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Honorable Mentions

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### Honorable Mentions: A publication of PSU Honors College

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## A Word From The Director



Greetings!! What a great first year this has been as Director of the Honors College at PSU. I truly enjoy my new position and I think we have made great strides in taking an already outstanding program and moving it forward. There is excellent student leadership and participation in the HCA, and as you will see from the information in this newsletter, there are many exciting programs and initiatives going on in the organization.

Our focus this year on community has resulted in many community service projects, a greater level of attendance at HCA meetings, and a tighter bond amongst the members of the program. Aside from the academic environment our students are

involved in, it is this sense of community and giving back that will have a lasting impact on their lives for many years to come.

I am proud of all of our members and I look forward to another great year in the Honors College.

Dr. Craig Fuchs  
Director of Honors College

## HCA In The Community

This semester, the Honors College has made an effort to be a positive influence throughout the campus and the community of Pittsburg with several service projects. A group participated in the Swipe Out Hunger event, where we packaged food to be sent to starving people in the Horn of Africa. With the help of several other clubs, 50,000 packages were made and shipped out to needy families. A group also made a trip to Wesley House, where we served dinner, cleaned out a shed, and organized the office. Another project we started



Sophomore Rachael Osborn reads to grade schoolers

this year at several elementary schools is a reading group. We had the opportunity to read to first and second graders. The kids really enjoyed it, and are looking forward to us coming back again. These projects have been very rewarding to the members of the Honors College and are also beneficial to the community. We hope to continue to spread a legacy of not only academic success, but also service towards others in the upcoming year.



Freshmen Alexis McKinnon and Grace Simmons suit up to feed the hungry

by Melissa Schmidt

## Conference in Phoenix, AZ

On October 19th through October 23rd, Dr. Fuchs and some of the Honors College officers went to the 2011 National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. The conference was called Stewards of Our Colliding Worlds: Rights, Wrongs, and Responsibilities. There were many speakers and workshops on different topics related to honors colleges around the nation. This included peer mentoring, honors courses, community service and orientation for first year students.

HCA secretary Krisanna Graham said her favorite part of the trip was touring the Arizona State campus and learning about their Honors College. When asked what she learned at the conference that would most benefit the Honors College, she said, "I've learned a lot about recruiting and strengthening the Honors College community." Jessica Wade, HCA treasurer, said she attended many sessions on orientation and first year programs. "For the Freshmen Experience class, we are looking at making it more of a professional development course and focus on items that would help students succeed." Attending the conference has gotten our officers excited about the coming semester and improving the Honors College using the information they learned in Phoenix. by Meagan Linn

## Member Spotlight: Binhminh Bui

Binhminh Bui is one of the newest members of the Pittsburg State University Honors College. He is a 19 year old freshman majoring in finance from Nha Trang, Vietnam. I had the opportunity to interview him about his experiences so far at Pitt State.



Q: Why did you decide to come to Pittsburg?

A: The quality of the university, the accredited business program and the honors college.

Q: What is your favorite thing about the United States?

A: It is multicultural and Thanksgiving Day with very good food: turkey and ham.

Q: What is your favorite thing about Pitt State?

A: Football definitely, it's a crazy atmosphere. I am so excited that Pitt State won the MIAA championship.

Q: What is the biggest difference in the schools between here and Vietnam?

A: The biggest difference is the interaction between teachers and students. In Vietnam, students rarely have questions for the teacher, but here, in the US, they are encouraged to ask and discuss, and the teachers are more than willing to help students.

Q: What are you most looking forward to about your time here?

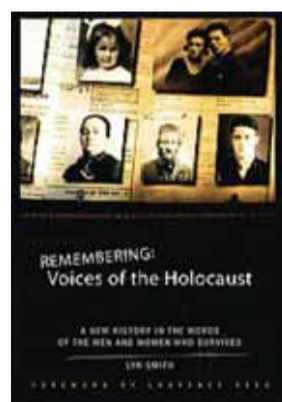
A: I am looking forward to becoming more involved with Pitt through in-class as well as out-of-class activities.

Q: What goals do you hope to accomplish by attending PSU and being in the honors college?

A: Maturity, knowledge, friendship, leadership and reliability.

by Mary Lipp

## First Semester Book Club



This semester the Honors College decided to have an optional book club. This is the second semester that this has been an option. This semester we read and discussed a book about the holocaust titled Remembering: Voices of the Holocaust. The students seemed to enjoy the book itself. "...the book was a really personal take on what happened during the Holocaust. I'd read/seen things about it before, but something about this book made it feel very real," freshman Laura Holthus stated. The students also had the opportunity to visit the Holocaust Museum in St. Louis where they had the opportunity to listen to a holocaust survivor. The experiences the survivor shared opened helped the students have a better understanding of the book they were

reading. The last discussion over the book will be held shortly and there are plans for another book club in the spring semester. The students will read Freakenomics. by Jessica Lowery



Members of the Honors College visit the Holocaust Museum in St. Louis, MO

## Homecoming 2011

Our participation in this year's Homecoming was something to be proud of. For the first time the Honors College participated in "The Gorilla Games" - a mock-Olympic featuring 5 man teams from various campus organizations. Fitting in with this year's theme, "Gorilla Strong," the rounds included games such as a balloon tug-of-war, blindfolded target practice, an obstacle course, and a tug-of-war.



Michael Giffin, Jayson Williamson, Brendan Finley, and Heather Williams carry Binhminh Bui in the final stage of the obstacle course.

Representing the HCA, Michael Giffin, Brendan Finley, Heather Williams, Binhminh Bui, Jayson Williamson, and William Reed White competed in the various events on October 11. For the participants, as well as the fellow HCA members cheering on their peers in the stands, the highlight of the evening was the tug-of-war. The HCA team defeated the ROTC team in a tug-of-war (much to the surprise of the crowd), and went on to win the overall competition.

The HCA nominated seniors Miles Crowley and Holly Habrik for Homecoming King and Queen. Holly said this about representing the Honors College for the 2011 Homecoming:

"It was an honor to represent Honors College this year as their Homecoming Queen candidate. I have worked really hard in Honors College to make it a better place for the student, community-wise, so it was awesome to represent Honors College publicly on campus. The most fun thing about being a Homecoming Queen candidate was to meet all the other candidates and see what Pittsburg State University has given other students and how passionate people are about the university and the organizations they are involved in."

In addition to being this year's Homecoming King nominee, Miles Crowley also designed and painted our Homecoming statue. The various campus groups were asked to design and paint a gorilla statue portraying the homecoming theme. Miles Crowley demonstrated his artistic ability on behalf of the HCA.

by Jayson Williamson



Miles Crowley demonstrates artistic ability by painting a gorilla statue