.

Social - Kim Bydlon – The social chair is one of the most exciting and inclusive part of HSA. Creating strong bonds outside of the classroom is fun and relaxing. Surprisingly, after attending last years semi-formal I can report that we do have a few good dancers here in the Honors Student Association. Planning and creating these socials requires volunteering from all of those future wedding planners in the organization, but they are well worth the payoff when for those wonderful moments like when we get to see one hundred honors student wobbling around on an ice skating rink.

Sports & Recreation – Steve Roscioli - HSA members are more than just students with their noses in books. We consistently put in strong teams in the intramurals program here on campus. Steve has already sent out the information to get involved in the upcoming fall sports such as soccer, basketball, and Powder Puff football! Lets get involved to keep our bodies as healthy as our minds (and kick a little butt, because honestly we do tend to get a little competitive).

Technology – Taylor Holt- In a society becoming more and more tech-savvy, having a good technology chair is vital. Making additions to the website is wonderful for recruitment, and lets be honest, the idea of having the printer in Allegheny working on a consistent basis is definitely something to look forward to.

TAG - Emily Polefka - I might be a little biased, but TAG is looking especially exciting this year. Students this year will have the ability to get a buddy, or just come to the monthly socials. Seeing the excitement and happiness of the elderly who get a chance to interact with WCU students is truly rewarding, and more often than not the students leave with more than they gave themselves.