

## A Message From Your President

By: Michael B. Jendzurski , HC XI

Welcome back!! And the year is now 2012!! As the semester becomes anew, it is wonderful to see all the familiar faces of our friends and members of our organization. Last semester, the Honors Student Association made incredible strides both as individuals and an organization. I would like to congratulate you on your achievements, they have not gone unnoticed.

With resolutions still fresh, be reminded of your goals. Although different challenges await you this semester, pursue excellence. Some of you will be starting the core curriculum within your major, others may be at a crossroads and in the midst of change, and for a special group, this is the final semester of your undergraduate career. No matter where you are in your journey, you have the full support from the Honors family; embrace the opportunity to share your experiences with others who care.

To help facilitate this, the HSA Executive Board has listened to requests for more frequent gatherings and will reserve two Thursdays a month for planned general-assembly engagement. The "meetings" will be shorter and offer activities based on student interest and committee involvement.

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## HSA Hosts First Annual "Be My Valentine" Date Auction

By: Alissa Conway, HC XII

Just in time for Valentine's Day, the Honors Student Association will be hosting a date auction on February 9<sup>th</sup> 2012 at 8:30 p.m. in Sykes Ballroom C. During this auction, the fine gentlemen from the Honors College and around the West Chester campus will participate to raise funds for the Honors Student Association. Over twenty men will be dressed to impress the bidders across West Chester campus. Entrance into the auction will be free, but there will be baked goods on sale as well as the actual bidding costs. Once the auction starts each gentleman will be introduced with some facts about themselves, and then the bidding will begin. We hope to provide entertainment and enjoyment as well as raise money for the Honors Student Association. Everyone is welcome so please come out and show your support! Contact AC737692@wcupa.edu for more information.



# Arts Around West Chester

By: **Brittany Baumeister, HC XIII**

Although the spring semester may have begun, West Chester students need to get through the chilly winter blues before experiencing the flowers, sunshine, and warmth that arrive mid-March. The currently frigid weather often compels students to stay in their dorms, leading to boredom and the dreaded cabin fever. Alas, don't fret! Even though the flora may appear dead, the arts at WCU are very much alive with a plethora of boredom-busting, economically-friendly entertainment to offer this winter.

If singing is your forte, a performance by the Concert Choir may pique your interest. Preparing since last semester, the group (under the direction of Dr. David DeVenney) has two upcoming concerts: Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30, and Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:00, with both performances taking place in the Madeline Wing Adler Theatre (MWAT) in Swope. The repertoire is John Knowles Paine's *Mass in D Minor*. Said member and HC junior DJ Matsko, "Paine was an American composer whose works are few and not very well-known. This mass has only been performed once or twice in the U.S., so it is a pretty unique performance," adding that the choir will be accompanied by orchestra. With opportunities to see and hear the well-rehearsed choir, you will not want to miss out on this one-of-a-kind performance.

Perhaps you're more of a band geek (no shame!). In that case, consider attending the Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony concert (under the direction of Dr. Andrew Yozviak and Dr. M. Gregory Martin, respectfully). The performance, on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 (in MWAT) will contain a variety of tunes, from classical to modern. The Wind Ensemble will be playing primarily contemporary music, including *Gloriosa* by Yasuhide Ito, which, according to member and HC sophomore Brian Tracey, "was written in 1990 and was meant to support the Christians in China who were suffering religious persecution." Tracey added that, "Anyone who would like to hear some contemporary music for Wind Ensemble should attend this concert, as the wide range of emotion portrayed by each piece will transport the listener and carry them on a long musical journey." The other half of the program will be filled by the Wind Symphony, which will be performing traditional tunes, like the *Valdres* march by Johannes Hansen, as well as modern music, such as the mysterious *Niagara Falls* by Michael Daugherty. With something for everyone on the program, grabbing a friend and going to the performance will be well worth missing an hour or two of studying. (No studying to do? Splendid! No excuses.)

See **Arts Around West Chester, Page 4**

## Important Dates

**Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> GA Meeting**

**Feb 9<sup>th</sup> Date Auction**

**Feb 16<sup>th</sup> GA Meeting**

**March 1<sup>st</sup> GA Meeting**

**March 21<sup>st</sup> Graduate School Fair**

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> GA Meeting**

## Calling All Creative Minds!

By: **Tony LaFratte HC XIII**

One of the most revered men in the history of our nation, Benjamin Franklin, once remarked: "Hide not your talents, they for use were made. What's a sundial in the shade?" In essence, Franklin did not undervalue the importance of mankind's treasures and how each and every being uses their talents to aid in spinning the complex web of the world. Throughout their fruitful lives, the students of the West Chester University Honors College have made an explicit effort to extract the talents they hold within to electrify the world around them, clearly indicating their sundials are not concealed. The annual Arts Edition of HSA Happenings highlights a small tidbit of the talent prevalent in the Honors College, an endless spring of imagination marked by sparkling creativity and composite character. In the upcoming month, students will submit original works of art, including poetry, drawings, song lyrics, and the alike. In order to be included in the Arts Edition, submissions must be entered by the 29th of February. In a world where everyday activities usually become monotonous, indulging in creativity can serve as a fitting means of breaking the cycle. As you will soon find yourself sifting through the various works of art the Honors College members have to display, you will be reassured of the great capacity of character and culture they have to offer.

# Director's Corner

By: Kevin Dean, Director of the Honors College



As the ball dropped again in Times Square and echoes of *Auld Lang Syne* filled the air, it gave me the opportunity to reflect on what a great year 2011 was and what promises lay in store for 2012. I am so proud of what the students and faculty in the WCU Honors College achieved this past semester. One hundred and eight students earned the distinction of being named to the **Honors College Dean's List**, as they achieved a cumulative grade point average over a 3.75. Eleven were inducted into **Omicron Delta Kappa**, the most prestigious campus honorary celebrating scholarship, leadership and service among campus juniors and seniors. Students traveled to New York City with HON315 where, along with Professors Harvey Rovine and Donna Usher, they experienced the Brooklyn Museum of Art and attended the Broadway play **Memphis**. Guided by Professor Gerardina Martin, students in HON311 wrote grant proposals for local community philanthropies and students in HON452, under the inspiration of senior Ellen Howard, are producing a monograph entitled Best Practices in Campus Leadership. Through the contributions of over 50 alumni and the work of H.S.A. President, Michael Jendzurski, the first publication in a national journal, dealing with the Honors College's pioneering work in sustained international education in South Africa, has been accepted by the **National Collegiate Honors Council**.

Under the leadership of an outstanding executive board and dynamic committee chairs, we experienced record-breaking attendance at our fall meetings and social events. Whether it was a Halloween adventure, a shared Thanksgiving meal, a visit from Santa in Princeton, a buddy event between upper-classmen and first year students, or simply hanging out in a hospitable space promoted by the housing committee, Honors continued striving towards a "Cheers Bar Experience" where everyone knows your name and are glad you came. In fall 2011, we reached out to alumni, recognized over 100 **Outstanding Faculty** for quality teaching, conducted assessment of each honors seminar and took the pulse of the junior class. Several students, in solidarity with the homeless, slept outside on a cold autumn night, others explored the university library, joined H.S.A. generated choral groups, up-dated our web page, and sent out notifications of honors student excellence to local media outlets. We have a clear voice in student government, are making strides in raising funds, our sports efforts brought us recognition in soccer and volleyball and our Frisbees fill the air on Tuesday nights.

Most important, we lived the motto **to be honorable is to serve**. Members reported over 1200 hours of service and over 1150 hours of service through Honors sponsored events. Highlights include our sustained work done through **TAG**, a partnership with Barclay Friends senior facility, and preparations for our two signature spring events, the **Graduate School Fair** and **Aid to South Africa**. Always mindful of possibilities for new traditions, Vice President Alexis Stinson and a group of very devoted students inaugurated **Dance for a Chance** as a major fall undertaking to build community and promote a campus-wide philanthropic spirit.

The only image more exciting than fall 2011, is the promise of what awaits in spring 2012. I had the privilege of joining the H.S.A. Executive Board for its winter planning session. They began by reviewing all the feedback received from the broader membership as to what went well and what could be enhanced. Listening carefully to the membership, plans are underway for additional assembly meetings, greater interface between the executive board and committee chairs, and continued programming to foster interpersonal engagement within the larger membership. More than ever, I remain convinced that *the best is yet to be!* I look forward to welcoming all---students, faculty, administrators, parents, family, alumni, and friends to participate in our many activities this spring and witness first hand what amazing works can be accomplished through the recognition that presence matters. . . the door is open, the welcome mat is out, come join us!

Check out

## ***The Human Experience***

February 20th – 23rd

Contact Lori Brooks at  
lb735611@wcupa.edu

For More Details

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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*

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Thank you for the time and energy you have dedicated to HSA last semester; we saw success in increased community service hours, the inaugural hosting of Dance for a Chance, and some of the most attended meetings in HSA's history. This semester, we welcome the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Aid to South Africa event, the Honors-hosted Graduate School Fair, and a myriad of service and social events (including the Spring Formal). It's time to get excited for a fulfilling 15 weeks at West Chester.

As we kick off the Spring Term, I wish you the best of luck in your academic endeavors and good health, too.

Come out  
and support  
**Alexis Stinson**  
as she competes  
in the  
**Miss WCU Pageant**  
on February 4th

Do you like to write?  
Take pictures?

*HSA Happenings*  
is for you!

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

Contact [am738358@wcupa.edu](mailto:am738358@wcupa.edu)  
for more info.

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Do jazz hands, kicklines, and show tunes make you smile? If so, you're in luck: University Theatre is presenting its 12<sup>th</sup> annual AIDS Benefit, "Worth Fighting For," on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 (in MWAT). The cost to attend is \$5, and all proceeds go towards Broadway Cares/Equity Fights Aids – an organization that is dedicated to promoting the public awareness and understanding of HIV/AIDS (\*cough\* South Africa connection \*cough\*). The evening will be filled with superb solos, large group dance numbers, comedy, and more. Participant and HC freshman Elise Lerario stated that she is "really excited to be a part of the AIDS Benefit, especially because I'm not a theatre major and don't have a lot of opportunities to participate in shows. Also, the cause is great...being involved in **Aid to South Africa**, the goals of the AIDS Benefit align with the work I'm doing for ASA [mark your calendars: April 15<sup>th</sup>]." Don't miss this opportunity to help better the lives of others while enjoying an evening chock-full of entertainment.

But wait – there's more! This is just an outline of what the College of Visual and Performing Arts has to offer this winter; in actuality, there are performances nearly every evening at Swope. For a listing of performances throughout the spring semester, visit the CVPA website at [www.wcupa.edu/CVPA](http://www.wcupa.edu/CVPA).