

Letter from the President: Matthew Whittall



For students, August signals the end of summer and the beginning of the academic year. This time can carry many emotions.

For many first year students, this will be the first time living away from home and they may feel anxious about meeting new friends and adjusting to the college lifestyle.

Veteran students like myself, however, cannot wait to get back to work.

While academics should be on the top of any incoming student's list of priorities, I encourage each student to become as actively involved as possible. Being involved has many advantages. Besides social advantages such as the ability to make new friends, becoming involved at West Chester University allows students in the Honors College to discover their passions and transform into a well rounded individual.

I remember arriving to college and being anxious about grades. While all of us in the Honors College were successful in High School, many of us questioned whether or not we will be able to transition into college and continue to experience success.

I promise that, while many college courses will require hours of study time and hard work, the grades will come. In the mean time, it is important for you to become involved and make a difference in your four short years at West Chester.

The Honors Student Association at West Chester University is the service and social branch of the Honors College. This is where we turn the motto, "to be honorable is to serve" into action. Being an organization run by students, HSA provides many benefits to incoming West Chester University honors students. By joining one of its 14 committees, you will have already found yourself amongst a group of goal-oriented students who want to make a difference. Whether that difference is being made at the University, in the West Chester community or as far away as South Africa, HSA can help you find your niche.

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Photo Courtesy of Facebook

Laura Hurd, HC IX, on an excursion in Egypt. She is accompanied by a fellow PASSHE student. The trip occurs annually and at a different place each year.

Students Share Experiences Abroad

By **RJ Wasylyk**
HC X

Summer is generally a time when students take the time to relax and unwind from the school year. Some students take the time to work and others, to spend time with their families. Still others, for the experiences that will last a life time.

This past summer, many honors students seized the opportunity to go abroad to various places to serve others, learn about different cultures and, of course, to have a good time.

One such student was Elementary Education major **Dan Hinderliter**, HC XI, who travelled to the town of Pimampiro in northern Ecuador. There, he volunteered at an all-girls textile school, where he worked with students to create projects, such as a giant cloth dragon that appeared in the town's parade shortly after.

Hinderliter worked specifically through an organization called Mountains of Hope, which helps out communities such as Pimampiro throughout northern Ecuador.

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Summer Abroad

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Hinderliter's motivation for going on the trip was to complete his required service hours for Formal Admission to Teacher Education, which requires 20 education related service hours.

"I figured, since I have to do the hours, why not make it something unforgettable?" Hinderliter says, reflecting on why he decided to travel to Central America.

Hinderliter certainly wasn't the only one travelling abroad this summer.

Cass Lowry, HC IX, travelled to Georgia, where he worked with a non-profit organization to raise money for a workshop that would train Georgian professors on how to teach liberal arts materials, a challenge to the newly established Liberal Arts Schools.

Lowry is "fascinated by international comparative education," and has been working with this cause for some time now. He has been working with our

university to set up interactions between students from our university and the Georgian university. (Keep an eye out for the opportunity to enroll in a seminar which promotes this!)

In addition to Lowry and Hinderliter, many students spent time out of the country. **Laura Hurd**, HC IX, and **Mike DePrince**, HC X, travelled to Egypt with PASSHE summer leadership program and **Alex Di Vito**, HC XI, and myself (**RJ Wasyluk**), HC X, travelled as students to Salamanca, Spain, where we studied Spanish history and culture.

One of the Honors Student Association's main goals is to better serve the community, be it a poor region or another country or a needy one in our backyard. As a member of HSA, it's important to keep the ball rolling, even through the summer. Whether it be to engage in service, work as a student leader, or to learn about a different culture, experiences abroad prove to be unforgettable and life changing. Next summer, why not give it a try?



Photo Courtesy of Facebook Dan Hinderliter, HC XI, engaged in service on his trip to Ecuador, where he worked extensively in a textile school.

Director's Corner: A Resolution of Dedication

By Kevin Dean
Advisor, HSA



This summer I taught a graduate course, American Public Address, which involved analysis of great American speeches that made lasting impact and afford lessons on leadership. Without question, Lincoln's Gettysburg address stands iconic. We all know about it, "four score and ...so on", but when did you read it last? The address was a mere 256 words. It was so short that photographers of the day barely had time to get their cameras ready. Yet, as historian Gary Wills notes, in those few words, Lincoln not only effectively saved the nation, he fundamentally altered the future of our world. As I read it again, I made a discovery, in such an economically conservative speech—with respect to word choice—he used the word "dedicate" twice and "dedicated" four times. For Lincoln and for those in WCU Honors who strive to make communities better through our gifts of leadership through service this word "dedication" has real power.

Over the summer a very *dedicated* group of HSA leaders met for a planning retreat for the 2010-2011 year. Follow up from that retreat reached out to a group of invested community chairs who then *dedicated* time in foundation planning for a host of activities in the forms of service, social, public relations and recruitment, technology enhancement, Allegheny living, athletics and intercultural enrichment, just to name a few. Through such *dedication*, we are well positioned for an outstanding year.

The entering class of 2010, represents a richly diverse group of 29 women and 15 men who claim 23 different academic majors. Gifted in music, athletics and academics, they bring with them leadership in student government, Scouts and a wide array of clubs and organizations. They come *dedicated* to service as seen by the hundreds of hours clocked in volunteerism and service activities through churches, synagogues, community and civic organizations. They are the 12th group to enter the Honors College under the leadership core and the 32nd group to enter the university since 1979 and be called "Honors Students". We are also welcoming over thirty transfer and cu-

rrent upper level students into our Honors Seminar Certificate Program. These individuals also represent a diverse group and hold proven records of academic excellence and *dedication* to service.

Lincoln's pause at Gettysburg, in the midst of war, both affirmed the *dedication* of those who gave in the past and laid a foundation for unity in the face of a changing nation. I *dedicate* my full admiration and offer a pledge of support and engagement to the 2010-2011 Executive Board and Committee Chairs of the Honors Student Association, and I urge you to join me. Their commitment of time, energy and talent will collectively achieve a banner year for Honors. Yet our full future potential will only be realized by the added dedication to Honors that comes from those who most recently joined. Come! Embrace the opportunities open for you! Read Lincoln's speech again, it won't take long. Take his challenge to *dedicate* yourself to a future of hope and optimism. Reach out to both take and give from all that Honors can provide and all that you can contribute. Oh, what an amazing year this will be!

The Veteran Student's Guide to Waking up in West Chester

By Miranda Gipe
HC IX

In case you've slept these last three months away, here's a newsflash for you: like it or not summer is officially over. Whether you're a senior like me or an incoming freshman, the worst part of returning to school is usually the transition between the lazy days of sun, friends, and popsicles to the hysteria of papers and tests. Here are a few tips to make the transition easier:

1. Make a Schedule and Stick to It

Yes, it might sound a little lame, but the fact is you'll feel a lot less frazzled if you take a look at what you need to accomplish and then set aside specific times to do it. When are your classes? How much time do you need to do homework? When are the clubs or activities you attend? By organizing your time efficiently, you can actually get more done, stave avoid procrastination AND make more time to do what you actually want to do.

2. Eat FOOD

You wouldn't try to fill up an empty car's gas tank with fish sticks before a road trip, would you? If you answered "Of course not", you recognize the importance of the proper fuel to get the job done. The same concepts applies to your body. If you spend all semester living off of pizza or the cheapest Chinese you can find, you're not going to make it very far. Contrary to popular belief, Lawrence serves perfectly edible fruit, and its salad bar allows you to pick and choose a wide array of delectable vegetables. Also, the West Chester Growers Market, open every Saturday from 9-11, is full of cheap and delicious fruits and vegetables, as well as cheeses, breads, and desserts. Don't let your tank hit empty!

3. Explore your community

Be it the university, the town, or the region, West Chester has a lot to offer students who are less than reluctant to be back. On campus, there's always a slew of concerts, plays, speakers, events, and pretty much anything you can possibly think of. In town, local music venues like The Note offer chances to see cool local bands, and events like the annual Restaurant Festival are often both fun and cheap. And, of course, Philadelphia, only minutes away, has almost everything else you could desire.

4. Get Enough Sleep

Not too little. Not too much. As much as lifestyle partying and late nights will hurt your ability to focus in class, sleeping twelve hours and waking up ten minutes before class starts is no good either. Find out how many much you need to function best (probably between 7 to 9 hours) and make it a priority to get around that much.

5. Don't go home

Once upon a time, people looked forward to college because it meant getting away from home; college was the time to fly from the nest, explore your identity, and discover the world around you. But today, for a lot of students, it's a couple of buildings to take class in during the week until Friday comes when they can hop back in the car and head back to do laundry, raid the kitchen, and spend time with high school friends. This will never help anyone adjust to college life. And why would it? In the end, these students aren't really relying on themselves or cultivating any further understanding of adult life; in essence, they are refusing to grow up. Yes, you'll be homesick sometimes. Yes, cooking for yourself can be hard, and yes, not having Mom do your laundry can be annoying. But everyone has to start sometime, and college is the perfect time to do so. And once you realize that you can be independent in this environment, you'll come to love being here that much more.

Upcoming Events

End Drop/Add Period
Friday, September 3

President's Picnic
Thursday, September 9
5:30PM-7:30 at Tanglewood

1st General Assembly Meeting
Thursday, September 9
8PM in Merion 112

Phillies Social Cookout
Saturday, September 18
Before departure for the game
West Chester Commons
Free to everyone!

Phillies Social
Saturday, September 18
Game starts at 7PM
See Lauren Peterson for tickets

**HONORS STUDENT
ASSOCIATION**

**WEST CHESTER
UNIVERSITY**

HSA Executive Board:

President
Matthew Whittall

1st Vice President 2nd Vice President
Laura Hurd Tim Kuhn

Treasurer Secretary
Michael Jendzurski Grace Votta

Director Administrative Asst.
Kevin Dean Donna Carney

HSA Committee Chairs:

Aid to South Africa *Alumni Database*
Stephanie Eckman Liz Remelius

Alumni *Awards & Recognition*
Jon Keith Emily Frey

Buddy Coordinator *Community Service*
Alex Di Vito Colleen Gardner

Fundraising *Grad. Fair Coordinator*
Morgan Cali Alicia Vandermark

Historian *Housing*
Tori Jackson Victoria Ravenelle

Multicultural Affairs *Public Relations*
Elizabeth Saldierna RJ Wasyluk

Recruitment *SGA*
Dan Hinderliter Patrick Melvin

Social *Sports & Recreation*
Lauren Peterson Vinnie D'Agostino

TAG *Technology*
Lauren Matter Justin Caiazza



Photo Courtesy of Stacey Snyder
Congratulations to the 2010-2011 HSA Executive Board! Top Row: 2nd Vice President Tim Kuhn, HC VIII, President Matthew Whittall, HC X, and Treasurer Michael Jendzurski, HC XI. Bottom Row: Secretary Grace Votta, HC XI, 1st Vice President Laura Hurd, HC IX, and Immediate Past President Stacey Snyder, HC IX.

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While HSA provides many service oriented opportunities for Honors students, it also provides Honors Students with social opportunities.

To mention a few, in the upcoming year, HSA already has planned a BBQ and trip to the Phillies game in September, a trip to the Bates Motel around Halloween and a semi-formal to finish out the year.

Many of these events have become Honors traditions and I hope to see many first year students attend this year.

For Veterans of HSA, I would like to be the first to say "welcome back."

This year, HSA has many exciting plans and changes from years past. At our yearly summer executive board meeting that the Dean Family kindly hosts, I asked each executive board member what their goals were for the upcoming year.

From that, we created a few concrete programs for the upcoming year. One of these programs is a community service initiative.

While Honors students contribute to

many acts of community service, much of this work is not formally recognized by the Honors College.

Beginning this year, HSA has created an initiative to recognize those who partake in community service. For each semester that an Honors student completes 30 hours of community service, they will receive a certificate. If a student is able to turn in 6 out of 8 certificates by graduation or has completed 200 hours of service, they will receive an award. Also, rising Juniors who receive 3 out of 4 certificates or complete 100 hours of service by graduation will receive the award.

As August comes to a close and some of us return to West Chester, while others arrive for the first time, I wish everyone a productive year. In addition to being productive in the classroom, I urge you to make a difference and become involved.

HSA is a great outlet for service and social activities. Be sure to come to the first meeting and be a part of an organization that is run by the students and that strives to uphold the motto "To be honorable is to serve."

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.