

Welcoming in Spring with Annual Spring Fair Aid to South Africa

Spring is on its way, and everyone in the West Chester University Honors Student Association knows what this means—It's almost time for Aid to South Africa! Aid to South Africa, HSA's annual charity community fair, is celebrating its seventh year on April 15th. The fair will be held at Hollinger Field House from noon – 6 p.m. and features live music and shows, South Africa themed carnival games, guest speakers, and raffle prizes.

Aid to South Africa was developed six years ago in order to raise money for Nkosi's Haven, H.E.L.P. Ministries Soup Kitchen, and Sparrow Village in South Africa, organizations

that are all dedicated to eliminating hunger in South Africa and providing care and support for HIV/AIDS orphans. Not only do the students from the Honors College run this event, but every two years at the end of the spring semester a group of students personally travel to South Africa with Honors faculty to deliver the money to these organizations and lend their helping hands.



Photos Courtesy of Stephanie Eckman

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Growing Through Play

By Michael Jendzurski, HC XI

After a long day of classes, on-campus jobs, meetings, and meals there finally seems to be some time to sit and do homework; but not for an increasing population of HSA members. Although students engage the community through scholarship, service, leadership and various extra-curricular participation, one means of extra-curricular that has taken HSA by storm is the involvement with sport and physical activity. Sport plays a vital role in modern contemporary society. Building teamwork, confidence and communication – all assets to a community – more HSA members are committing to a more active lifestyle. According to Sports and Recreation Chair Vinnie D'Agostino (HC XI), HSA has tripled the intramural team count since 2009, attributing much of this growth to positive attitudes, motivation for better health, and the goal of winning a rec-league championship.

For the majority of people, sport forms an integral part of life whether as active participants or passive spectators. Despite this mentality, more than 60% of people in the United States attain recommended exercise requirements of 30 minutes a day of moderate-to-vigorous activity.

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WCU Honors College Responds to PA Budget Cuts

By Jonathan Russell, HC X

Perhaps one of the most prominent subjects of discussion around West Chester University, and especially among Honors Students, is that of Governor Tom Corbett's proposed budget cuts to education. His proposed budget, released on February 7, 2012, would cut funding to universities in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) by a whopping 20% according to a February 7, 2012 article in the *Times Tribune*. These cuts in education should come as no surprise to Pennsylvania residents because last year he followed through with campaign promises and proposed a 50% cut to PASSHE funding to the state budget. Before this proposed budget becomes the actual state budget, it must pass in both the PA House of Representatives and the PA Senate. In the past, once the budget has gotten to the legislature, many of the cuts to educational funding have been reduced and the effect on the PASSHE schools has not been catastrophic. Under Governor Rendell's administration funding for education was also cut, but nowhere near as dramatically.

In response to these proposed budget cuts, many West Chester University students and faculty rallied on the WCU academic quad to protest. The group then marched around North Campus and ended up in front of Ehinger Gym. There they heard speeches given by WCU students and faculty about how these proposed cuts will effect them and their education. In addition to these campus-wide initiatives, WCU's Honors Student Association is conducting a letter writing campaign aimed at demonstrating to legislators how much these budget cuts will effect us as students. Students who send a letter themselves and also get a parent to send a letter, will receive an Honors certification recognizing their dedication to civic action.

The goal of public education in Pennsylvania is to create a Commonwealth full of citizens who are educated and have the tools to succeed in this globalized economy. It is to create a commonwealth in which the wealth we share in common is the currency of education and success. It is my hope, and I'm sure I share these desires with many of you, that the state continues to fund West Chester University and all of the PASSHE schools, so that the University can continue to grow and carry out its educational mission of excellence.

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Michael Jendzurski, current HSA president, points out that, "Aid to South Africa has raised over \$42,000 since its inauguration in 2006. Attendance includes West Chester University students, family, and friends; community members from the greater West Chester Borough; and special guests, including founders (directly from South Africa) of the philanthropies the event supports, and state legislatures and political figureheads, too." Even more specifically, current Aid to South Africa director, Lori Brooks, draws attention to the fact that the projected attendance for Aid to South Africa is one thousand people this year and that in 2011 alone, Aid to South Africa raised almost \$8,500 to donate to these three South African charities. The goal for Aid to South Africa this year is to exceed the funds raised in 2011, and

to have every student on the West Chester campus know about the event.



This year, Aid to South Africa features many fun games and activities for all ages, featuring our newest addition—a five on five soccer tournament. Other activity stations include pedestal jousting, skee-ball, spin art, face painting and tie-dye. Some of the live performances that Aid to South Africa boasts this year include appearances from WCU's own *Gracenotes*, Pennsylvania band "Robots and Racecars," Ramelle the Hypnotist, WCU University Theater, and even some of HSA's own talent, including Brian Tracey and Dan Hinderliter. Everyone is encouraged to come out and enjoy this amazing event, while supporting the efforts of three worthy South African charities!

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
for more info.

Director's Corner

By Kevin Dean, Director of the Honors College

This message has been a little harder to write than most and I direct it to the current members of the Honors College and the wonderful students I have had the true pleasure of working with over the years. I learned late today that a student that Kenda and I taught and coached in Forensics during the first year of our teaching careers, died yesterday due to complications of pancreatic cancer. He was just four years younger than I and leaves a wife and 14 year old son. Beyond the profound sadness I feel, I also find two observations flooding my mind. First, time has a funny way of being frozen in memory. Eric was an 18 year-old-freshman member of the Miami University of Ohio speech team when we met 30 years ago and that is how I remember him. In my mind he is not of my current generation but the generation of 17-22 year olds who bring such life, energy, and passion into the world and make those around them smile. Like so many of you, Eric celebrated life; he was a top notch scholar, an award winning public speaker, a devoted community servant, and a caring friend to many. Together he and the amazing group of freshman students that year bonded along with a handful of upper-class students to achieve an unprecedented sixth place finish at the national speech championships. Through it all we shared both smiles and tears.



Kenda and I graduated and moved on to teach in Indiana and one of my closest life friends, Professor Mark Hickman, assumed the directorship at Miami. For the next three years our teams traveled in many of the same circles, and Kenda and I had the privilege of watching this group of uncanny talent mature into seniors. Eric graduated high in his class and went on to law school and a very successful public career in Washington DC. As I think of Eric tonight, I also think of so many of you - people who care enough about each other to be vulnerable, people who are not too proud to ask for help, nor too proud to receive it.

The second image I hold tonight is from the many names popping up on my e-mail from Eric's peers. You see, more than an individual, Eric was a central part of a community -- a community that deeply cared about each other. Sure, there were moments of competitive jealousy; interteam romances gone haywire, times of deep frustration when workloads seemed so overwhelming that they would never be surmounted. Yet in the midst of all of this mess of life was a real sense of joy and comfort, these students realized that time is a precious gift and that presence matters. They were there for each other and formed connections that last--30 years in fact--to the end. It is truly one of my fondest hopes for each of you that, more than grades and trophies, the greatest gift WCU Honors gives you is each other, people who will have your backs and will be there for you, despite warts and blemishes. I learned a lot from Eric, and I learn a lot from each of you. Thanks for giving.

Congratulations to Brian Tracey (HC XII) for receiving 2nd and to Tiff Wheeler (HC XII) for receiving 3rd place in the College of Visual and Performing Art's Sophomore Scholarship Competition

Congratulations to DJ Matsko (HC XI) for receiving 3rd place in the Junior Men's Division of the National Association for the Teachers of Singing Regional Competition

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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.

Important Dates

March 25th– 5K Run

April 3rd– Freshman Reflection and Celebration

April 5th– GA Meeting

April 14th– Interview Session

April 15th– Aid to South Africa

April 21st– Semi Formal

Interested in making a soccer or walking team for ASA?

Contact Vinnie D'Agostino at
VD719233@wcupa.edu

Growing Through Play,
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One tradition started prior to the 2008 school year is weekly nights of glow-ultimate Frisbee. This particular activity has been very successful, having people of all ages in college and even

alumni return to play. A sense of community is built through Frisbee in part because of the "Spirit of the Game" nature of the sport, its consistency and regularity of meeting times, and the always open-invitation extended by the players. Consistently, more than 15 people (a different crowd every week) make the journey South to get a fun workout, meet and interact with friends, relieve stress, and simply just play. Former alumni Steve Savage (HC VIII) quotes, "This is great to see how traditions live on. It's an honor to be able to come back and feel a part of something even after I have graduated. What can I say? It keeps me young!"

Regular physical activity offers a variety of physical benefits including: improved wellness, prevented disease, more alertness, release of serotonin (makes you feel good), shapes and tones muscles, leads to better dietary habits, and relieves stress.

Also, the social benefits of exercising are: opportunity to meet people, learn a skill, build confidence and self-esteem, and focus attention. Through the leadership concept of self care, the HSA community is improving by committing to keep physically active and resultantly inspiring motivation and opportunity for others.

