
HSA HAPPENINGS

March 2019

Leadership. Service. Academia.



Photo Creds: pexels.com

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.

Table of Contents

Page 3	Making Drums with Mosaic By: Kristen Loughlin
Page 4	The Capstone About Capstones By: Becca Shoemaker
Page 5	HSA Date Auction Highlights By: Hayley Sholansky
Page 6	A Warm Welcome to the New Bridge Students By: Molly Dale
Page 7	A Glimpse Into a Capstone By: Sophia Promutico
Page 8	A Message From HSA's Immediate Past President By: Erica Knorr
Page 9	A Look Into the Life of a Bridge Student By: Angela Deibler
Page 10	Honors and Norway By: Hannah Laboski

Making Drums with Mosaic

Kristen Loughlin
Sophomore

On February 10th, members of the Honors College gathered in Allegheny Hall for a unique service project. Mosaic, a charity serving families in South Africa, visited campus with supplies to build two-hundred hand drums. Volunteers from Mosaic demonstrated the process of weaving twine through the drum head, fastening it to the drum's body, and securing it with knots. The Honors College volunteers quickly learned the process.

“I enjoyed having the opportunity to learn how drums were made,” said Jacquelyn Sherman, a second-year Honors College student. “We also spent time bonding with other members of the Honors community. It was great to see everyone come together for such a good cause.”

Mosaic is a charity based in the United States that serves families in South Africa. With the motto “piecing lives together,” the charity aims to provide a stable family environment for all South African children. Jobs, homes, education, and resources are provided to families supporting orphaned or vulnerable children. Mosaic is one of the beneficiaries served by Aid to South Africa, the Honors College Carnival. With the event approaching on April 7th, the Aid to South Africa committee is working hard to make the event a success to support Mosaic and other charities.

The drums made by Honors College students will be used at an upcoming Mosaic fundraising event. Women from South Africa will travel to the United States to tell their

stories. Each person in the audience will receive a drum to keep a beat while the women speak, uniting the community.

In just under two hours, the Honors College volunteers completed two-hundred hand drums for Mosaic. Through the teamwork and community of the Honors College, this event was a success.



Photo Credit: Carrie Smith



Photo Credit: Carrie Smith

The Capstone About Capstones

Becca Shoemaker

Junior

Capstone. A word we hear the day we begin our Honors career which then periodically haunts us as we continue through our curriculum. Teachers will merely mention the word in class and suddenly we think *Does that apply to me? Should I be starting that? Does everyone else know something I don't?* By the end of their sophomore year, Honors students realize Capstone is around the corner, and while some have immediate ideas for a project, others are left in a sea of uncertainty. I fell into the second category. The summer leading up to my third academic year, I spent months wracking my brain trying to pin down an idea for a Capstone, but I had no idea where to begin. I realized I couldn't be alone, that I wasn't the sole Honors student without a clue when it came to Capstones. The truth is, every year, students graduating from the Honors College program initiate remarkable service-learning projects that foster significant impact on the communities around them. Unfortunately, however, with the hectic nature of college and the sheer number of students completing projects, many of these endeavors go unknown and unrecognized.

Thus, I started the *Capstone Catalog: Student Legacies*---a compilation of Capstone projects from Honors students past and present. The catalog contains input from Capstone teachers, a Capstone process timeline,

interviews and blurbs from alumni/graduating seniors about their projects, and an index so readers can look up projects by subject matter/category. A large portion of my project has been spent conducting phone interviews with alumni, reaching back to the beginnings of Honors as we know it. These alumni provided me with incredible insight regarding their Capstone triumphs, regrets, and words of wisdom for students starting out their own projects. The alumni I spoke to embody the excellence of our program---all successful individuals with incredible life stories and passions, some that even brought me to tears. I plan to print several copies of the catalog to place in the Honors House and Allegheny 7th floor, as well as post electronically on our Honors website. The catalog can not only be used by Capstone-curious students, but also as a promotional material to show the world what great work our students do. Keep an eye out for the finished product, and take some time to appreciate the legacy of WCU Honors!



Photo Credit: Mark Gutierrez and Courtney Rothman

HSA Date Auction Highlights

Hayley Sholansky

Sophomore

On February 18, 2019, the Honor's Student Association hosted their 8th Annual Date Auction. This event raised over \$700 which will go directly towards Aid to South Africa (ASA). ASA is a non-profit organization that raises money for three organizations in South Africa, H.E.L.P Ministries Soup Kitchen, Nkosi's Haven and Mosaic. Over 20 bachelors volunteered to go up on stage to raise money for the event. Attendees got to enjoy treats, purchase baked goods, and enter raffles from local businesses. More than 100 students attended the event as either bachelors, volunteers, or just attendees.

The lead for the event this year was Sabrina Avanzato, an honors college freshman,. She gathered donations, recruited volunteers, baked goods, and more. She stated, "The date auction was a fun way to raise money for our wonderful organization Aid to South Africa. All the bachelors were very enthusiastic and overall it was a great event". The hosts for the night were Matthew Leinhauser and Hannah Laboski. The hosts introduced the event and each of the bachelors. A group of volunteers also help set up and tear down the event.

Participants and attendees came from all over campus. Some of the bachelors were students from the honors college. Many were from other organizations across campus such as the swimming team, football team, and Residence Life. The men got up on staged and talked about themselves. Some even sang or dance. This event was an entertaining way to unite

students from all over campus and to also raise money for a good cause.



Photo Credit: Hayley Sholansky



Photo Credit: Hayley Sholansky

A Warm Welcome to the New Bridge Students!

Molly Dale
Sophomore

This past January, the Honors College accepted eleven new students into its program. These eleven new members are considered “bridge students” within Honors. You’ve probably heard this term, but you may be thinking to yourself, “What exactly *does* ‘bridge student’ mean? And what does it feel like to be one?” Well, I can tell you! I myself am a bridge student of the sophomore class, and life as a bridge student can be both difficult and awesome at the same time. Bridge students are accepted into Honors halfway through the academic year, after the Fall semester and shortly before the Spring semester. At this point in the school year, traditional Honors students already know each other quite well, as they met at the summer symposium, had classes together, and live on the same floor of Allegheny. Bridge students then enter these classes with possible feelings of intimidation or nervousness, unfamiliar with their classmates and the Honors dynamic. However, soon enough, bridge students become accustomed to the way things work, create long-lasting friendships, and thrive in this new community to which they belong. This year, the first year class has been very accepting and welcoming to their eleven new classmates. In addition, the Bridge Buddy program has been instrumental in helping with the bridge students’ transition. The Buddy Program helps integrate the new bridge students into the Honors College and tries to

alleviate some of the difficulties that come with the change. Started by Bryce Yanni last year, the Bridge Buddy Program pairs a first year bridge student with an upperclassman bridge student that acts as a mentor and friend. With their experience of being a bridge student and their knowledge of how to navigate being in Honors, the mentors are able to give their buddies useful tips and advice. Even more, the program is packed with fun! Some events we hold include a Buddy Reveal Party, Cookie Making, Video Game/Board Game Night, and Field Game Night, to name a few. Buddies hang out in their individual pairs as well, and by the end of the semester, present each other with a superlative award at an HSA meeting. Although the transition into the Honors College as a bridge student can be a bit tough at first, we come to see why we joined this program and are glad that we did.

Warm Welcome to our New Bridge Students!

Ashleigh Morrissey
Brooke Kerstetter
Catherine Brittain
Collin Pettit
Courtney Richards
Jenna Lehr
Jessie Gottlieb
Jessie Hazell
Jordan Lopez
Matt Morris
Mia Pellegrino

A Glimpse Into a Capstone

Sophia Promutico

Sophomore

Sophia Promutico interviewed third-year student, Bryce Yann, about his work with the Capstone project. Throughout the interview, Bryce explains the purpose of his capstone and the process of implementing it.

1. Can you explain to me, your definition of your Capstone project - the buddy program for new bridge students - and how it works?

My Capstone project, Bridge Buddies, pairs a new incoming Bridge Student with a current upperclassman Bridge Student who serves as their mentor and friend. I have also scheduled several social events which create an atmosphere where this cohort of new students and upperclassmen can develop positive relationships which will ideally serve to improve the transition into the Honors program for these new students.

2. When did you realize that this was an unmet opportunity in the community?

Bridge Buddies was originally my HON 310 project. Current President of SGA, Rodney Kaplan, was in my group. Being a Bridge student, Rodney identified the need to improve the experience of a first semester Bridge student in the program. He described how many Bridge students feel as though they are brought into the program and "dropped on their head", with no inclination as to how they should go about making positive relationships.

3. Have you faced any challenges getting the buddy program up and running?

As with any new program, challenges will arise. However, every challenge I have feared facing has been prevented thanks to the amazing team of upperclassmen Buddies that have been kind enough to be a part of the program. The energy, fun, and kindness that each of these 11 students show their buddies is what has made the program such a great success.

4. What do you hope the the buddy program looks like in the future and do you have people in place to continue this program when you graduate from West Chester?

My hope is that some brilliant and motivated student will take up my role as director of this program, and hopefully Bridge Buddies can continue to evolve and grow into a key aspect of our program. So if you are reading this and would like to be responsible for the joy of new students in our program, let me know!



Photo Credit: Sophia Promutico



Photo Credit: Molly Dale

A Message from HSA's Immediate Past President

Erica Knorr
Senior



Photo Credit: Mark Gutierrez and Courtney Rothman

The HSA executive board is like an ogre, and ogres are like onions: they have layers. As of last year, HSA adopted an executive board structure with leadership layers corresponding to different levels of responsibilities. The topmost layer is the core executive board, comprised of the president, vice presidents, treasurer, secretary, and involvement coordinator. All core executive board members will be elected by a vote from the general assembly on April 18th, 2019. To run for a core executive board position, students must first submit a nomination paragraph to the secretary at least one week prior to the election with the position they are running for and why they would be a good fit for the position. These nominations will be sent to the general assembly before elections, so take them seriously! At the meeting itself, candidates will each give a speech, and the general assembly will vote for the new board. All core executive board members must have at least a 3.25 GPA and must have attended at least four HSA meetings in the past year.

Additionally, presidential candidates must have served on the executive board in some capacity for at least one semester prior to running. GA members who would like to vote must have attended at least two meetings.

Coordinators form the next layer of the executive board. These positions include the Aid to South Africa coordinator, alumni coordinator, fundraising coordinator, curriculum and community coordinator, recruitment coordinator, community service coordinator, and social coordinator. Their duties include overseeing the directors and organizing events. Coordinators must have a 3.25 GPA and must have attended at least four HSA meetings. After the core executive board elections, coordinator applications will open. The application includes a short questionnaire and an interview with the old and new core executive boards. The interviews each last ten minutes and are held at the Honors House one week after the core executive board elections.

Directors form the final layer of the executive board. The director positions are chosen and organized under coordinators and can serve as part-time positions.

HSA also has committees which students can join to collaborate on events with our alumni, fundraising, recruitment, social, and community service coordinators. Meetings will now alternate between “business” meeting in which coordinators and directors relay announcements to the general assembly and “pillar” meetings which feature events organized by a different coordinator or director every week. As always, food will be provided.

If you or your friends are interested in running for a position, talk to the current executive board members and check out the bylaws for more information. Good luck! The future of HSA rests in your hands.

A Look Into the Life of a Bridge Student

Angela Deibler

Sophomore

Angela Deibler, a sophomore Pre-Occupational Therapy student interviewed Emily Matthews, a sophomore Public Health student about her experiences in the Honors Bridge Student program. Emily provided insight specifically about the “bridge buddy” program which seeks to integrate bridge students with non-bridge students.

A: What opportunities have the bridge program and the buddy program provided you?

E: The bridge program has given me the opportunity of being in the Honors College and got me into HSA, which got me into T.A.G. [“Traveling Across Generations”] and now I’m the logistics director for that, and I really love that. It also gave me a really good sense of community, which I didn’t have before, because I know everyone in my classes now and all of my friends are in Honors. The community has probably been the biggest thing I’ve gotten from the bridge program.

A: Overall, how has your bridge experience been so far?

E: Overall, it’s been good. In the beginning, it was definitely hard because they threw us in and didn’t explain anything, and no one knew who we were and it felt very uncomfortable. But as time went on, people got to know us and now I feel like I’m not even bridge anymore. That’s why I really like the bridge buddy program - because the bridge students are getting an opportunity that we didn’t, where there’s a chance for both non-bridge and bridge students to meet and to talk about what happened with us before, so we can make it better. Then first-year students know

about the bridge students, whereas before, the sophomore classes didn’t. The bridge students are being integrated much quicker and having an easier time and I really like that.

A: How has the Honors community welcomed you as a bridge student?

E: At first, it was just casual conversations, and then people would invite me out to eat if I saw them. Over time, having to do classwork together and having everyone in Honors live on the seventh floor made it really easy to familiarize yourself with faces, and I think that’s definitely been a big help.

A: What was the first “buddy” event like?

E: Bridge-Buddy-baking was good. There wasn’t a big turn-out, but that’s because it was a Saturday at 10am. Overall, it was really fun. We all baked different things and we made chocolate-covered strawberries for the Caitlin’s Smiles event. It was good because it had to connect to Honors outside. Then we went around and talked about if the bridge students had any questions and we talked about the highs and lows of the semester. It definitely feels like a mini-community within Honors.

A: How do you see the bridge program growing in the future?

E: I think the bridge program is a really good opportunity for students. I’m proud that I am a bridge student because unlike people who got good SAT scores or something like that, I earned my way in. I definitely think we are special in our own way and I like that the bridge program has a possibility of growing and becoming something more, because I definitely think there are so many smart students on the West Chester campus that could be bridge students. We just need to find a way to advertise it more, so that we can get more great people to come.

Honors and Norway

Hannah Laboski

Senior



Photo credit: Ollie Desarno

On February 15th Honors College students spent their Friday night with a Nobel Peace Prize Committee member. Asle Toje traveled from Oslo, Norway to deliver a lecture on peace and leadership to over 100 students and community members. The partnership between the Nobel Peace Institute and West Chester University's Honors College strengthens with each year.

In 2017, students in an honors course, focused on the Nobel Peace Prize, decided to engage the whole community in peace and leadership. The students decided to create a leadership series for first year students to engage in lesson of leadership and peace from Nobel Peace laureates. Through the series, participants were able to nominate a potential candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize. Participants would vote on the top three and the students taking the course would deliberate and choose a final candidate that we would nominate to the committee. West Chester Honors students are the only students in the world to nominate a candidate for the

Nobel Peace Prize. This dedication to peace and leadership was recognized by the committee.

Dr. Henrik Syse, Vice Chair of the Nobel Committee, decided to travel to West Chester to give a lecture to Honors students. Again, he was impressed by our students and he believed we should have the chance to see the Peace Days in Norway.

Five students were able to travel to Oslo Norway during the Nobel Peace Prize festivities. Students were able to attend a peace conference, see the official interview of the winning candidates, and interact with people from the Nobel committee.

Our engagement in Norway prompted another visit from Asle Toje. He too wanted to see how West Chester Honors students were celebrating peace and leadership. He had dinner on February 15th with students from the Honors College, faculty, and the president of the university. Following dinner he delivered a lecture to our students and members from the community on his philosophy of peace.

As times goes on and as our program here at West Chester grows, we hope to continue building our relationship with Norway and the Nobel Peace Institute.



Photo credit: Ollie Desarno

March 2019 Upcoming Community Service Opportunities



Becca and Beth showing off their snowmen!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 TAG Food Recovery	2 Operation Eco
3	4 Food Recovery	5 Operation Eco	6	7 Adopt a block	8 TAG Food Recovery	9 Spring Break ➔
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 ➔
17 Spring Break ➔	18 Food Recovery	19 Operation Eco	20 Graduate School Fair 11am-2pm	21 Adopt a block	22 TAG Food Recovery	23 Operation Eco
24	25 Food Recovery	26 Operation Eco	27	28	29 TAG Food Recovery	30 HackWCU @12pm Operation Eco
31 HackWCU Ends at 5pm						

Food Recovery Network
sign up link:
[http://signup.com/go/Rxa
jTvn](http://signup.com/go/Rxa
jTvn)

Email Ryan Smith or Emily
Matthews to start volunteering with
T.A.G
Fridays at 3pm, Allegheny lobby

Operation Eco
Tue: 10:30am-
12:30pm
Sat: 1pm-3pm

Adopt a Block
Every other Thursday at
1pm
Allegheny lobby

Calendar Credit of: Alyssa Harvey

Be sure to follow HSA on
Social Media!

Instagram: hsawcu

Twitter: @HSAWCU

Facebook: West Chester
University Honors Student
Association



Want to write for HSA Happenings?
Here is what you can do....

Contact us:

Courtney Purdy
(cp883006@wcupa.edu),
Mary (Molly) Parkes
(mp884889@wcupa.edu),
Alexander Kuhn
(ak893568@wcupa.edu)

HSA Happenings will be published
the first Thursday of every month,
so get your submissions in at least
one week prior to the release date!

Write articles relevant to HSA,
whether it be an experience you
had volunteering or an interview
with an upperclassman that went
to South Africa, we would love to
feature them!

HSA Executive Board

President

Matthew Leinhauser

Secretary

Michael Nangle

First Vice President

Ollie Desarno

Treasurer

Julianna Zak

Second Vice President

Elise Klingaman

Director

Dr. Kevin W. Dean

