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Honorable Mentions

Honors College

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Honorable Mentions: A publication of PSU Honors College

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A Word from the Director



"Success comes before work only in the dictionary." This is one of my favorite quotes as it is simple, yet very powerful. I think there is a great deal we can all learn from this quote if we live our lives by this mantra. I also think we have had many great successes this semester and they have all come because of the outstanding work of the students in the HCA who have been willing to step up and take charge.

This newsletter is no exception. At my request, a public relations committee was formed within the HCA and they were given the charge of creating an electronic newsletter to highlight the activities within the organization each semester. What a great job they are doing with this project.

Other successes include the continuation of the Elementary School Reading Projects, involvement in The Big Event, and the Carnival for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. I am so very proud of the students for taking time from their busy schedules to give back to the community and I thank the HCA Community Service committee for their efforts.

By the time this newsletter has been distributed, we will have had yet another amazing spring honors college banquet where we will have recognized the achievements of the students and honored those students graduating from the Honors College this year. I thank the Banquet committee for their work in this process.

Indeed, the HCA is becoming what I had dreamed of when I took the position as Director. A student focused and student led organization doing good things for the campus and community. You all make me proud and I hope we can all continue to work together to find more and more ways to contribute to the PSU campus climate.

Our focus next year on undergraduate research opportunities promises to be exciting and enlightening for those students who participate. The realization of the Senior Honors Project will also provide new opportunities for honors college students to enhance their education. The creation of the honors college space on campus promises to be an exciting addition to the oval. Indeed, we have much to look forward to next year and I am excited to get to work on these initiatives.

Here is hoping for a safe and relaxing summer for all and thank you all for a great year in the PSU Honors College.

Dr. Craig Fuchs
Director

New Point System for HCA members

This semester, the executive team implemented a new points system to try to increase active membership and reward already active members. Points were awarded based on attendance of general meetings, committee meetings, and community service projects like the Big Event. If a member has perfect attendance at all general meetings, committee meetings, and participates in the Big Event, then they receive the Gold Level Award. If a member achieves two out of three of these categories they receive the Crimson Level Award. Recipients of these awards will be given certificates honoring their contributions to HCA. Because the system is new, some aspects are still being worked out. Next year the executive team plans to finalize the point system by giving additional rewards and creating a third category of achievement.

by Melissa Schmidt

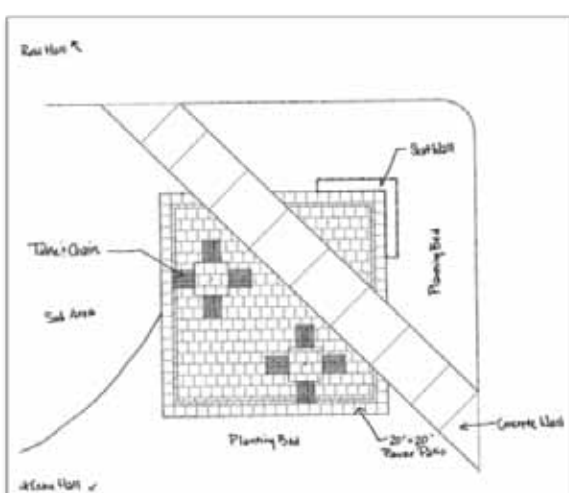
Sponsored Space on Campus

On April 5, 2012, we, the members of the HCA, approved a tentative plan (pictured below) for a space on campus sponsored by the Honors College. The idea was posed informally several months ago when Dr. Fuchs expressed an interest in an outdoor space on campus for students to relax or study that would be a tangible representation of the service-minded nature of our organization. The idea was met with generous approval and has been developing well since its inception.

As it now stands, the project is set to be constructed gradually, adding elements year by year and starting with benches. As the sketch shows, the proposed site for the space is just outside McCray Hall, at the corner of two existing sidewalks.

We are excited about the direction this project is going and look forward to seeing it progress as a positive representation of the Honor College on this campus.

by Laura Holthus



Member Spotlight

Sophomore Micah Black is not a Theater major, but she has been heavily involved in Pitt State's theater program during her time here. Despite being a double major in Political Science and French, Micah has made time to act in this season's three major productions, including the titular role in *Betty the Yeti*. I asked Micah about her experiences with theater.



How did you first become involved in theater? I started acting in fifth grade at church. Once I got to junior high, I did yearly school productions through junior high and high school.

What draws you to the theater program at PSU? We have a really amazing department full of amazing and talented people. In university theater you get to do the fun, family-friendly shows, as well as the more mature college circuit shows.

You were in three productions this year: *The Madwoman of Chailot*, *Betty the Yeti*, and *Dead Man Walking*. Which one was your favorite and why? Every show I did this year was so radically different that I couldn't pick just one! There were parts of each experience that I loved.

What is a role you've always wanted to play? Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*

by Meagan Linn

Peer Mentor Program

The 2012-2013 Peer Mentors will be Ellen Wieberg, Lenzi Sudduth, Kate Wildeman, Henry Thomas, Carly Lallemand, Lauren Renner, Austin Masters, Mary Lipp, Shannon Jesberg, Lauren Simmons, Michael Giffin, Brooke Kahler, and Caitlyn Royster. The Peer Mentor program will be again be lead by Lakota McCune. When asked about the program McCune said,

"The Peer Mentors will be a vital lifeline to the incoming freshmen throughout their first year at PSU. They are meant to offer support, give advice, and just be a friendly face that the freshmen know they can rely on. The groups will be decided after the Orientation Overnight stay in June. All of the freshmen will pick their top three choices for Mentors then I will go through and sort everyone into groups. This year we want the Peer Mentors to focus on activities with their group outside of HCA events and are happy to announce that each group will be given a budget to help pay any expenses the Peer Mentors might run into. I know it will be a great year for the Peer Mentor program and I can't wait to get it started!"

by Austin Masters

Honors College in the Big Event

One of the essential goals of the Honors College is to provide a socially responsive, supportive environment to all of our students, which begins by creating a group based partly in volunteerism. For the Spring 2012 semester, the Honors College had over 55 students participating in the Big Event.

This is an annual tradition to help students integrate their various clubs in order to better the community by spending a full day volunteering. Staying true to this tradition and their busy schedules, over half of the Honors students who participated did so with their other organizations, including sororities and fraternities, volunteer organizations, honor societies, and many other clubs.

Those who chose to volunteer with the Honors College were given five different homes around the Pittsburg community to help fix up. Most of these homes involved raking leaves, cleaning gutters, trimming hedges, and other yard work.

"Raking leaves, scooping up gumballs, and falling in the mud didn't really seem like community service to me." Alexis McKinnon, freshman, said, "It was really just about doing good for the community while having fun with a group of people you are close to. I am definitely going to do the Big Event every year."

Alexis shows just what the Honors College tries to reflect to all of their members. Building this strong community with our members is just as important as volunteering your efforts around the community. It truly goes hand in hand.

by Ellen Wieberg



Freshmen Lauren Simmons and Alexis McKinnon brave the mud to serve the community

New Members

Another great group of 36 students will be joining the Honors College at Pitt State next year. The application process began with 74 qualified high school seniors submitting their applications for consideration. To apply, these students were all required to have an ACT score of 28 and a GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. Each application was scored by a committee consisting of five faculty members and two current honors college students. Up to 100 points were given for academic record, school activities, community service, honors and awards, an essay and letters of recommendation. Once all of the applications were scored, the top 48 students were invited for on-campus interviews on Sunday, February 13th. These interviews lasted 18 minutes and each applicant was asked the same questions. Up to 50 students were awarded for the interview by a group of one faculty member, one honors college alumna and two current students who were conducting the interview. These points were given in categories such as appearance, fluency of response, depth of response, non-verbal communication, and perceived personality. Once the interviews were scored, these points were added to the points from the applications and the top 36 students received invitations to become a member of the Honors College for next year. These students consist of 14 males and 22 females and they are mostly local with 29 being from Kansas and 6 coming from the Gorilla Advantage Area. The average GPA for the group is a 3.89 and the average ACT score is a 30.3. One of the students who will be joining the honors college next year is Sarah Nelson from Caney Valley High School who shared, "I am absolutely thrilled about receiving the privilege to be in the Honors College. The interview was difficult, but I feel ecstatic about becoming part of this group."

by Mary Lipp

Graduating Seniors and New Officers

As the end of the year approaches, we proudly wish the best to our 2012 graduating seniors Lindsay Nance, Stephen Artinger, Robin Mooney, Ty Burgoon, Katie Aikens, Caleb Hays, Holly Hrabik, Peter Kipp, Josh Kristalyn, Zach Krumsick, Jessica Berntsen, Silas Bloesser, Li Shin Chang, Tracey Fienen, Robert Frisbee, Daniel Haines, Terra Laird, and Kyle Renner.

We also welcome and congratulate the newly elected HCA officers for the 2012-2013 school year!

President- Krisanna Graham
Vice President- Jessica Wade
Treasurer- Dustin Bonzo
Secretary- Jayson Williamson