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Honorable Mentions

Honors College

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Honorable Mentions: A publication of PSU Honors College

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1. LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Another fall semester has come to a close here in the Honors College and a great semester it has been!! I have to say that in my 16 years at PSU, this was by far the fastest fall term ever. Things just really flew by. Even with this fast pace, we were still able to accomplish a lot of great things in the Honors College over the past four months as you will read in this issue of the Honorable Mentions newsletter.



We brought in another outstanding class of freshman to add to our roster, we provided some important community service programs both on campus and off, and we held another wonderful Holiday Party at my house, which is always one of my favorite days of the year.

I am extremely proud of the progress we are making in the Honors College and I am blessed to be able to work with such wonderful and talented students on a daily basis. Happy Holidays to you all and may you have a safe and happy holiday season.

All my Best
Dr. Craig Fuchs
Director of Honors College

2. CLASS MIXERS

This year, each member of the Honors College was able to enjoy class mixers. Members from the classes either met up with each other or with members from another class. Class representatives tend to have the responsibility of coordinating these events. Jayson Williamson, senior class representative, said that the seniors were able to watch "The Ender's Game" as a group. Lauren Simmons, class representative for the juniors, said that the juniors and freshman enjoyed a game of bowling at the Holiday Lanes on November 5th. The sophomore class got together for their annual Halloween party, according to Jeremy Setter, sophomore class representative. Each class will have the opportunity next semester to get together and have fun as classmates.

By: Sarah Nelson

3. FEATURED STUDENT

Breanna McGranahan is a junior elementary education student. She has five siblings, one of which had to receive a bone marrow transplant four years ago for a type of bone marrow cancer. During the seven month

process at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, her sister stayed at the Ronald McDonald House a block from the Clinic. Ronald McDonald Houses provide a place for families of patients to stay and a meal every night. These houses are



located throughout the country. When Breanna's sister passed away in December of 2010, her family wanted to keep her memory alive. Because of everything the Ronald McDonald House did for her and her family, the family decided to volunteer for the Ronald McDonald House at the Children's Mercy location in Kansas City, MO. This past September ten family members and friends made dinner for all of the residents at the house. In addition, her family puts together care packages every year for the children at Children's Mercy and the Ronald McDonald House. Breanna and her family will continue to volunteer their time to help the House impact the lives of families in need.

"There's always a reason to smile." –Breanna's sister, Elizabeth McGranahan

By: Kanon Steen

4. HONORS STUDENTS GET THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

In May, 37 Honors College students traveled to Europe for a World War II tour from May 15 to May 30. Prior to their departure they took a class to prepare for their experience abroad. The class included reading George Wilson's book "If You Survive", watching Ken Burns' "The War", lectures from a history professor, guest lectures from an exchange student and a World War II veteran, and discussions about the trip. The class flew into London for a couple days, seeing the Cabinet War Room and the Changing of the Guard. They soon went to Portsmouth and took a night ferry to France. In France they visited the beaches of Normandy and the American cemetery before going to Paris for a couple of days. After Paris the group traveled to Bastogne, Belgium where they took a tour into the Ardennes forest where the Battle of the Bulge took place.

After their time in Belgium they transferred to Cologne, Germany on their way to Berlin. During their time in Berlin they visited the Checkpoint Charlie Museum and had a panel discussion with people who had lived in Germany through the falling of the Berlin Wall. They followed that up by staying in Munich with a short visit to Dachau concentration camp. Near the end of the journey they crossed over into Austria and went to the Eagles Nest. Following their journey the students wrote essays reflecting on their experiences throughout the trip and what they learned throughout their study of World War II.

By: Austin Masters



5. PARKING LOT PURIFICATION

The freshman honors students participated in cleaning the parking lot after home football games. The students chose this activity to be their class community service activity and the outcome was very positive. The physical plant workers were very pleased the students chose to help out and the students enjoyed helping them out. The freshman class had a great turnout at all the games and were usually done cleaning in less than 30 minutes. Overall the class felt they had an enjoyable experience and may extend their services to cleaning at some basketball games.

By: Gavin Houser

6. ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: JESSICA BERBERICH/SKOGLUND

Jessica Skoglund graduated from Pittsburg State University in the spring of 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Education and is currently teaching English at Gardner Edgerton High School in Gardner, KS. Despite being actively involved in numerous other organizations (which earned her the title of Pittsburg State University's 2011 Homecoming Queen) she maintained an active membership in the Honors College Association throughout her collegiate career. She participated in several social functions, regularly attended meetings, and was a peer mentor for younger members of the HCA.

Skoglund credits her membership in the HCA to providing her with many opportunities which greatly enriched her education. Going through honors and departmental honors courses allowing her to gain a deeper understanding of my teaching area, making her more knowledgeable in her field and studying abroad providing her with exposure to a completely different culture and school system, which helped her to adapt to the many different cultures and needs of the students she works with daily were a couple of the immediate benefits Jessica has recognized upon graduating with honors.

To the current and future members of the HCA, Skoglund recommends that students take advantage of the opportunities provided to them through their membership in addition to the obvious study abroad and social events. She encourages members to remember the wide array of opportunities available through membership in the Honors College Association and the contacts created within the association.

By: Alexandria Mott

7. HEY ALUMNI-LET US KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING!!

We would love to hear what is going on in the lives of our HC Alums. If you would like to be included in the next issue of the Honorable Mentions, please send a brief update to honors@pittstate.edu and we will add some alumni updates into the newsletter next time.