

Honors Student
Association

West Chester
University

HSA

Happenings

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Happenings in Honors

HSA Members of the Month

The HSA Awards and Recognition Committee has recently started a new initiative to highlight members of the Honors Student Association who exhibit excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership and service. Congratulations to the April Members of the Month!

Scholarship: Tori Bresnan, Sophomore

-“Showing people that you care about them whether they be a student or professor can go a long way.”

Tori is a second year dual major in Psychology and Pharmaceutical Product Development. She is involved in the Psychology club, PPD Club, Animal Behavior Club and spends time volunteering in the West Chester community and her community at home.

Tori’s involvement, paired with an undoubtedly rigorous schedule demanded by a dual major makes her high level of academic achievement even more impressive. Tori credits her achievements in scholarship to the connections she makes with students and professors. She builds this beneficial network through finding study partners and visiting professors during office hours. Tori suggests that those aiming to succeed academically focus not only on their assignments, but also on building relationships, getting involved, and not being afraid of asking for help. Tori Bresnan’s unique approach to academia manages to build a bridge between the usually separate entities of social and scholarly.



Leadership: Chan To, Junior

-“If you believe that you can make a difference, you are more than qualified for that particular role.”



Chan is a third-year psychology major and is looking to pursue a doctorate in clinical psychology in order to teach on the collegiate level as well as open her own practice. She is highly involved in the Psychology department and is the current vice-president of West Chester's chapter of Psi Chi, the International Honors Society in Psychology. Chan works as a research assistant for Dr. Deanna Zotter and Dr. Thomas Treadwell and is a peer tutor for undergraduate psychology students enrolled in Introduction to Biopsychology. On top of her involvement with the

Psychology department, Chan also tutors MAT 104 at the Learning Assistance and Resource Center on campus and holds a committee chair position in the Honors Student Association.

Chan claims that holding leadership positions allows you to become comfortable with failures and learn from them in order to meet challenges. She suggests embracing weaknesses when going for positions, but not being afraid of giving yourself credit where credit is due. Chan To exemplifies exceptional leadership and acts as a role model for those looking to get involved.

Service: Bryan Ursillo, Freshman

Bryan is a first-year pre-med (chem-bio) major. Bryan has volunteered at the Chester County Hospital in the emergency room every Saturday since mid-semester last fall. He also serves as a freshman senator on the student government association, serves on the SSI Board, as well as the university retention and graduation committee. Bryan grew up in the area and therefore the Chester County Hospital personally means a lot to him. Service is important to Bryan because he loves giving back in any way he can, but he prefers for the work to be hands on and not done through conversation. By this, he means he loves actually getting out there and working to help others. His suggestions for others trying to get more involved in the community include finding something that attracts your attention. “When you find that, grab it and try it. Trying anything is better than just sitting around looking for a specific job/opportunity as all the opportunities that I have taken advantage of have been a result of just diving in head first to anything that falls my way!”



Who's Who Among Students

HSA is proud to announce that sixteen of its members have been awarded the Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities recognition. This award is given to students who have consistently exhibited excellence in academics, leadership, service, and community involvement, and who show promise in their future leadership ability and potential. Thank you for making our community a better place!



Front Row: Dr. Kevin W. Dean – Director of Honors College; Ahleah Miles (PSY), Erin Yentz (ENG/Special Ed), Sarah Walker (KIN-Occupational Therapy), Marissa Giovinazzo (NSG), Katherine Rincavage – (BIO), Rebecca Bannan (EGP/Special Ed), Jennifer Allen (Comm Dis), and Christopher Whittall (ACC/FIN) *Back Row:* Anastasia Amand (ENG-BSED), Ansu Bensen (CHE/BIO), Amanda Gilbert (EGP), Haley Paiva (MAT-BSED), Brittany Baumeister (MUEd-voice), Jamal Reddick (MUEd-instrument), Victoria Holt (COM), Clare Haggerty (ENG), Samantha McGinty (Comm Dis), and Brooke Hillman (COM)

HISA Happenings

Art Gallery

Anthony Fallacaro, Freshman



Olivia Harris, Freshman



Rachele Gillespie, Sophomore



Christina Robinson, Freshman

*We find ourselves lost
Between thoughts
And manifestations
Always begging for a push
To become
Realization*

*Remain calm,
Keep breathing
For the inspiration escapes you
But with patience
And hard work
You'll find it is a virtue*

*Be positive,
Stay centered
The stress will leave in time
For you to stand
Before your creation
Forged within your mind*

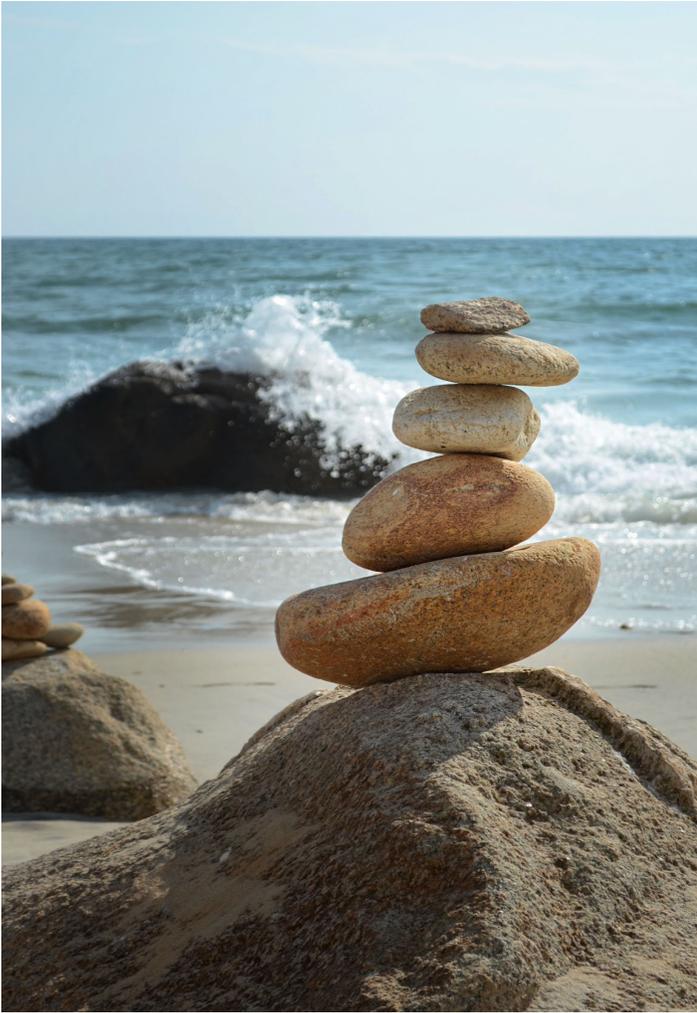
Morgan E. McMurtrie



Erika Glass, Junior



Devon Stroup, Sophomore



Sarah Joyce, Freshman

Glass

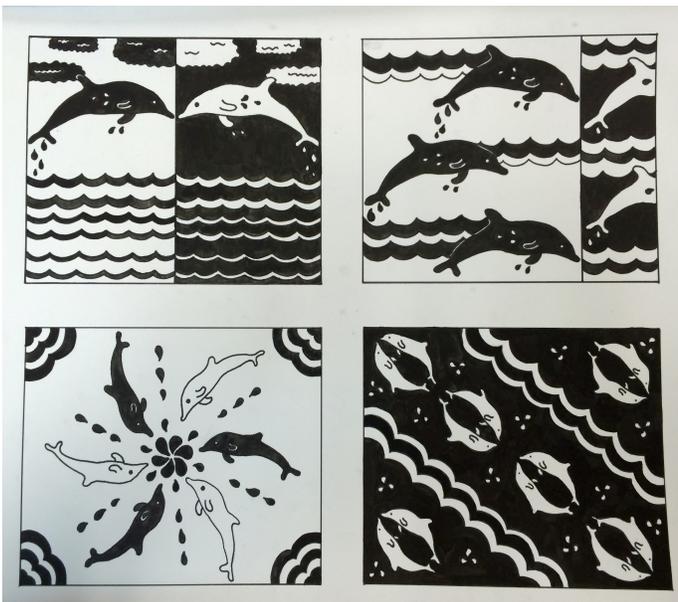
*Late at night
when the house had closed its
eyes
and I stepped with hesitation
to protect the silent air*

*I dropped
a glass, clear and round
and it clattered to the ground
shattered as I knew it would
and settled moments later
strewn across the dim lit floor.*

*The sound had been enormous
no respect for sleeping world
but the glass was now a
landscape of shards and slivers,
a white veil of moonlight
dancing on it from the window.*

*And as I watched it glint and
shimmer
I could only help but wonder
if some things
are more beautiful
only after
they're destroyed.*

Erika Glass



Amy Cander, Sophomore

Director's Corner

Some thoughts for our graduates.....

This spring's Academy Awards ceremony, marking excellence in motion picture arts and sciences, paid special tribute to the cinematic classic, *The Sound of Music*. Celebrating its 50th birthday, the production ranks among the American Film Institute's top 100 films and as the top 5 best musicals. The theatrical release in movie theatres ran for an unprecedented four-and-one-half years; balanced for inflation, in 2014, it ranked as the 5th highest grossing film of all time.

Based on the real-life struggle of a family's courageous resistance to the impending doom cast by the rise of Hitler's Nazi Germany, the class film draws vitality from music written by Rodgers and Hammerstein, an award winning performance by Julie Andrews and breathtaking cinematography. With messages of resilience and hope, the movie urges audiences to "*climb every mountain, ford every stream, follow every rainbow, 'til you find your dream.*" Briefly, three plotlines emerge: 1) A would-be nun becomes the mother of a large family; 2) young lovers find conflict between romance and duty to family and nation; and 3) a proud patriot discerns his greatest service to his country will only be realized through leaving the land he loves.

The Sound of Music depicts the challenges, risks, hardships and exhilarations faced in confronting change. Transitions are not easy, yet in each instance of transition we witness opportunity, as aptly stated by the Mother Superior, "God never shuts a door without opening a window."

As anyone who has watched *The Sound of Music* can attest, the film depicts a wide range of emotion. Most of the emotion stems from leave taking. Saying "*So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, goodbye*" was frustrating for children who wanted nothing more than to stay at the party and were instead transitioning off to bed. Later in the film, a reprise of "*so long, farewell, auf wiedersehen goodbye*" marked leaving a place of comfort for an uncertain future in a different land.

As spring comes to West Chester, the season brings with it the sounds of music, which usher in a rush of emotion. In particular, I think of the graduation melody *Pomp and Circumstance*, first performed as a matriculation processional in 1905 at Yale University. The march, now ritualized, holds a prominent place in many commencement exercises nationwide. The tune elicits bittersweet emotions: pride of completion and heart-ache of goodbyes.





Many who will gather at Farrell Stadium—including members of HC-XIII—will wish aspects of the undergraduate experience could continue into the next chapters of their lives. Saying goodbye to familiar places and faces that hold laughter and joyous moments becomes hard to walk away from. Yet goodbyes are not just hard for nostalgia's sake, goodbyes also mean new beginnings, often in unfamiliar landscapes. In the film, the Von Trap family leaves the Salzburg Festival to face an uncertain future not knowing if they would ever return to their beloved pre-Nazi, Austrian life. At that moment, echoes the words sung by Julie Andrews, flooded into their minds, *What will this day be like.....I wonder.....what will the*

future bring.....I wonder". Graduates, as you walk to the tune of *Pomp and Circumstance*, you too will likely reflect upon what is unfolding and ask yourselves questions: Will I be back? Will I walk again through the whispering arches of Philips? Will these amazing people who touched my life, and changed me for good, remain a part of me "when I'm 25 going on 30.....let alone.....when I'm 60 going on 70?"

One reason *The Sound of Music* remains so iconic, and continues to touch generations, comes from those who are willing to revisit. My Grandmother took me to see the film on "the big screen" in 1967, at

the Victoria Theatre in Wheeling, West Virginia. I remember feeling a rush as the camera zoomed in and the music swelled as Julie Andrews flung open her arms and turned round and round in that vast open field. Over the years I have caught glimpses of the film and each time I revisit, it brings back warm memories of that first experience. As your next chapter unfolds, may each of you prioritize moments of your precious time to revisit, to at least glimpse back on, West Chester and this community of outstanding talent and promise. I deeply believe your lives



will be richer, as you leave graduation, if you do so, not with the melody of "so-long-fare well, adieu, adieu, adieu to you and you and you!", but with the hope and promise of **until we meet again.**

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Shannon Taylor

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Matt Nolt

SGA Representative

Erin Yentz

Grad School Fair

Ansu Bensen

Social

Ahleah Miles

Historian

Devon Stroup

Sports & Recreation

Dan DeBrakeleer

Housing

Morgan McMurtrie

TAG

Emily Polefka

Involvement Coordinator

Samantha McGinty

Technology

Joe Cosentino

So, to those who will walk in May, let me offer my most sincere thanks for sharing this part of your journey with those of us; each of you made an impact. Your presence mattered and you touched lives. May you find the inner strength and courage to continue climbing every mountain until you find your dream and then discover the contentment to live it. Finally, never doubt, amidst a whirl of change, West Chester University and the Honors College exist as permanent reminders of what you can achieve as individuals and as a community.

~ Dr. Kevin Dean

Congratulations to the 2015-2016 HSA Executive Board!

President: Kellen Kane

1st Vice President: Samantha Stalford

2nd Vice President: Chan To

Treasurer: Jason Miller

Secretary: Sara Nyholm

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

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