

## The Freshman Experience

By: Chris Whittall , HC XIV

Five months ago, on a hot day in June, a group of soon-to-be college freshmen came together for the first time at the Honors Orientation. A nervous excitement initially permeated the atmosphere of the event but before long, nerves settled and friendships were born, prompting the frequent use of the term ‘family’. One semester later, ties between the freshmen have grown stronger as months living on the same floor have led to creation of bonds and memories alike. The semester left students with much to remember, and much to look forward to in the spring. The first few weeks of college are a potentially lonely conglomeration of days as students search for like-minded individuals to engage in friendship. As Honors freshmen, the immediacy of closeness negates this possibility. In the words of Chan To, “College freshmen face the difficult task of finding friends in a new environment; at least it is supposed to be difficult. Looking back, I realized that having the Honors College by your side parallels a second family... a giant family.”

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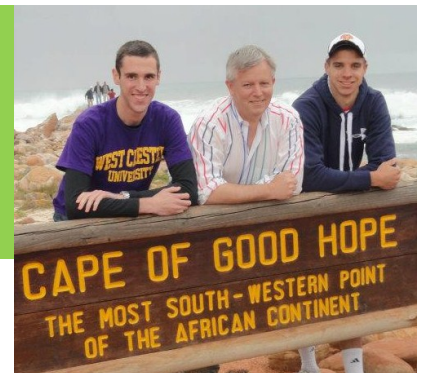
## Director’s Corner: The New Year’s Tradition

By: Dr. Kevin Dean

At 12:05 a.m., January 1, 2010, my home phone rang. Assuming it was my father with a cow bell (remember, I grew up in West Virginia) to ring in my ear and wish me a Happy New Year, I quickly picked up the receiver without checking “caller identification”. To my surprise (and relief) there was no cow bell. Instead, what I heard was a chorus of enthusiastic voices celebrating the birth of a new year. Those voices belonged to six first year students in Honors.

At 12:07 a.m., January 1, 2013, my home phone rang again. This time I was correct in who was on the other end of the line, for as in 2011 and 2012, a core group of students from HC XI, were continuing the tradition. Back in 2010, these students had known each other for only three months and chose to spend the transition between years together. Now, four years later, the friendships have only intensified as has their commitment to community.

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## A Note From the President

By: Daniel VanHassent; HC XII

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a fantastic winter break and are all looking forward to another great semester with the Honors Student Association! For those of you who are new to HSA, this organization 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.



Last semester was a great success! We had an average of 60-70 members at our meetings, hosted Debate Watch where hundreds of students from across campus came to watch the first presidential debate, hosted Dance for a Chance where students danced in pairs for 16 hours to raise money for the charity of their choice as well as participated in different socials and service events.

Looking ahead to this semester, the Executive Board and Committee Chairs have been hard at work to make this semester another successful one! We will be recruiting for next year’s Honors College freshman class, hosting the second annual Date Auction, numerous service and social events, and the highlight of the spring semester: Aid to South Africa (April 7 in Hollinger Fieldhouse). I am very excited for what this semester holds for the Honors Student Association!

## A Letter From the Editor

Hey all you out there in HSA Land,

I hope you have all had a great first few days of class. As this semester heats up I wanted to let you know about a few opportunities that are available through the HSA Happenings Committee. First and foremost, I’d like to encourage you to let us help you spread the word about whatever you are doing. Are you a music major with an ensemble coming up? Do you have a service event that you’d like to get more people out to? One of the most wonderful aspects of the Honors Student Association is the community support. We’d love to hear what you have going on!

Second, I am incredibly excited to announce the second annual HSA Happenings Arts Edition. I was truly amazed by the talent that was showcased in last year’s issue and can’t wait to see what you submit this year!

If you have any questions about what or how to submit as well as any article or topic you’d like to see in the regular issues of HSA Happenings, please don’t hesitate to ask me at [am738358@wcupa.edu](mailto:am738358@wcupa.edu).

I wish you all a successful and fun-filled semester!

~Ashley Murphy

*Freshman Experience; continued from page 1*

Bonds have been forged that students do not anticipate losing over the course of their college education and post-graduate life. As Hailey Paiva states, “I have made friendships [in Honors] this year that I know are going to last a lifetime.” These friendships made for countless memorable experiences. In particular, the class of 2016 freshmen shared great times at service events ranging from the Philadelphia AIDS Walk to the Sleep-out for Hunger, where freshmen spent the cold night in tents together. Memories were made at the Bates Motel and at Dr. Dean’s Christmas Party. Experiences in the classroom will undoubtedly be remembered as well as HON 100 and HON 352 presented much to enjoy. Aside from academics and co-curricular events, students became familiarized with the town of West Chester which played host to many group dinners and birthday celebrations.



Following an amazing fall semester and a six week break, the freshmen will come together to embark on their first Spring semester. The return to campus promises to bring new opportunities and experiences to the class of 2016.

*“ Having the Honors College by your side parallels a second family...a giant family ”*

Students will attend their first Honors Semi-Formal dance and Aid to South Africa. In addition, students will have the opportunity to experience the other side of the table at the freshmen recruitment sessions and interviews. For some, new doors will open, revealing much desired treasures--thoughts of Joe Cosentino come to mind who anxiously exclaims,

“I’m looking forward to the grand opening of the seventh floor piano room!”

From new classes to Banana Day, the spring semester promises much to enjoy, and as winter gives way to spring, the freshmen class will continue to cherish the times they spent together during their first college semester.



*Director's Corner; continued from page 1*

As I am just returning from two weeks in South Africa and Namibia, building connections and exploring opportunities for our May 2014 group research/service program, I was consistently reminded of the power of friendships in building community. I first met Deon Kitching, our South African ground planner, in 1996. His commitment to providing opportunities for West Chester students and faculty to experience South Africa in unparalleled ways remains as constant as ever. Danny, a man I first met in 2001, who had been a leader of a violent gang and who had fallen victim to substance abuse, transformed a dirt school yard into a peace garden and now has leadership in a program (Butterfly House) which provides educational encouragement for high school age drop outs who he literally collected from the township streets. Edward Daniels, former principal of Nederburg Primary School, which we consistently visited since 2004 and now a member of the superintendent's staff responsible for twenty-six schools is championing the addition of after school programs in debate and music to assist in building self-esteem and community pride with in students. These individuals are representative of many South Africans who openly welcome West Chester and call us friend. Through interpersonal engagement, we have built sustained community.

Looking ahead to spring 2014, I am thrilled at the vast opportunities that the Honors College and H.S.A. provides for creating community. Some, like the New Year's phone call, have become tradition: Graduate School Fair, Aid to South Africa, Outstanding Faculty Reception, Semi-Formal Dance, and Awards Banquet. Others are in their developmental stages, such as the Library Celebration, Valentines Date Auction, and *Happenings* Arts Edition. Through our multiple committees countless possibilities exist for social and service engagement and everyone has a voice in building our collective community through events such as the freshman and junior reflections and the sophomore cross-roads conference. Be it athletics or vocal performance, environmental or international issues, senior citizens at Barclay Friends, youth in the Coatesville school district, or young children in an afterschool program, the venues open to each student in Honors to engage and build community----and create some traditions----is limited only by imagination. I look forward to seeing how each of you will find your own way in 2013 to make your presence matter!

## Upcoming HSA Events

- Feb 2– Recruitment Meeting
- Feb 6– Involvement Fair (10-4)
- Feb 7– First GA Meeting of the Semester
- Feb 16- HSA Date Auction
- Feb 19– Junior Class Reflection



Picture credit: J. Fetzer

# Arts Around West Chester

By: Jill Heagerty; HC Seminar

Even though February is the shortest month of the year, there are plenty of opportunities to see entertaining performances on West Chester's campus.

On February 9 at 8 p.m., the theatre department will be presenting its 13<sup>th</sup> annual AIDS benefit in E.O. Bull Center. This showcase features singing, dancing, and acting, so there is something for everyone to enjoy.

The music ensembles chamber winds and concert band will be having a concert on February 14 at 8:15 p.m. in Swope's Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre. Dr. Andrew Yozviak will be directing Chamber Winds, an ensemble with a small grouping of instrumentation that features woodwinds. Concert Band will be directed by Dr. Mark Gregory Martin, an ensemble with typical band instrumentation that is open for all students to join at the beginning of the semester.

On February 15 and 16 at 8 p.m., the U.S. Army Blues Jazz Ensemble will be performing their annual Trumpet Festival in Swope's Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre. Tickets cost \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors/students, and are free for WCU students with an ID. Tickets are available at the SSI window in Sykes and at the door of the performance.

The Evening of One Acts will occur on February 21 at 8 p.m. in E.O. Bull Center. This performance features one act plays written and performed by WCU students.

The Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band will be having a concert on February 24 at 3 p.m. in Asplundh. The Wind Ensemble is directed by Dr. Andrew Yozviak and Symphonic Band is directed by Dr. Mark Gregory Martin. Wind Ensemble features small instrumentation of elite musicians. Symphonic Band has larger instrumentation and also contains some of the best musicians on campus. Throughout the entire month, students can see the art students' poster exhibitions in the E.O. Bull Center any time of the day in the arts gallery.

## Upcoming Service Events

**Feb 10th**– Adopt-a-Block (1pm)

**Feb 14th**– Play 4 Kay (11-2)

**Feb 23rd**– Adopt-a-Block (1pm)

**April 7th**– Aid to South Africa (12-4)

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*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.*

Are you interested in tutoring math to high school students?

Participate in the Coatesville Educational Connection!

Contact Daniel VanHassent at DV737776@wcupa.edu

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

Do you like to:

...Draw?

...Paint?

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See your work published: with the HSA Happenings Arts Edition!

Now accepting submissions!

Contact Ashley at am738358@wcupa.edu

Come support Melissa Christie and Kim Bydlon for Miss WCU 2013!

Saturday Feb 9th