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

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HONORABLE MENTIONS

End of Semester Reflections

A Letter from the Director

Greetings!

We have come upon the end of another academic year on campus and in the Honors College we have much to be proud of. Our students continue to excel in the classroom, be involved and lead various organizations around campus, and give of their time to provide service around campus and in the community. Our students truly make PSU a better place.

In this issue you will read about some of our activities this spring, and learn about how we continue to work to move the program forward. I want to thank all of the students for their work and commitment, especially those who chose to take on leadership roles within our structure. Carlin Greene-President, Kylie Proctor-Vice President, Cassidy Barnard-Secretary, Hannah Overbey-Treasurer, Katelyn Flood-Senior Class Rep, Gage Davies-Junior Class Rep, Shelby Thompson-Sophomore Class Rep, Audrey Dainty-Freshman Class Rep, Zach Denton-Community Service Team Leader, Alex Battitori-Newsletter Team Leader, Quinnlyn Walcott-Event Team Leader, and Cassidy Barnard, Jeffrey Yankovich, and Gage Davies-Peer Mentor Coordinators are all to be congratulated for their outstanding leadership this year.

I also want to congratulate all of the students who are graduating as members of the Honors College this year. I know you will do great things. I look forward to a restful summer and a renewed energy in the fall as we return for another terrific year in the Honors College.

All my Best,

Dr. Craig Fuchs



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HCA makes an impact with The Big Event

BY GRETCHEN REED



One of the HCA Big Event groups in front of the house they served.

On Saturday April 8, 2017, a large group of Honors College students were part of 900 PSU students to participate in the annual Big Event. The Big Event is a campus-wide community improvement service project in which all PSU student organizations are invited to participate. This year, volunteers were able to serve 100 area homes.

The participating HCA students this year split into multiple groups to help beautify the houses of the Pittsburgh community.

One group had a particularly rewarding experience. This group was assigned the home of a formerly award-winning gardener who greatly enjoyed the help of college students.

“We could tell as soon as we got there that this yard was very special. It had vintage-looking lawn ornaments everywhere and an award in the back yard,” said Camille Wallace, Sophomore in Occupational Therapy.

While working on the yard, HCA Senior in Biology with an Emphasis in Molecular Plant Biology, Hannah Thomas, noticed even more. “Because of [my] focus [in Molecular Plant Biology], I have spent a lot of time working in horticulture and even as a member of the PSU landscaping department.”

She was able to point out different and interesting types of plants in the yard that this owner did not even know that she had, and the homeowner definitely appreciated her knowledge.

“This year’s Big Event project was really fun for me because I could see that the yard that we were working on had once been a symbol of much pride to the owner,” Thomas added. “I can truly appreciate how much effort over the last 20 years she put into her garden and landscaping. With that in mind, I understand that as people age, upkeep becomes difficult. I found this project to be really fun. Especially since we were helping to vitalize

an aspect of this woman’s life that she obviously cared so much for.”

The same was felt by other participants. “We were happy to help, especially since we could tell how much her garden used to matter to her,” added Camille Wallace.

This Big Event experience was clearly rewarding for all the HCA students involved, and all the participants had a great impact on the Pittsburgh community.

“We could tell as soon as we got there that this yard was very special.”

HCA Partners with French Students on Spring Break Trip

By Marisa Page



The PSU cohort in front of the entrance to the Louvre (above) and the entrance of Notre Dame (below). All had packed PSU gear and/or colors for group photos.

On March 17, a conglomerate of HCA members, French students and their professor, and their friends and family boarded a plane bound for London. What followed was a delightful adventure split between the two very different cities of London and Paris. This trip was not an official HCA Study Abroad, but Dr. Fuchs was one of the leaders. The HCA partnered with a French professor, Dr. Moots, who brought some of his French students along. The vast knowledge of both of these professors was invaluable throughout the trip.

The Pitt State group also partnered with a small group from Upper Iowa State. This provided an opportunity to interact with a group of students that we otherwise wouldn't have met. Ryan Hendrix, a junior in Marketing, had a unique opportunity to get to know the Iowa State Students when she was roommates with them in London, "It was a gift to be able to meet [them]... I can genuinely say I made lifelong friends."

Prior to departure, the group had a class preparing them for the places we were going to be visiting. We watched videos about topics of historical importance to both countries and held discussions in person. Additionally, each student wrote a research paper about one of the sights we were going to visit. The group spent four days in London and four days in Paris seeing the places where history happened and shaped the modern world. While in London, the group visited The Tower of London, did a Jack the Ripper walking tour, visited Platform 9 3/4, ate traditional English food, watched the musical *Wicked*, visited Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, and St. Paul's Cathedral guided by the world's best tour guide, Stuart.

After taking the Eurostar to Paris, we visited Luxembourg Gardens, ate a French meal, stood in awe of Notre Dame, the St. Chapel, took in the masterpieces of the Louvre and the Musee D'Orsay, saw the splendor of the Palais Garnier

[the Opera-house that *The Phantom of the Opera* was inspired by], the Palace of Versailles, and saw the city at night by way of a riverboat tour down the Seine.

Lyndsey Brothers, a freshman in Elementary Education says she wanted to go on this trip to experience different cultures and see famous landmarks and that this trip exceeded her expectations, "It was so incredible to see these places that I've heard about my whole life." In my own experience, this trip was exhilarating and empowering. We had a full free day in each city and the independence required to navigate without a guide stretched me in ways I never imagined prior to traveling.

The trip was a huge success and great testament to the great job our university's Study Abroad office does, and the commitment our professors have to making their students grow and better appreciate the world and international cultures.



Honors College Welcomes 2017 Freshmen

BY ALEX BATTITORI



Peer Mentors and potential incoming freshmen get to know each other while waiting for their interviews on Interview Day.

Forty-two students were invited to interview for a place in next year's Honors College Association freshman class.

The population consisted of 18 males and 24 females. Thirty-three of the 42 interviewees

were from Kansas, seven hailed from Missouri and two were from Arkansas. Six of the prospective freshmen were also first-generation college students.

The average GPA for the class was 3.95 and the average ACT score was 30.26.

Following Interview Day, 30 students were invited to become a part of the HCA freshman class.

Regarding what she is looking forward to most about college, incoming freshman Morgan Michael said, "I'm really looking forward to all of the opportunities I will have to learn and find what I'm really passionate about. I'm very excited to be part of the Honors College because I think it will give me even more of those opportunities."

Now, these freshmen will have the opportunity to participate

in the HCA's annual overnight welcome session and attend the first Pitt CARES session held June 1. They will also be a part of Dr. Fuch's freshmen orientation class this fall.

Congratulations HCA Class of 2021, and welcome to Pitt State!



Alumni Feature

Tieg Tullis

BY MAGA CHASE

For this edition of Honorable Mentions, I interviewed Tieg Tullis, member of the HCA graduating class of 2011.

Tieg Garrett Tullis grew up in small-town Bartlett, KS, about an hour from Pittsburg. He graduated from Labette County High School in 2007 and moved to Pittsburg to attend PSU. Both his brother and sister attended Pitt State as well.

“Being accepted into the Honors College ended up probably being the deciding factor to go to there,” Tieg said regarding what solidified his decision to attend the university.

Regarding his collegiate years, he said, “While at PSU, I double majored in Management and Marketing and ended up graduating Summa cum Laude. I was also involved with several organizations like Enactus, Student Ambassadors, the Crimson Club, SGA and the Young Entrepreneurs Society.”

His senior year—and the HCA’s first year under the direction of Dr. Fuchs—he served as president of the organization.

After graduating from PSU, Tieg began worked for Leggett & Platt. For the first year-and-a-half, he worked as a Corporate Analyst (CA) in the Corporate Affairs department.

When I asked him how it was he became involved with Leggett & Platt, he said with honor and gratefulness that it had been Dr. Fuchs who referred him to



Tieg at the entrance of the Louvre Museum in Paris. He said it has become a tradition to wear PSU gear when he travels.

the company, as at the time they were looking for an honors student.

Following his time as a CA, Tieg became an Internal Auditor in the Internal Audit department in August of 2012.

“Since becoming an auditor, I’ve traveled to manufacturing locations in Europe, North America and South America, and have been to a total of 22 countries,” he said.

When asked what his favorite aspect of traveling was, Tieg responded that it was the opportunity to connect with people from different countries.

“It is an amazing reminder that the vast majority of people throughout the world are kind and compassionate, have roughly the same goals and priorities, and are much more similar than the trivial things like race, religion, nationality and politics, which so many people use to divide us.”

I also asked him which country had the biggest impact in his life, to which he responded that the extreme poverty in Rio de Janeiro and Mexico City had “really opened [his] eyes to how amazingly lucky he was to have so many opportunities in [his] life.”

Regarding any advice he would give to current HCA students he replied, “For current HCA students, I would recommend being extremely involved with the HCA and other student groups. My on-campus involvement, especially being President of HCA, was my favorite part of going to Pitt State. After college, I would suggest setting huge life goals, make helping others a priority, and of course, be adventurous and travel as much as possible”.

Thank you Tieg for your time—your hard work is definitely paying off. We are proud of you!

Alumni of the Year

Dr. Gina Pinamonti

BY ALEX BATTITORI



For the second year in a row, the PSU Honors College Association has recognized a member of its alumni class as Alumni of the Year.

The purpose of the Alumni of the Year Award is to recognize an HCA alum who has had significant success in their career and to remind students that there are great things ahead of them in their future as well. This year's recipient was Dr. Gina Pinamonti.

Dr. Pinamonti graduated from Pittsburgh High School in 1988 and from Pittsburgh State University in 1991 magna cum laude with a bachelor of arts in biology. She began attending the university the second semester of her freshman year, having transferred from Arkansas after one semester, and was a member of PSU's first Honors College graduating class.

Following graduation, she attended the University of Missouri, Kansas City School of

Dentistry where she received her Doctorate of Dental Surgery in May of 1996. She completed her two-year residency in orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics in 1998 and has been in the orthodontics practice ever since.

Regarding her decision to attend Pitt State, she said, "The best thing is that when I was 18 I had no idea about the little community that's inside Pittsburgh—about PSU. When you're an involved student, you're part of that community. It's what you make it—you can make it as amazing as anywhere else, big or small university, and that's what I really love about it."

In addition to her practice, Dr. Pinamonti serves on numerous boards and organizations including the Alumni Association National Board of Directors, Colonial Fox Theater Foundation and Pittsburgh Area Chamber of Commerce. Staying involved in her community is one of the

things she is most passionate about, and one of the things she hopes that Pitt State students of today will keep in mind as well.

"You should stay involved because you definitely need to give back," she said. "I would not be here, my life would be different, if it weren't for PSU and the training they gave me and the honors college and its scholarships. Back then, getting an undergraduate degree was quite manageable, but as I went on to six more years of schooling, it got quite expensive. By giving back, I can help perpetuate something that's good."

Regarding advice she would give to current HCA students, she said, "During my last semester of ortho school, one of our instructors walked in the room and he said, 'we're gonna have a pop quiz.' We were all adults, most of us 28 years plus, but we moaned. To us he replied, 'In two weeks every patient you see is a pop quiz,' and that put it in perspective for me. That's something I would want any student to realize. It's not just about the test, it's not to make the professor happy, and it's not about you anymore. It's about your responsibility to the person you will be working with. You never know when the 'pop quiz' is gonna happen and you have to be ready for it."

Thank you Dr. Gina Pinamonti for your continued support of the HCA, and congratulations!

Donor of the Year

Angela Meyer

BY ALEX BATTITORI



This year's Honors College Association Donor of the Year is Angela Meyer.

The Donor of the Year Award is in its third year now. Since its inception, it has been awarded to the alum who has made the greatest contributions to the HCA over the course of the year.

Meyer was born and raised in Pittsburg—graduating from Pittsburg High School in 2002 before moving just down the road to continue her studies at PSU. In 2006, she graduated summa cum laude with honors with a BS in Justice Studies and minors in political science and business administration.

Her academic career continued at the University of Tulsa College of Law, where she received her JD in 2009 with honors.

Today, she has her own law firm in Pittsburg where she focuses on family law, criminal

law and litigation. She is also a member of the KBA Board of Governors and Family Law Section Committee.

Regarding why she decided to attend PSU and be a member of the Honors College, Meyer said, "I liked the supportive environment and the academic emphasis of the program and smaller class sizes that PSU and the Honors College offered. I'm a first generation college student, so knowing I could have such a supportive, academically motivated environment without the financial burden of student loans made it the perfect choice."

She added that as she continued through college, the HCA helped her accept that being "smart" was a good thing, not something that separated her from her peers. This, in turn, allowed her to reach her true potential.

"As I advanced in school I had access through honors college to professors who pushed me harder, helped me find a way to meet my goals and accomplish my dream of becoming an attorney—and even gave me guidance and encouragement when I felt lost. That support coupled with a really well rounded, strong academic program made the next step to law school easier, which made sure I was prepared and that I had the skills to excel."

As Donor of the Year, Meyer has made it her priority to continue supporting the HCA. As a huge proponent of "paying it forward," she said that staying involved is a way for HCA alumni to help the program's current students.

"I feel like to support HCA means helping the next student who dreams of excelling academically and may want the structured environment that drives academic success. And who knows what that student will accomplish ... cure cancer, become president of a big company, invent something new or just find a new way to make the world a better place. HCA emphasizes that with its support and the strong academic environment that a student can dream and be prepared after PSU to make those dreams a reality."

Thank you Angela Meyer for your continued support of the HCA, and congratulations!

Congratulations Class of 2017!

