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Honorable Mentions

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Fall 12-2016

### Honorable Mentions: A publication of PSU Honors College - Public Relations Committee

Honors College

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# Honorable Mentions

## A Letter from the Director

Greetings!!

As I write this entry for the fall newsletter, we have just come back from the Thanksgiving Holiday so I thought we should reflect on what we should all be thankful for from the Honors College perspective.

- We should be thankful that the university chooses to invest such significant resources in the Honors College program so that our students can benefit in so many ways. From scholarships, to study abroad stipends, to operational and programming funding, the university makes it a priority to support these select, high-achieving students in their collegiate experience.
- We should be thankful for the many wonderful friendships and relationships we are able to build through our community of Honors College members. These friendships will last a lifetime and the support system that they provide should not be taken for granted.
- We should be thankful that through the work of the HCA, we are able to work together to give back to the campus and community through our community service projects.
- We should be thankful that through the Welcome Back Picnic, Holiday Party, and other social gatherings, we are able to share food and fellowship on a regular basis.
- I am thankful for the many outstanding young people I get to know and work with through my position as Director. My life is enriched by your presence and I am thankful that the university trusts me with this important program.

Happy Holidays!!

Dr. Craig Fuchs  
Director of the Honors College



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# HCA Member Feature

## Kolleen Gladden: Leadership on Campus

BY MAGA CHASE

While the Honors College offers ample opportunities for students to be involved or take leadership positions, some students choose to take their leadership skills outside the Honors College as well. For this edition of Honorable Mentions, we sat down with Kolleen Gladden, a junior majoring in Technical/Professional Writing and Graphics Communications, to see what life looks like outside the Honors College.

Name: Kolleen Christina Gladden

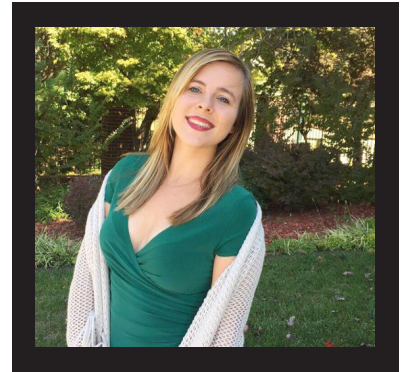
Major: Technical/Professional Writing, Graphics Communications

Minor: Innovation Engineering, Illustration

Involved in: Honors College, Cross Country, Gamma Alpha Lambda

Sorority, SGA, University Choir, Crimson Club, Ambassador and

Advanced Ambassador, PSU Theater Department, and “a few extra things here and there”



Maga: If you haven't noticed, Kolleen is a busy, outgoing, stylish young lady that I have the honor of calling my friend. In order to show her amazing capacity to literally be involved in everything, I decided to ask her some questions: How does a normal day for Ms. Kolleen look?

Kolleen: A normal day starts with me going to morning training for cross country at 6:15 a.m.

Depending on if it's Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday/Friday, I take a nap or get ready for classes. I usually have a full day of classes (Tuesdays I have 10 hours) and then I go to afternoon practice for Cross Country. Then I go to the SGA office and work for at least 3-4 hours. I'm required to put in 15 hours a week, but one week I was there for 29! GAL meetings are on Sunday's, and other organizations meet monthly or randomly.

M: So you were the founder of the first Christian sorority here at PSU, that's pretty cool, how did you get that idea?

K: I got the idea to start the sorority when I visited my lifelong best friend at UMKC. She had joined GAL, and I realized we really needed a chapter here! I communicated with the national chapter, and began working on it. We have about 53 members now!

M: That's pretty cool, congratulations—I just saw Pauli, from Paraguay, became a member! Best wishes for GAL! Moving on to another organization, how did you decide to become Vice-President of SGA?

K: For SGA, I was blindsided by that one. Hank [Cloninger] asked me to be his running mate, and I agreed because I thought he would be a good president and that it would be fun to run a campaign! It's a blast; I love it.

M: We are glad to have you representing us! The last and most important question: what do you do to keep yourself relaxed and have some fun?

K: I love to paint, draw, and sculpt. October is my favorite month because I love making Halloween decorations and going to haunted houses! I absolutely love rock climbing and outdoor activities. I drink a lot of coffee, more than a human should. I also write a lot, and spend time with my family, and when I say family, my parents and my dog. I have a mini pincher and I love her. Her name is Biella!

M: We are so lucky to have you as a member of HC, Kolleen, representing us in all your activities, I know you will keep growing and keep accomplishing more than you ever thought you could!

# Summer Study Abroad

## HCA Takes Europe

BY ALEX BATTITORI

Fourteen members of the Honors College Association studied abroad in Europe over a period of thirteen days May 12-25, 2016.

The study abroad, which gave students the opportunity to explore regions of Switzerland, Italy and France, focused on the unique music and architectural styles of each country. In order to participate in the study abroad, students took a two-hour class in the spring and wrote a paper over their experience to complete a one-credit hour class during the summer semester.

The journey began in Switzerland when the group touched down in Zurich the morning of the 13th. Students were then bussed to Lucerne where they spent two days. While there, the group toured the small town, visited local landmarks, journeyed to the top of Mount Pilatus and enjoyed an authentic Swiss fondue dinner.

Although initially many students claimed they were most excited to see Italy and France, Switzerland quickly became a favorite within the group.

Gage Davies, a junior majoring in biology with an emphasis in pre-med, was among those who felt Switzerland was the highlight of the trip.

"My favorite location was Lucerne," he said. "It felt like I could reach out and touch the mountains."

The group then continued on to Italy, where they spent the majority of the trip. Over the course of six days, they traveled through Milan, Pisa and Verona and stayed in Venice, Florence and Cinque Terre.

In Verona, students were given leave to explore the town and see Juliet's house—immortalized by Shakespeare in *Romeo and Juliet*. Later that day, they arrived at the shores of the Adriatic Sea, where the floating city of Venice was just visible across the bay. The next day was jam-packed with activities including a tour of the city, a guided tour of St. Mark's Square, free time to visit the Doge's Palace and St. Mark's Basilica, a glass-blowing demonstration and gondola rides.

The next day began early once again, with the group departing for Florence. As the birthplace of the Renaissance, the city is filled with stunning examples of art, sculpture and architecture. Even with a full two days to take it all in, students were hard-pressed to even be able to scratch the surface of what the city had to offer. Day one was filled with a sight-seeing tour of the city and an introduction to the Duomo—one of the largest cathedrals in the world—and Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise that guard the entrance to the Baptistry of St. John.

Day two in the city gave students their first free day of the trip. Many opted to wake up early to view Michelangelo's *David*, or to brave the 400-step climb to the top of the Duomo's dome for a breathtaking view of the city, or to explore the vast halls of the Uffizi Gallery. The evening was capped with either a cooking class or an arranged steak dinner.

After Florence, students were given a whirlwind bus tour of Pisa and Cinque Terre on their way to the French Riviera. There, they were able to visit the famous Leaning Tower and explore the Five Cities via train.



Taking Italy – The study abroad group lines up in front of the Duomo in Florence, Italy. KELLY FUCHS

At the Riviera, students strolled down the beautiful coastline of the Mediterranean and shopped as they pleased, with short excursions to Nice, Monaco and Èze.

The final stop on the study abroad led students to one of the largest cities in Europe—Paris, the City of Light. Their two-and-a-half days in the city began with a tour of the Latin Quarter, followed by a visit to Notre Dame Cathedral, dinner in the city, and a boat tour along the River Seine. Day two began with a bus tour of the city, including a jaunt down the Champs-Élysées, visit to Les Invalides and a half-day to spend exploring the Louvre Museum as they wished. Their final day was left open, allowing students to take the Metro from location to location as they wished. Popular destinations for this day included the Eiffel Tour and Arc de Triomphe.

Despite the early morning departure the next day, most of the group opted to continue on to the Montparnasse, a skyscraper that gave students an unparalleled view of the city and the Eiffel Tower's 10 o'clock light show—a truly spectacular way to end a truly spectacular trip.

## Pitt Project Annual Community Service a Success

BY ALEX BATTITORI

The Honors College Association's annual Pitt Project wrapped up another successful year Saturday, Oct. 29.

Over 80 volunteers came together to complete 17 different projects for Pittsburg residents throughout the course of the morning. After congregating in Kelce Auditorium, groups of students split up to complete projects that consisted of everything from yard work and raking leaves to power washing and cleaning windows.

In an email sent out following the completion of the project, Pitt Project coordinator Carly Stroup said, "The Pitt Project Team would like to thank you all for volunteering this morning! It turned out to be a huge success and it wouldn't have been possible without everyone's help! We appreciate you sticking with us as we figured out how to make this thing run. Thank you for your generous hearts and your willingness to serve, and we hope you will consider joining us again next year!"

The project has grown each year it has taken place, and since 2014 it has more than tripled in size.

This year was the first year the entire project was organized and run by the Honors College freshman class. The project was started by the HCA as a way

for students to gain community service hours. Each year, volunteers travel to homes in the Pittsburg area to rake leaves, clean gutters, trim shrubs, dig posts and paint.



HCA members work their way through piles of leaves during the Pitt Project Saturday, Oct. 29. The Project drew 80 volunteers this year, and 17 projects were able to be completed for Pittsburg residents. ALEX BATTITORI



# Homecoming License to Win

BY MARISA PAGE

This year's homecoming theme was 007 License to Win and the HCA Gorillas certainly were licensed to win. The Homecoming candidates nominated by our group were Carson Letchworth for King and Jordyn Showers for Queen. They ended the race with Showers as First Attendant for Queen and Letchworth as Second Attendant for King.

Our defending Gorilla Games champions came in second after making it past the first round and defeating the Pitt State ROTC in round two of a laser tag tournament. Many of our members also competed in Yell Like Hell with other activities and groups on campus.



The fearsome warriors of Pittsburg State's Honors College pose for the camera after emerging victorious from round one of Gorilla Games. The defending champions ultimately placed second in the laser-tag event. HCA FACEBOOK

## Peer Mentor Program Transition to the Jungle

BY GRETCHEN REED

Throughout the beginning of the semester, many of the Honors College Association sophomores have been participating in the HCA peer mentor program. The peer mentor program is a system that pairs a group of sophomores with a group of incoming freshmen, and the sophomores are expected to act as guides and help the freshmen as they transition into college life at Pittsburg State.

Its purpose is simply to help incoming HCA freshmen make a smooth transition into college while also getting to know some of the current HCA sophomores. This year, the peer mentor coordinators who paired the groups and led the program were Cassidy Barnard, Gage Davies, and Jeffrey Yankovich.

This program has proven to be quite beneficial to the incoming freshmen.

"It was a huge help having a peer mentor show me how to choose my classes before Pitt cares—it made it way less stressful," said Piper Misse, freshman in Nursing. Many of the peer mentor activities involved the mentors answering any questions that the freshmen had and advising the freshmen on what classes to take from which professors. However, the peer mentor program did involve lots of fun as well!

Ben Kelm, sophomore in Biology said that "we went to Tropical Sno with them once school had started and asked them about how school was going," which was definitely an enjoyable experience!

Overall, the peer mentor program is an incredibly beneficial facet of the Honors College Association at PSU that truly makes both the Pittsburg State University and HCA experiences even better than they already are for new freshmen.

# National Collegiate Honors Council HCA Leaders Attend Conference

BY AUDREY DAINTY

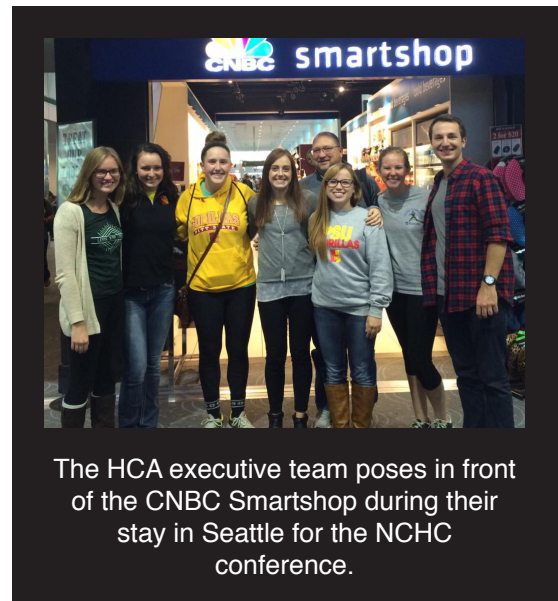
PSU's Honors College Association is a very unique program in many different ways. One thing out of many that makes our group stand out is not only the fact that our executive team makes an effort to attend the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) conference every year, but because of what we take away from this conference in an attempt to grow as an association and improve in any way we can.

This year, the executive team attended the conference in Seattle, Washington, and learned many new things, as well as bonded as a group. Throughout the multiple sessions that were attended, we gathered many new ideas for our HCA.

The idea of expanding the Peer Mentoring program to upperclassmen was derived at the conference. Other ideas included more alumni involvement and multiple ways we can add to our Honors College recruitment.

But sessions were not the only times that we were taught how to grow. The keynote speaker of the conference, author Sherman Alexie, encouraged us to go out and do what we are good at to the best of our ability, and to not let naysayers ever discourage us for reasons such as being too young. This was essential for us not only as individuals, but also as a group that strives to make a difference through the HCA.

And though a lot of time at the conference was spent in sessions, our group also had the opportunity to explore some of Seattle and grow together: we spent time at a downtown market, spent a lot of time at Starbucks (because Seattle is the origin of the company), and of course viewed the Space Needle.



The HCA executive team poses in front of the CNBC Smartshop during their stay in Seattle for the NCHC conference.

Because though it may seem unimaginable, a group consisting of one freshman, two sophomores, one junior (who was also the only male student), three seniors, and Dr. Fuchs can in fact bond with each other in only two short days full of informational sessions and rain.

Regarding the conference, Dr. Craig Fuchs, Director of PSU Honors College, said, "I always enjoy sharing the experience of the NCHC conference with the leadership team of the HCA. We learn a great deal about how other honors programs work, but we usually learn that our program is structured extremely well and that we have many great opportunities and programs for our students here at PSU. I also enjoy the casual time just to hang out and talk about life in the Honors College at PSU!!"

It was indeed a great experience spent with the executive team, and we continue to see how outstanding our Honors College is. We are a small and close knit group. We provide scholarships that many institutions do not. And we provide opportunities to excel for every single Honors College student. From our attendance at NCHC to our involved students to our constant want to improve, PSU's Honors College is undeniably one in a million.

## New Leadership HCA Members Take on Leadership Roles

BY MARK WEAVER

Carlin Greene, president of the PSU Honors College Association, began her role as president at the beginning of the 2016 Fall Semester. Though this is her first year as president, it is her second year as an officer on the executive team of the HCA. As she says, "To become president of the HCA you first have to be a member of the executive team for at least one year. I did this last year by being secretary."

When asked why she wanted to become president of the HCA, she said, "I decided to run for the position of president within the HCA because of how passionate I am about this organization; I wanted to give back to a group that has given so much to me. I have had various other leadership roles in other organizations on campus and also within the HCA so I decided I was ready to take on the challenge of HCA president!"

Carlin has many responsibilities as president of the Honors College. "I meet with Dr. Fuchs weekly and communicate with him almost daily to make sure that we stay up to date with everything that the HCA is doing," she says. "My overall job is to make sure that everyone is staying on top of their duties. I communicate with Kylie (vice-president) to make sure the community service, events committee, and newsletter committee groups are running smoothly, while also working with individual people within these groups. I communicate with Hannah (treasurer) to make sure the allocations process is going well. I work with Cassidy (secretary) on sending out reminders and RSVP forms to the members of the HCA. This year I also was in charge of the Homecoming festivities. Overall, the executive team works together a lot to make sure we carry out all of our tasks that we want to achieve. We also are constantly working on ways to improve the HCA!"

There are also several other Honors College members who are presidents of other organizations. Mark Weaver, an English Literature major, is the president of the PSU Philosophical Society. When asked how he got involved, he said, "After Philosophy class one day, since my classmates and I loved talking about philosophy, I had the idea of starting a Philosophy Club."



It turned out that there was one already in existence, but it had been inactive for several years. So, I brought the club back to life and became its president.”

Another member of the Honors College, Alina Sigitova, is a Business Management and Marketing major and on the executive team of the Gamma Alpha Lambda sorority. “I was originally one of the founding mothers who helped bring the organization to the campus last year,” she says. “Kolleen, who is our Founding President, invited me to participate in Exec and I loved the idea of a sisterhood united in Christ!”

Whether taking on roles within the Honors College or managing student groups across campus, HCA students are known for being involved and passionate. These students, along with many others, have embraced this and strive every day to better Pittsburg State through their leadership.

## It's the Holiday Season! Honors College Celebrates the Holidays

BY MARK WEAVER

On Thursday, December 1, the Honors College Association held its annual holiday party at the home of Honors College Director Craig Fuchs. Dr. Fuchs has hosted the holiday party for seven years now, and it has been a tradition since the previous Honors College director held the position. Many students from all classes of the Honors College came to celebrate. Lots of great food was enjoyed and many students donned their ugly Christmas sweaters in demonstration of the holiday spirit. As always, it was also a good way for Honors College members to bond with one another. “The honors college holiday party is a great opportunity to catch up with other members of the honors college that we don’t see as often,” said sophomore Jaina Mills. “I actually met someone new at the holiday party which I think is really awesome. It just shows how many connections can be made within the honors college.”

A December graduate was also recognized: “Carson Letchworth was honored as a December graduate and given the first ever medal for meeting the requirements of the new point system,” said Adriel Ridenour. “He was grandfathered in.”

The new point system for the Honors College allows members to graduate with Honors With Distinction by accumulating a total of fourteen points—which can be earned through community service, serving as an officer of the Honors College or another campus organization, or leading an Honors College committee—each year that they participate in the Honors College. Carson’s acquisition of this title can be expected to spark a new generation of overachievers and launch the Honors College to an even greater level of academic achievement.



Members of the Honors College freshman class pose for a picture during the annual HCA holiday party at Dr. Fuchs’ house Thursday, Dec. 1. CRAIG FUCHS