

Interview with Miss WCU

By Dan VanHassent, HC XII



Congratulations to Alexis Stinson, Miss WCU 2012!

Honors Professors:

Behind the Scenes

By Marissa Caldwell, HC XIII

Within the Honors College at West Chester University, there are not only many talented, motivated, and successful students, but there are also the dedicated professors who work behind the scenes to make the Honors College as great an environment and education as it is. In recent interviews, Dr. John Helion, of the Kinesiology department; Dr. Paul Morgan, in the Professional and Secondary Education department; and Dr. Denise Polk, from the Communication Studies department, shared their thoughts on the West Chester University Honors program and what it means to them.

As Dr. Paul Morgan puts it, it is an amazing experience “to watch students grow into even more competent and capable leaders.” Dr. Denise Polk and Dr. Morgan agree that the Honors College helps students to build meaningful relationships, focuses on learning through service and practice, and is a learning community in action.

See Behind the Scenes, page 2

Each year, West Chester University chooses one woman who has the academics, talent, leadership and spirit to represent the University as Miss WCU. This year, out of the twenty contestants, the crown was won by **Alexis Stinson, HCXI**. Alexis is a third year Pharmaceutical Product Development major with a theater minor. Below is an interview between Alexis and **Dan VanHassent, HC XII**, regarding her motivation behind becoming Miss WCU 2012.

Dan: Why did you decide to participate in Miss WCU?

Alexis: *I participated in Miss WCU because I recognized and respected how much the pageant focused on community service rather than beauty and talent. Because of the stress on the passion and the inner beauty of the contestants, the Miss WCU Pageant gathers a truly remarkable group of women leaders on campus who truly seek to make a difference on campus and in the surrounding community. This amazing group of ladies is what made me want to participate in this opportunity. (They) support each other so much— from cheering on other girls as they took the stage to supporting everyone’s platforms on campus and in the community. Not to mention that the previous Miss WCUs have truly served as inspiration for the past 14 years and I sought to be a part of that legacy of greatness. So, in essence, this phenomenal group of supportive passionate women led me to participate in the Miss WCU pageant.*

Dan: What do you plan on doing as Miss WCU?

Alexis: *As Miss WCU 2012 I plan to focus on three main elements: First, promoting my platform, Aid to South Africa.*

See Miss WCU, page 3

Behind the Scenes, Continued from page 1

The Honors College incorporates the broader community into its activities by service projects and “an overall expectation of service” in classes and through extracurriculars that John Helion points out is essential in helping students to become more involved with others in the local area.

Not only are the Honors College professors essential to every honors student’s experience at West Chester, but Dr. Denise Polk says her career has been enhanced because she has been exposed to a “greater number of students -- people I might not otherwise have the opportunity to meet.” Together Dr. Polk and Dr. Helion teach the freshman course Self Awareness, which, according to Dr. Helion, “deals a lot with self examination, self awareness, fear, and what holds us back from achievement.” One of the reasons that Dr. Helion finds his job fulfilling, he says, is because “I get to work with some really neat individuals who are motivated to do amazing things with their abilities.”

Much as the Honors College encourages students to follow their passions, Honors professors are able to incorporate their passions into teaching and Dr. Morgan finds it “satisfying to be able to teach Honors courses that reflect two of my greatest passions, education and environmental studies.” Dr. Helion’s passion is “making the world a better place,” which he helps to do through teaching, influencing his students and his personal life outside of the university.

This incredible wealth of educators who are dedicated to the Honors College ensures that every student has a remarkable experience at West Chester, and promotes personal growth through encouragement, learning and an emphasis on service.

Important Dates

- March 1st GA Meeting**
- March 3rd Library Scavenger Hunt**
- March 10th Spring Break Begins**
- March 19th Classes Resumé**
- March 21st Graduate School Fair**
- March 22nd GA Meeting**
- March 24th Interview Session #3**
- March 25th Adopt a Block
5K Run
King of Prussia Social**

Putting the “Fun” in Fundraising: Date Auction 2012

By Samantha Sallade, *HC XIII*

Valentine’s Day festivities began a little early this year for some of the students in the Honors College. **Alissa Conway**, Fundraising Chair of HSA, organized a Date Auction to raise some money for students in the program. Twenty-one brave boys took the stage on Thursday, February 9th to strut their stuff. Each boy walked on stage to a song of his choice. Some of the boys danced, while others preferred to strike a pose. After that, MC **Jonathan Russell** read their bios and gave a few flattering words. **Zach Wooten**, a boy being auctioned for the evening, chose the song “Aaron’s Party”. He said of the evening, “Everyone was such a good sport during the event. All of the ladies were wonderful, and all of the guys were courageous. It was a little intimidating to stand up there, but everyone was great!”

Benjamin Clancy started off the night with a great attitude that set the tone for the rest of the evening. He remarked, “I was a little nervous to go first, but all of the ladies were cool and gave us guys a chance!” All of the ladies went back and forth, vying for a date with the man of their dreams. Each girl had a stick with a heart and number on it, and every time they wanted to raise the price of the guy they would hold it up and continue the bidding.

See **Date Auction**, Page 6



Director's Corner

By Kevin Dean, Director of the Honors College

Time Well Spent – Build Your Resumé Today

For most seniors considering graduate and/or professional school, this time of the semester represents the “eye of the storm.” All the applications were drafted, polished, and mailed by Thanksgiving and now it is simply a matter of waiting to hear back from the various institutions about their decisions. Some sage advice from those who are going through that process includes encouragement for all freshmen, sophomores, and juniors to consider spending some time over spring break assembling and/or revising your resumé.

According to statistics from head-hunter-firms, the average time prospective employers give to reviewing resúmes is 20 seconds. Frightening! This is your life on paper we are talking about and you want to present yourself in the very best light possible. I am pleased that the Honors College provides assistance to sophomores, juniors, and seniors each spring through HON 340 – *Professional Pathways*, a half-credit course which provides guidance to those considering post-baccalaureate study--and hey, as honors students, each of you should give this serious consideration!

For those of you who will take this advice of spending some time over the break in reviewing and refining your resumé, check out our website and visit the Resources tab at www.wcupa.edu/Honors/resources.asp

It is fair to say that few enjoy the task of resumé preparation, yet, it is time well spent. During the brief lulls in your hectic schedules, take time to put the best of you on paper and then make committed routine time for updating and refining that work. You will be so relieved when admission and selection board and employers ask for this information and you can provide it quickly--if you have any doubt, just ask a senior!



Above: Members of HSA who completed 30 or more hours of community service in Fall of 2011. Altogether, HSA logged over **1800** service hours last semester!

Miss WCU, Continued from page 1

This is an amazing event and service opportunity that takes place on campus and I hope to aid with the promotion, education and fundraising aspects of the event and all that it represents to the children we effect in South Africa. Second, I would like to establish myself as a role model for young ladies in the community. Speaking as a big sister, girls nowadays have it a little more challenging than we did growing up. It appears that peer pressure and the desire to be ‘cool’ is only growing exponentially. I hope to serve as a role model and a symbol of inner beauty to younger girls in the community. Finally, I want to help other students and members of the community to find their passion. I began this adventure along with so many amazing members of HSA last year when we initiated Dance for a Chance, a dance marathon to raise money for your passions. As Miss WCU, I hope to continue to inspire others to find their passion and ultimately use their talents to make a positive difference on our campus and in our community.

A Note From the Editor

By Ashley Murphy, HC XII

Capstone Karma was a feature started last year by the immediate past editor of HSA Happenings, **RJ Wasylyk**. In his words, "by supporting your peers' projects and events, you will develop a relationship with others in capstone who will attend your event when the time comes. Additionally, by getting involved with others' projects, you will see innovation from someone else's point of view—and then be able to apply that to your project." In honor of this idea, as well as the strong tradition of community and support that goes along with being a member of the WCU Honors College, I will continue to feature the Capstone Karma section from time to time. The array of ideas and initiatives found within the Honors College is truly incredible and I sincerely hope that you will consider coming out to support your peers in their endeavors .

Morgan Cali is hosting a 5K walk/run

All proceeds of the event go to the

West Chester Food Cupboard.

On **Sunday March 25th, at 10am.**

The course is on south campus.

Registration is \$20 before March 9th (\$25 between March 9th and the day of the event)

The registration fee also includes an awesome event t-shirt.

We need participants to please encourage people to come out for this great event !

Becky Young is hosting the 2nd Annual

Songs of Hope Benefit Concert

On **April 27th, 2012 7:30-9:00 pm** (silent auction 7:00 pm)

The event will be held at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church
600 Walker Road Wayne, PA

All proceeds will go to Abramson Cancer Center
in Memory of Beloved Mother Elizabeth Young

Contact Becky Young (609)-675-1313 for more information.

Volunteers are needed before and during event!

(I bring food to the meetings!)

CAPSTONE KARMA

Melody Linton is hosting the

Community Center Music Program

If you enjoy music and kids, this is the right fit for you!

Bring your musical expertise to the West Chester Community Center after-school program. Students can share about musical instruments, composers, and musical time periods with usually a dozen children in elementary/middle school. The group music time/lessons are twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5-6pm.

To sign up to teach a lesson, go to this link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AvFPzldpMTQ0dEo4UXNubzRxV001VFdqVhLTGdGZUE#gid=0>

Caitlyn Rivera is hosting

World Vision's 30-Hour Famine

If you are interested in becoming a part of the 30-Hour Famine, or you just want to know more about what it is, please plan on attending one of our Group Gatherings; the dates for the gatherings are below:

Tuesday, February 21 at 6:30 p.m. in MER113

Monday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m. in MER113

Tuesday, March 20 at 6:30 p.m. in MER113

Monday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. in MER113

Tuesday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m. in MER113

Questions? Please feel free to e-mail us at wcu30hrfamine@gmail.com or check out our google site or our Facebook Event Page ("WCU 30 Hour Famine").

Get Prepared for Life After College:

An Inside Look at Some of West Chester's Best Resources

By Tony Lafratte, HCXIII

Too often throughout the college experience, students tend to overlook the incredibly valuable resources and services their school is more than willing to provide for them. West Chester University offers a fully functional Career Development Center, equipped with the entire range of features intended to assist students in finding their place in college and provide them with viable avenues to take in order to pursue their career goals. A few of the plethora of services the Career Development Center provides include helping students choose a major, identify potential career paths, write resumés, prepare for interviews, and initiate post-graduation job searches. The CDC's website (www.wcupa.edu/cdc), alone, is rich with information and helpful tips.

For instance, it offers an elaborate guide for writing the optimum resumé, comprising everything from basic "do's and don'ts" to sample resumés based on specific majors. The highly motivated staff at the CDC takes great strides to provide West Chester University students with the tools they need to gain an advantage in identifying career goals and pursuing them. Becky Ross, Director of the Career Development Center, emphasizes the one-on-one attention students will receive by utilizing the CDC, truly rendering it a special feature of what West Chester has to offer. "What is most special is the 'personal touch' students receive from our staff. We have a positive, welcoming, student-friendly group of professionals in the career center who pride themselves on meeting the unique needs of each person that walks through our doors or contacts us via telephone or email."

Indeed, the CDC goes to great lengths to accommodate students by allowing them to schedule individual appointments with a professional staff member or by answering drop-in questions, where no appointment is necessary. This kind of access to information and assistance could be extremely beneficial for those who decide to take advantage of it. The CDC also provides students with four main online tools that could be tremendously helpful. **College Central Network**: among the many services it provides, allows students to apply for internships and gives feedback on uploaded resumés.

Focus is a program that allows users to explore various careers and is especially useful for those deciding on which major to select. **Goinglobal** provides an international perspective, where students can learn about employment abroad and international students can find out about domestic employment. Also, **Interview Stream** is a brand new feature that allows students to use their web-cams to practice their interviewing skills. These are just a few of the many resources the CDC has to offer. It would be in every student's best interest to invest a bit of time there and explore various ways to maximize the potential for their futures.

Along with providing advantages with respect to interviewing skills, resumé writing skills, and networking skills, the CDC can simply enhance a student's academic life. Ross claims, "Students with clear academic and career goals tend to be more successful academically, and more satisfied with their educational experience." The tools to do this are completely within reach. Those who choose to use the tools are those who will truly excel. The Career Development Center is located at 225 Lawrence Center and is open 8:00-4:30 Monday thru Friday.

Mark Your Calendars: Aid to South Africa is Sunday, April 15th

If you are interested in helping out with a particular committee, contact the following people:

Director— Lori Brooks

Assistant Director— Victoria Ravenelle

Decoration and Awareness— Kristen Waltz

Games— Kaitlin Dylnicki

Teams Management— Caitlin Gardner and Vinnie D'Agostino

Music and Entertainment— Elise Lerario

Food— Jon Russell

Treasurer— Likhitha Musunuru

Business Marketing— Dan Bach

Public Relations— Zach Wooten

Honors Student Association

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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.

Date Auction, continued from page 2

While many of the boys were bought by someone they knew, **Brianna Plaxe** purchased **Jake Markiewicz**, a boy that she had not known prior to the evening. She said, "It's nerve racking really to buy someone I didn't know, but afterwards I was glad I did it!" While bidding was the main attraction, there were many other things going on that evening. There were a variety of raffles and snacks that drew in the crowd. One of the raffles was a "Hottest Guy" competition, to which the winner was **Dan VanHassent**. He got a box of chocolates and the pride of knowing the ladies loved him.



Everyone left the evening with smiles and laughter, and the promise of fun dates. **Jon Heintz** spoke of his fun date that occurred a week later. "I felt the pressure



to think of a fun date for the lovely lady who bought me, so I took her to the aquarium and to Pat's for a cheese steak!" All of the guys have taken their ladies out and had tons of fun! This event was not only successful from a fundraising standpoint, raising a total of \$620, but it also brought all of us together for a fun and silly evening!

Do you like to write?

Take pictures?

HSA Happenings

is for you!

Write one article per month and get a bullet point for your resumé!

Contact

**Ashley Murphy at
am738358@wcupa.edu**

for more info.

ATTENTION ALL CREATIVE MINDS:

The Happenings Arts Edition wants

YOU!

Poetry

Prose

Cartoons

And more...

Contact Ashley Murphy or Molly O'Connor for details:

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Or check us out on Facebook