

Happenings in Honors

National Leadership Honor Society Inductions

Congratulations to the HSA students who were recently inducted into the West Chester Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society!

<i>Jennifer Allen</i>	<i>Ahleah Miles</i>
<i>Rebecca Bannan</i>	<i>Haley Paiva</i>
<i>Hannah Caplan</i>	<i>Sarah Walker</i>
<i>Amber Coe</i>	<i>Kristen Waltz</i>
<i>Amanda Gilbert</i>	<i>Christopher Whittall</i>
<i>Marissa Giovinazzo</i>	<i>Erin Yentz</i>
<i>Elise Lerario</i>	



2014 Inductees to Omicron Delta Kappa

Newly Appointed Assistant Director: Spotlight on Dr. Pierlott

By Sarah Walker

Starting this spring semester 2015, The Honors College at West Chester University is pleased to announce that Dr. Matthew Pierlott will be taking on the position of Honors Assistant Director! Dr. Pierlott is currently an associate professor of philosophy, member of the Honors Council, faculty advisor for the WCU Philosophical Society, member of the American Philosophical Association, and member of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics. Along with Dr. Vicki Tischio, Dr. Pierlott also teaches the HON 490 Capstone course for juniors and seniors in Honors. In the past, Dr. Pierlott attended the University of Scranton for his undergraduate degree, and later earned his Ph.D. in 2006 from Marquette University. Dr. Pierlott has also been awarded WCU Outstanding Faculty Member, and taught two special topics classes, which include "The Idea of Freedom" and "The Concept of God." With his involvement on campus and within the Honors community, Dr. Pierlott will certainly prove a great asset to help cultivate our sense of leadership, service, and engagement as students under his presence in the Honors administration.

Reminder!

Keep up with your service hours to receive the Donna Carney Sustained Service Award.

Safe Harbor Service

By Samantha Stalford



Maya Grosch, HVI

This past fall semester, the Honors Student Association made an unprecedented decision to sponsor a local organization with finances and services. To choose the organization, members of the HSA nominated and then voted on various organizations they thought would be a good candidate for volunteer work and fundraising. In the end, Safe Harbor of Chester County became the HSA's 2014-2015 organization to sponsor. Located close to the university in West Chester, it is "a non-profit charitable organization whose mission is to provide shelter, food and access to support services in a structured environment for homeless single men and homeless single women in Chester County" (safeharborofgwc.org). As the HSA's Fundraising Committee holds events throughout the year, such as Pumpkin Fest, which was a successful 1st annual event held at the end of October, and the Date Auction, which will be coming up in February, half of all the funds raised

by the end of the year will be given to Safe Harbor. In addition to this financial help, the HSA Community Service Committee has been hard at work providing service opportunities for members to connect with Safe Harbor. Jaclyn Giovinazzo, the Community Service Committee Chair, with the help of her committee members, ran a canned food drive for Safe Harbor at the end of November into December. "We really wanted to give back to the West Chester Community for the Holiday Season," Giovinazzo said. The team collected canned food from local West Chester neighborhoods as well as university dorm halls. After collecting and sorting all of the donations, a total of 913 items were delivered to Safe Harbor right before the end of the fall semester. "The food drive well exceeded my expectations and I truly believe it made a difference in others' lives," Giovinazzo announced. The HSA looks forward to working with Safe Harbor this upcoming semester through more fundraising and service. Our members have already set a wonderful example for future sponsorships.



XV's Devon Stroup, Sami Stalford, Jackie Giovinazzo, Josh Dandridge, and Matt Nolt with a Safe Harbor coordinator

Getting Involved on Campus

Community Service

Spring Volunteer Fair – January 28th

There is no more perfect opportunity to find volunteer experiences than the Spring Volunteer Fair! Taking place in Sykes Student Union Ballrooms, the fair will host several agencies offering outstanding volunteer opportunities. Whatever your interests are, the Spring Volunteer Fair will have something to suit your needs.

Blood Drives

Help save lives! Blood drives will be taking place at the following: February 23rd (Schmidt Hall), March 3rd (Commonwealth, Tyson, and University Halls), March 5th (Allegheny Hall), March 24th (Goshen Hall), March 30th (Brandywine Hall), and April 6th (Killinger Hall).

For more volunteer opportunities, contact the West Chester University Office of Service-Learning and Volunteer Programs at www.wcupa.edu/volunteer or JReindl@wcupa.edu.

Life at the LARC By Kellen Kane

West Chester University offers a vast array of services for students, many of which are free. One of the most beneficial of these services academically is the amenities provided at the Learning Assistance & Resource Center, lovingly called "The LARC". Located above Lawrence Dining Hall in room 224, the LARC provides the students of West Chester with academic workshops, diversity workshops, and tutoring services across many academic disciplines. While receiving tutoring presents an immediate academic benefit, the goal of the LARC is to craft independent and active learners, a skill set that will pave a pathway toward a brighter future for the students. Sign-ups for tutoring occur at the LARC (again, Lawrence 224), and are ongoing through April 17th, meaning if you need extra practice in a course mid-semester, there still may be openings! The director of the LARC is Gerardina Martin, assisted by Courtney Lloyd.

Below is a list of the upcoming academic workshops:

Note Taking: College Edition
Monday, February 2, 2015 8-8:50 PM
Thursday, February 5, 2015 2-2:50 PM

No Fear Test Taking: Reducing Test Anxiety
Monday, February 9, 2015 8-8:50 PM
Thursday, February 12, 2015 2-2:50 PM

Don't Put This Workshop Off Until Tomorrow:
Time Management Strategies
Monday, February 16, 2015 8-8:50 PM
Thursday, February 19, 2015 2-2:50 PM

Get It WRITE: Short Essay Skills and APA Format
Monday, February 23, 2015 8-8:50 PM
Thursday, February 26, 2015 2-2:50 PM



Director's Corner

By Dr. Kevin W. Dean

What's in a Name?

When I first interviewed for the position of the Honors Director in 1995, I asked the students on the interview committee, "what does Honors mean to you?" After a long pause, one of the students responded, "Well, we get priority scheduling."

Now I would be among the first to champion the importance of scheduling support for honors students. They deserve assurance of being able to fit the classes they need into the demands of the over sixty academic majors and programs that are represented in the WCU Honors College. Yet, ask that same question today and I'll wager scheduling will not be one of the first thoughts. I know this in part because I have just finished writing about 60 letters of recommendation for students who are seeking placement in graduate and/or professional schools in fall 2015 and for students who are contenders for academic scholarships. As part of my process for writing these letters (and yes, there is a process!), I ask students to share in one sentence what Honors means to them and what they value most from the Honors College experience.

Some highlight **relationships** they had with honors faculty and the opportunity to really get to know their cohort of entering student peers who are enrolled in the same ten honors courses over the first five semesters of their college careers. Some mention **community** and the opportunity to live on the 7th floor of Allegheny Hall with its central air and individual temperature controlled two person suites with a private bath, free laundry, computer/technology lab, central lounge with projection system, music practice room with a Steinway piano, and the only hall with an ice machine! Some celebrate the **diversity** within honors, defined in every way possible: for example, this year's freshman class boasts 27 different academic majors spread across every college at the university. The class is comprised of 70% women and 38% represent diverse ethnic populations. Students embrace a multiplicity of religious and spiritual beliefs, hold a wide spectrum of political views, and advocate for inclusion of all students regardless of class, cultural background or sexual orientation. Some recount their **international experiences**, particularly in South Africa where they gained interpersonal engagement with cultural others and conducted intellectual research that helped promote a more just society. Most reflected on **service**, a time when they realized, some for the first time, that their presence really mattered and they referred back to the 1999, student developed motto, "**To be honorable is to serve**".

Relationships. Community. Diversity. International Experience. Service. These are "what's in the name" of Honors at West Chester University. These are the sentiments those who transition out of the university leave as a legacy to those who will follow. I am so proud that Honors means so much more than scheduling!

**Honors Student Association
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Brianna Plaxe

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Matt Nolt *Erin Yentz*

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Ansu Bensen *Ahleah Miles*

Historian Sports & Recreation
Devon Stroup *Dan DeBrakeleer*

Housing TAG
Morgan McMurtrie *Emily Polefka*

Involvement Coordinator Technology
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**A Word from the HSA President:
Leadership and Sustainability in Norway**

By Christopher Whittall

Each year, following the close of the spring semester, two students from each of the fourteen PASSHE schools travel together in an international educational experience. During May and June of 2014, the twenty-eight students traveled to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in Canada to study sustainable agriculture and geographical features of the area. This year, students will embark on a study of leadership and environmental sustainability in Norway.

In preparation for the trip, and to learn more about the destination, students from the West Chester University Honors Student Association traveled to Washington DC during the fall semester to visit the Norwegian Embassy. The Embassy played host to a morning including an informational presentation on Norway, followed by a question-and-answer portion. In conjunction with outstanding hospitality, the representatives of the Norwegian Embassy provided students with an enjoyable and educational experience. In particular, students engaged in a discussion of environmental sustainability, a key portion of the upcoming trip.

For the first time in over a decade, West Chester University will be hosting the annual trip, and students will have the opportunity to study leadership through the Nobel Peace Institute and sustainability through the Norwegian movements towards environmental stewardship.

Studying leadership and environmental sustainability in a country that has proven to be a catalyst in many important initiatives in these fields will undoubtedly prove life-changing. Furthermore, the weeklong immersion in Nobel leadership study and environmental sustainability will provide the West Chester University representatives with relevant and exciting information to share with the greater campus population upon their return.

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

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

610-436-2996

honors@wcupa.edu