

The Human Experience comes to West Chester



By Lily Kotansky
HC XI

There are certain phases I will always remember from my experiences in the Honors College: “What would you do if you weren’t afraid?” “Who moved my cheese?” and most significantly, “We are all the same.”

This last phrase plays particular importance for all of us. The human condition is universal, no matter who we are or where we live.

On Monday, February 21 and Tuesday, February 22 at 7:15 p.m. in Asplundh Concert Hall, all who attend the free screenings of the documentary “The Human Experience” will bear witness to an amazingly intimate quest for the meaning of humanity.

The documentary follows two brothers (Clifford and Jeffrey Azize) as they journey “into the middle of the lives of the homeless on the streets of New York City, the orphans and disabled children of Peru, and the abandoned lepers in the forests of Ghana, Africa.

“What the young men discover changes them forever. Through one on one interviews and real life encounters, the brothers are awakened to the beauty of the human person and the resilience of the human spirit,” reads the official website.

Junior **Lori Brooks**, Honors Seminar, first saw the documentary at her high school. Upon realizing its powerful ability to change one’s

“It is our diversity that makes us unique and allows us to contribute positively to our world community.”

See the documentary

At 7:15PM on February 21&22
Asplundh Concert Hall
Admission is free!

*After the showing on the 22nd,
Jeffery Azize and writer Michael Campo
will hold a short Q&A.*

perspective on life, she was determined to bring it to WCU’s community.

Of the documentary she says, “...I want every member of our community to know that they can create positive change in our world and that they can start right here, right now. Just because people are different from us does not mean that their lives are any less valuable than ours; every human life has inestimable value. It is our diversity that makes us unique and allows us to contribute positively to our world community, and it is our common humanity that brings us all together. We could all use a reminder from time to time about what’s truly important in life, namely loving one another, treating others with respect, and living a meaningful life. Please give ‘The Human Experience’ an opportunity to serve as this reminder; it may just change your life.”•

It's not what you can do for your College...

By **Kate Monaghan**
HC XII

United States' President Abraham Lincoln once said, "Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, for the people," and Kevin Dean, Ph.D., the Director of the Honors College here at West Chester University appears to have taken this idea to heart. The Honors College provides many opportunities for students to give feedback so that it can adapt to better suit students' needs.

Daniel VanHassent, HC XII, a first year student with a major in History and Secondary Education and a minor in math says, "Students are able to influence Honors because we basically run the interior parts of the program. All of our committees are run by students and we decide what we want to do and when we want to do it. I love the Honors College because of the large impact we have on what happens within the organization."

One such committee is the Curriculum Committee which "works to assess and improve the honors experience for the Honors Students." This committee ensures that the students have the opportunity to give feedback about the

Honors core classes.

Another channel through which students are able to contribute to the overall success of the program is the interview process. The Recruitment Committee, led by **Dan Hinderliter**, HC XI, essentially gives students a chance to select who they would like to see enter as the next Honors College class. The interviews are student-run with an Honors faculty team leader; our input is strongly taken into account when making the final decisions regarding who will receive a formal acceptance to Honors.

First year Forensic and Toxicological Chemistry major **Kaitlin Dylnicki**, HC XII, stated, "I love Honors because of the unity and the support system we have along with all the opportunities available to us."

The access to this unique support system is facilitated by the exceptional living arrangements reserved for students in the Honors College. Students don't only have choices regarding the more academic aspects of the Honors College; they also have the ability to make choices regarding their community on the 7th floor of Allegheny Hall. The idea that students may be able to choose new amenities on

their floor in Allegheny was recently discussed. These modifications could include adding a kitchen to our floor, adding a light switch and temperature control to the Honors Lounge, for a few examples.

Not only does the Honors College at West Chester University promote leadership in the classroom, but the honors students are given wonderful opportunities to practically exercise their leadership skills and shape their Honors experience. •

Congratulations to
Ben Chadwell
and **Alicia Vandermark**
who will represent
West Chester University at
this year's PASSHE
Summer Honors Program
through Millersville
University & The Institute
of Ocean Sciences in
Bermuda.

Congratulations to the Students recognized by *Who's Who*

Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges & Universities is the highest recognition given to campus leaders through the Division of Student Affairs.

Those inducted into *Who's Who* represent students who have achieved success in a diverse group of organizations and activities, such as music, student governance and tutoring, among others.

The following Honors students will be formally inducted into *Who's Who* on Monday, March 28th at 4:30 in Sykes Theater.

John Allegretto

Ruth Almy

Daniel Bach

Mark Cellini

Amber Cifrese

Matthew Costa

Andrea Hahn

Ellen Howard

Melody Linton

Lauren Longacre

Patrick Melvin

Lauren Montemuro

Laura Putman

Jessica Richard

Elizabeth Saldierna

Kolleen Skahan

Matthew Whittall

Important Dates and Upcoming Service Events

Great Brownie Bakeoff

February 23rd

Contact Colleen Gardner
for more information

WCU Research Day

April 5

Sykes Ballrooms
See what your peers and
professors are working on

Outstanding Faculty Nominations

*Due to Emily Frey
by February 24th*

Relay for Life

April 16-17

*If you're interested
in getting involved,
contact Jena Wood*

March HSA General Assembly

8PM

*Thursday, March 4th
7th Floor of Allegheny*

Aid to South Africa

Hollinger Field House

Noon-6PM, Sunday, April 10th

Students go “insane”

By Ashley Murphy

HC XII

With all of the yelling, sweating, jumping and laughing, anybody who happens to stumble upon the seventh floor around five in the afternoon is likely to think that the students are going insane. And students at West Chester are becoming crazy, crazy healthy that is, all thanks to Shaun T's Insanity workout.

With the holidays over and freshman fifteen on the rise, it seems as though everybody is trying to find a way to stay healthy. Here on the seventh floor, students have found their own way to stay in shape: Insanity. Every afternoon the seventh floor lounge is flooded by an army of students looking to get fit. The Shaun T Insanity workout routine is said to be one of the toughest workout routines on the market- promising a full body transformation after sixty days of intense workouts.

The DVD proudly proclaims: “You don't need weights. You don't need to spend countless hours at a gym. What you need is will power and a lot of it.”

Service extends beyond HSA

By Ben Chadwell

HC XI

The Care Center for Christ at 127 S Matlack St. serves as a bridge to diversity. University students and some small fry of the American school system unite here for a few precious moments each week. Everyone shares the benefits. The little kids always go home cared for and (usually) happy and the college kids stroll back to campus feeling fulfilled after laughing and playing with them (their sheer adorability doesn't hurt). The children who rely on the compassion within *The Care Center's* walls are underprivileged before they have grown old enough to realize just how little they have. They are mostly minority boys and girls. Several of them speak Spanish and English—which is great for volunteers who want language practice.

The unassuming and warm community at the Care Center entices Honors students, especially those with interests in education, counseling, and/or social work careers to devote a portion of their time and energy toward helping young kids learn how to read, how to write, and how to communicate in the face of a school system that often fails them.

For those students who have enjoyed Dr. Morgan's *Education and Change* course, HON 312, the children at the Care Center are an apt case study. The natural propensity, curiosity, and wonder that frustrating and disappointing experiences at school tend to squeeze out of students has not yet struck these youngsters. Hopefully they will survive their journey through education with their learning spirits intact. Young children learn in a way so pure and deep, they do not even realize they are learning.

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HONORS STUDENT ASSOCIATION

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

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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.



Photo by Kate Monaghan
Each Spring, John Helion, Ph.D., takes a group of students to Alabama to help build and repair homes as well as provide relief for Hurricane Katrina victims. The group consists of students from West Chester as well as from other universities. Some of the students pictured above representing HSA are: Heather Heilman, Tricia Finn, Kate Monaghan, Dan VanHassent, Sarah Kennedy and Ben Chadwell.

Outside Service

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Observing them as they solve problems, exalting in imagination, watching them as they smile, and hugging them when they are sad, endears and fascinates the older students who are there to help them.

Tricia Finn, Alissa Conway, and Steph Evangelista all first-year students, enjoy a satisfying experience at the center.

First year student **Kate Monaghan**, HC XII, empathizes with the children's challenging situations.

"I know those few hours could quite possibly be the only time during the course of the week when someone is genuinely engaging the kids' educational needs in a compassionate manner. Some of the kids are ESL and it's painfully obvious when we look at their homework books that their teachers neglect the children's learning needs."

Sophomore **Marya Graham**, HC XI, revels in the extra positivity Care Center has introduced to her life. "I love that I not only influence and impact the kids' lives in a positive way but they brighten my life as well."•

Insanity

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But Insanity is generating more than just will power. The work out has strengthened the honors community as a whole. The workouts have gotten attention from students all over the Honors College, including those who no longer live in Allegheny.

"(Working out in a group) gives you someone to push you," says **Sean Casey**, HC XII, one of the leaders of Seventh Floor Insanity. "During the workouts, we're all laughing and really get closer as friends. It gives us a chance to see each other every day."

With Seventh Floor Insanity nearly halfway through its sixty-day cycle and attendance still holding strong, it seems as if the group mentality is really keeping everyone motivated.

"After a workout, we're all tired, sweaty smelly and we love it," Casey says.

Overall it seems like a great way to build team spirit- and good bodies. After all, as the old saying goes: "insanity loves company". •