

Honors Student
Association

West Chester
University

HSA

Happenings

Volume 11
Issue 4

703 S. High Street
February 2016

Happenings in Honors

5th Annual Date Auction



On February 9th, 2016 the 5th Annual HSA Date Auction was held. Josh Dandridge, the HSA Fundraising Committee Chairperson, coordinated this year's event. The event had 24 young gentlemen involved, who volunteered not only their Tuesday night but also a date to the highest bidder. Throughout the night, students at West Chester University were able to bid on these gentlemen, raising over \$1,700 for ASA.

Each year the Date Auction supports a philanthropic cause or organization and this year Aid to South Africa was chosen. Aid to South Africa is the Honors Student Association's annual fundraising event that raises about \$10,000 for the many organizations in South Africa including Nkosi's Haven, a refuge for HIV/AIDS infected mothers and children, and H.E.L.P. Ministries Soup Kitchen, which feeds 6,000 people daily.

Not only does this event help the global community, but it also brings together students from all over campus. The 24 young men who volunteered their time represented many different organizations such as HSA, FIJI, Kappa Sigma, and the Friar's Society. Throughout the event spectators could see each organization supporting their representative and adding to the energy of the night. Events such as the HSA Date Auction allow students from across campus to come together, have a laugh, and enjoy themselves while supporting an admirable cause. ~*Jess Gallo*



South Africa 2016

The Honors College is busy making preparations for the next journey to South Africa on May 16, 2016, so we asked some of the students who will be traveling, “why are you going?”

“The South Africa trip will forever change my outlook on life and my perspective on the world as a whole. I will use this experience to strengthen my passion and further motivate myself to make a difference in this world.”

Claire McCreavy - freshman, B.S. Public Health/Health Promotion

“...I’m interested in this program because my family is South African. It has been a lifelong dream of mine to go back to the country that holds my ancestry, as I have only been able to experience the country as a toddler. My parents have been very reluctant to allow me on this trip, as they firsthand how dangerous the country can be, but I view this program as my chance to finally have a safe connection to the beautiful country and its people.”

Andrea Brandt - sophomore, Communication Disorders

“I know that I would learn much, not only from the experience of just being in South Africa, but also from the people I interact with there. It would be an incredibly unique opportunity to be able to study abroad with this program and learn from the everyday people who live in South Africa. I truly cannot imagine a more thought-provoking, engaging, and life-changing opportunity for learning.

Sarah Walker - senior, Kinesiology, Pre-Occupational Therapy

“...As a history major, I also am interested in the historical aspect of the program, and I believe that exposure to a country I would study about would enrich my knowledge about said country, and provide me an opportunity unlike any other available to learn something new and be able to share it with my professors, peers, and eventually, my own students.”

Richard Fontanet - sophomore, History

My desire to go to South Africa begins with my immense curiosity when it comes to South African culture, particularly the effects of post-apartheid South Africa and how they as a society work towards overcoming obstacles such as hunger, poverty, and the AIDS epidemic.

Emily Herman - junior, Chemistry-Biology

“I’m going back because of the kids. I went last time thinking that I would be making a difference in their lives but they were the ones that made the difference in my life.”

Cameron Cooper - junior, Pharmaceutical Product Development

South Africa 2014 Participant

Memories from South Africa 2014



Alumni Spotlight: Q & A

Over the past few weeks, we had the pleasure of reaching out to one of our very own 2015 graduates Samantha McGinty who was graciously willing to share with us her experiences. An alumna of the Honors College, Sam graduated with a degree in communicative disorders and is now pursuing her graduate degree in speech-language pathology at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Q: When going through your college search, what aspects appealed to you most about West Chester?

I liked the location, town, and Honors College. I also liked the idea of smaller classrooms where I could get more time with my professors.

Q: What opportunities do you believe you gained through Honors that you feel you wouldn't have gotten otherwise?

I believe my involvement in the Honors College is the reason I received multiple graduate school opportunities and funding offers in a highly competitive field. I also traveled outside of the country for the first time because I received a full scholarship to study in Nova Scotia for three weeks with students from other Honors Colleges in the PASSHE System.



Q: What skills do you feel like you've gained through Honors and have found useful since graduating?

I can now speak confidently and comfortably in public, which is very useful in graduate school. I went into college petrified of public speaking, and thanks to Honors I love giving presentations. I also know how to determine my role in a group project, which makes working with others a breeze.

Q: What appealed to you about the Honors College specifically?

The Honors College appealed to me because of the unique focus on leadership and service. I also loved the idea of sharing a smaller community amidst a larger campus community.

When I learned about the Honors College, I knew I wanted to apply and after listening to Dr. Dean and the students speak on Interview Day, I turned and looked at my mom. Her only response was "I know". I knew it was where I was meant to be.

Q: Do you have any advice for the incoming freshmen?

You start building your resume and brand the minute you walk onto campus. Get involved, be kind, get to know your professors, push yourself out of your comfort zone, and have some fun. Most importantly, don't take your time and experiences for granted. There is nothing like living on the 7th floor of Allegheny with some of your best friends-- keep your doors open, get to know everyone, and ask random people on your floor to go to dinner at Lawrence; you won't regret it!

Director's Corner - A Call to Leadership

For nearly twenty years, the motto of the WCU Honors College, *to be honorable is to serve*, has inspired our students to engage in a wide range of activities, resulting in logging of literally thousands of hours of service. Inherent in this motto is a call to leadership. By its very nature, service happens when civic-minded individuals identify an unmet opportunity and assume the role of change agents. The theoretical knowledge and accompanying skill sets individuals develop to allow their service to have greater meaning stems from leadership.

We in the WCU Honors College realize leaders are not born, they develop. Indeed, one can “learn and perfect” leadership as well as hone abilities in a diversity of areas such as athletics, fine arts, disciplinary understanding and life skills. We embrace the Gallup Institute’s notion of “Strength Finding” which recognizes that each human being expresses gifts for leadership; gifts which can be developed. As Dr. Joanne Colon, certified Gallup Strength Finder trainer and emeriti Director of WCU’s Pre-major Program notes, “While it is true you cannot be anything you want to be in life, by knowing and developing your strengths, rather than trying to remediate your weaknesses, you can be more than you currently are.”

The call to leadership for members of the Honors College comes through a variety of avenues briefly divided here as theory and practice. The bedrock of any academic program rests in its curriculum. We intentionally list, as a student program learning outcome with every honors seminar offered the following objective: Students in Honors at West Chester University will identify and acquire an understanding of leadership theory and leadership skills. This goal finds achievement through a combination of readings, lectures, exercises, individual and group assignments, and service learning.

Theory drives intellectual thought, creativity and justification for actions but if practice doesn’t follow theory, potential rarely materializes. Leadership does not exist well in a vacuum, it needs a context and practice in implementation. Our leadership curriculum gains testing in Co-Curricular activities, our living community and in service. Perhaps nowhere is leadership practice more intentionally practiced than in the Honors Student Association where an elected executive board of six students works closely with chairs and directors of twenty-six standing committees. Here skills in organization, time management, goal setting, delegation, implementation, and assessment are tested and refined. We also hold great pride of honors students assuming leadership positions and honing those skills across multiple areas of campus, through virtually every academic department, in a host of leadership training initiatives hosted through the Division of Student Affairs, and in community organizations beyond the campus borders. Leadership also finds implementation in the designated honors living space on the 7th floor of Allegheny Hall. Here students regularly form study and social group activities calling for utilization of a wide range of leadership abilities to build community. Ultimately, students often find their greatest intrinsic rewards and evidence of their leadership.....*evidence presence matters*.....through one of the countless service initiatives in which honors students engage. I am so proud our students were named the *2014-2015 Outstanding Campus Student Organization for Service* by the Division of Student Affairs; what an outstanding tribute to the contributions of honors students to the university and beyond.

In an attempt to further codify leadership development for both honors students and the larger WCU student population, in fall 2015 we inaugurated a new minor in Civic and Professional Leadership (CPL). Within this issue of *H.S.A. Happenings* I hope you will take a look at the advisement sheet for the CPL minor. It affords those who achieve completion formal transcript designation of leadership studies. A uniqueness of this minor exists within its development through a partnership between the Divisions of Academic and Student Affairs and an overt blend of theory and practice.

The call to leadership rings clear to WCU honors students, our faculty, and our alumni. It represents a unique defining quality of who we are and who we hope to become; individuals who leave their world just a little better than the condition in which they found it. May you all find joy and fulfillment as you answer the call.

~Dr. Kevin W. Dean

Minor in Civic and Professional Leadership – 21 credits**I. Foundations of Leadership (3 credits):**

HON 110 _____ Civic Engagement and Theories of Leadership (I)#

Or

CPL 120 _____ Leadership Theories for Today's Society (J)

(Open only to first semester freshmen and/or first semester transfer students)

II. Required Leadership Classes (9 credit hours from the following):

CPL 120 _____ Leadership Theories for Today's Society^

HON 311 _____ Stewardship and Civic Engagement

HON 313 _____ Democracy and Public Opinion

HON 320 _____ Global Issues

HON 351 _____

HON 352 _____

HON 381 _____

HON 382 _____

HON 383 _____

HON 451 _____

HON 452 _____

^ (May be taken if student completed HON 110)

III. Discipline Pairings: (6 credits from one of six tracks)

- CPL 301: Contemporary Challenges in Business and one of these prerequisite courses: BLA201, MAT161, MGT100, ECO111, ECO112, PSY265, COM304*, or ENG368*
- CPL 302: Contemporary Challenges in Community and Political Leadership and one of these prerequisite courses: CRJ110, HIS150, MAT121, PSC100, SOC200, SWO225, HON310, CHE371*, COM340*, or PHI355*.
- CPL 303: Contemporary Challenges in Academic and Educational Leadership and one of these prerequisite courses: EDA103, EGP209, EGP210, EDP200, EDP201, EDF300, HIS444, HON312, or HON322.
- CPL 304: Contemporary Challenges in Arts and Arts Administration Leadership and one of these prerequisite courses: ARH101, ARH103, ART106, DAN130, MHL121, MHL201, MHL210, THA 101, THA103 or HON 315*.
- CPL 305: Contemporary Challenges in Public Health Leadership and one of these prerequisite courses: BIO100, BIO110, BIO270, CHE103, CHE107, ENV102, ESS102, EXS180, GEO103, HEA100, HEA110, KIN103, NDT200, SPP101, HON314 or COM450*.
- CPL306: Contemporary Challenges in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Leadership and one of these prerequisite courses: BIO230, CHE101, CHE103, CHE107, COM201, COM291, CSC110, CSC115, CSC141, HON212, MAT121, MAT162, PHI125, PHY125, PHY100, PHY130, PHY170, HON 314 or MAT301*.

NOTES: (1) CPL 300 level seminars require junior standing; (2) * indicates a course that may be taken concurrently with a CPL seminar; (3) a minimum of one of the non-CPL classes in the pairing must be taken prior to the CPL course.

IV. Co-curricular Component: (3 credits)

A) CPL 399 _____ Leadership Theories to Practice (must log application of leadership skills in six different areas of theory and/or practice)

B) Verification of establishment of a co-curricular portfolio _____

For more information, consult the Honors College Web Page www.wcupa.edu/honors and/or contact the Honors College office 610-436-2296.

Executive Board

President
Kellen Kane

Immediate Past President
Christopher Whittall

1st Vice President
Samantha Stalford

2nd Vice President
Chan To

Treasurer
Jason Miller

Secretary
Sara Nyholm

Director
Dr. Kevin W. Dean

Committee Chairs and Program Coordinators

Aid to South Africa
Haley Paiva

Involvement Coordinator
Christopher Whittall

Alumni
Sarah Walker

HSA Happenings Editor
Devon Stroup

Alumni Database
Marissa Giovinazzo

International Outreach
Ahleah Miles

Awards &
Recognition
Haley Buckner

Library Resources
Julianna Mann

Buddy Coordinator
Micaela Forsyth

Music & Performing Arts
Sigfried Aragona

Community Service
Jackie Giovinazzo

Public Relations
Taylor McCahan

Curriculum &
Community
Anthony Fallacaro

Recruitment
Matt Dummeldinger

Diversity
Morgan McMurtrie

SGA Representative
Erin Yentz

Fundraising
Josh Dandridge

Social
Rebeka Yocum

Grad School Fair
Kaity Blair

Sports & Recreation
Dallas Commons

Historian
Sarah Henry

TAG
Stephanie Binder

Housing
Jessica Gallo

Technology
Derek Harris

*Upcoming Events and
Service Opportunities*

HSA Recruitment Day- February 27

HSA Semi-Formal- March 19

President's Reception- March 21

Sharpen Your Image- March 22

Grad School Fair- March 23

Aid to South Africa- April 17

Please contact Jaclyn Giovinazzo at
JG813126@wcupa.edu for
upcoming HSA service
opportunities!

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.

Edited by: Devon Stroup

610-436-2996