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Honorable Mentions

Honors College

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Honorable Mentions: A publication of PSU Honors College

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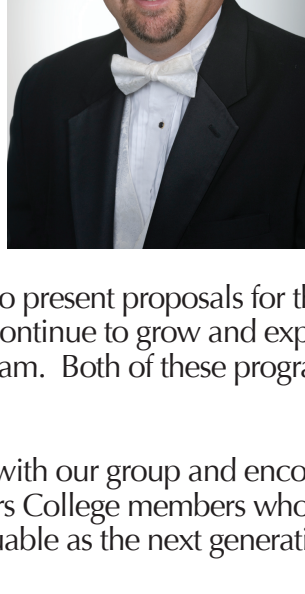
Honorable Mentions

A Publication of the PSU Honors College
Public Relations Committee

A Word From The Director

Greetings!!

Another academic year has passed us by and another year of great progress has occurred in the PSU Honors College. The student involvement and investment in the Honors College continues to grow and be a priority of our organization. Increased leadership in the HCA, increased involvement in HCA sponsored community service, and more student input into our operations and procedures has been a highlight of our year.



I am so proud of our students for taking the leadership to present proposals for the betterment of the Honors College. This personal investment is what helps our organization to continue to grow and expand. A couple of notable changes are the Senior Honors Project and the Honors Advocates Program. Both of these programs will provide great opportunities for our students in the future.

I want to thank all alumni who have become engaged with our group and encourage more to do so. We would really like to establish a working relationship with previous Honors College members who have already been out in the world and having success. Your experiences and insight are invaluable as the next generation of Honors College students work their way towards graduation.

The Honors College is now engaging in yearly Study Abroad Programs and we would like to invite all previous Honors College members to share these experiences with us. If you are interested, please contact me at cfuchs@pittstate.edu and we will make sure you receive the necessary information.

Here is hoping for a wonderful summer!!

All my Best-
Dr. Craig Fuchs
Professor of Music
Director of Honors College

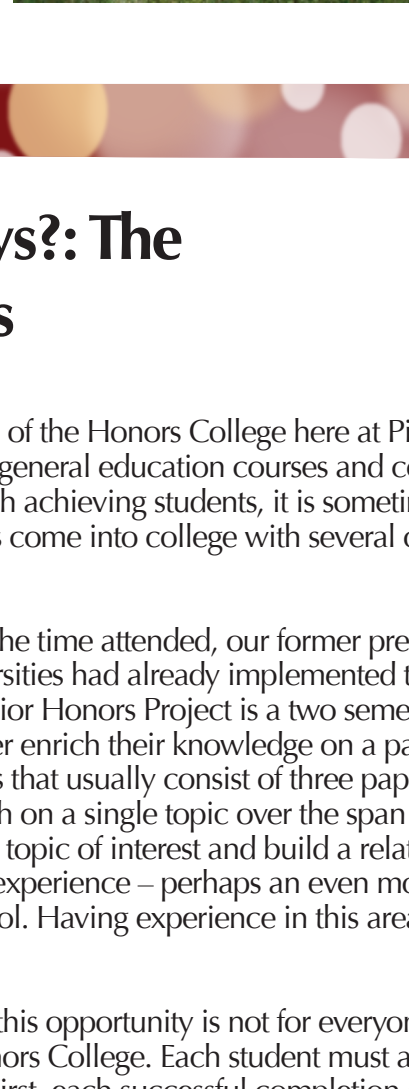
What's Inside:

- A Word From the Director
- HCA Carnival
- What Makes You Honors Students Anyways?
- A Day Trip to Tulsa
- 2013 Freshman Class
- Alumni News
- The Adventure of a Lifetime
- Featured Alumni
- Special Olympics Basketball

HCA Carnival

On Saturday, April 20, the Honors College Association hosted their annual carnival for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Crawford County. It was hosted at Lakeside Park and included both games and prizes for the "Littles" to win. The games included mini golf, a moon bounce, face painting, and assorted yard games.

By: Ellen Wieberg



What Makes You Honors Students Anyways?: The Requirements for Graduating with Honors

We were all made well aware of the requirements needed to graduate as members of the Honors College here at Pitt State on day one. The standards have always been to enroll in at least four of the honors general education courses and complete three departmental academic honors projects. However, we have found that as high achieving students, it is sometimes difficult to utilize the honors general education courses due to the fact that students come into college with several of their general requirements completed.

Two years ago at the National Collegiate Honors Council, in which our officers at the time attended, our former president, Holly Hrabik, brought back the idea of a Senior Honors Project. Many other universities had already implemented this project and the idea sparked great interest amongst the director. Essentially, the Senior Honors Project is a two semester long research opportunity in which the student pairs with a faculty mentor to further enrich their knowledge on a particular topic that has interested them. Unlike the Departmental Academic Honors projects that usually consist of three papers on three different topics, the Senior Honors Project allows students to go more in depth on a single topic over the span of two consecutive semesters. Not only will the student acquire a vast knowledge on their topic of interest and build a relationship with a faculty member with expertise in their field, they will also acquire research experience – perhaps an even more essential skill. Research is a guarantee for those planning to go on to graduate school. Having experience in this area puts the student yet another step ahead of the game.

However, Dr. Fuchs and the Honors College Advisory Committee understand that this opportunity is not for everyone. For this reason, a 21-point system has been developed for current members of the Honors College. Each student must acquire 21 points of credit before graduation. There are four ways to acquire these points. First, each successful completion of an honors gen ed course is three points. Next, completion of a Departmental Academic Honors project is three points. Also, participation in a Pitt State sanctioned Study Abroad trip along with coinciding coursework earns three points. Finally, the new Senior Honors Project is worth six points as well as six credit hours due to its extensive workload.

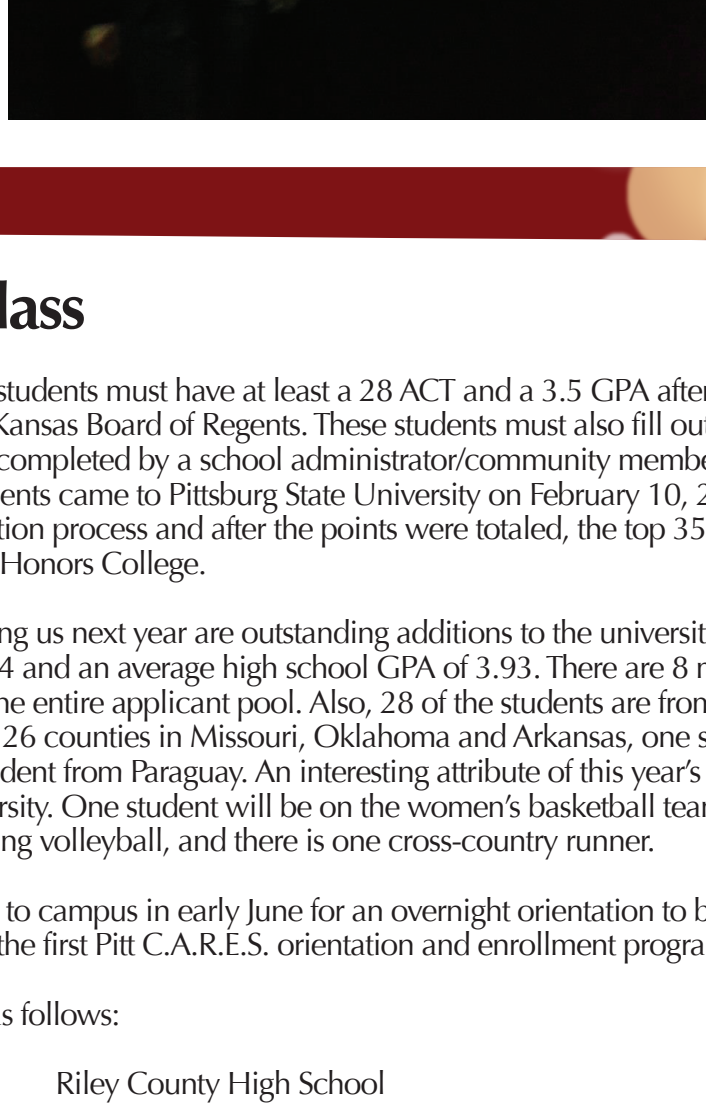
This year we have implemented several changes to our policy manual; however, we fully believe these changes offer students not only a wider variety of honors credits but offer students a more enriching experience in their undergraduate years.

By: Lenzi Sudduth

A Day Trip to Tulsa

Sometimes it's important as a professional group of hardworking honors students to step back and do something just for fun, relaxation, and bonding. On March 9th, around twenty members of the Honors College—plus Dr. and Caleb Fuchs—took a two-hour bus ride to Tulsa, Oklahoma where they enjoyed a day free of academic or service commitments. Sophomore class representative Alexis McKinnon took over responsibilities of planning of the trip because she was excited about taking on "more of a leadership role in our association" and providing "something fun and different" for our membership. The day consisted of a visit to the Oklahoma Aquarium, which features over 200 marine and aquatic animal exhibits, and shopping at the Woodland Hills Mall. When asked what her favorite part of the day was, freshman Catherine Geiger responded, "During one of the feeding shows [at the aquarium], a guy proposed to his girlfriend. That was definitely my favorite part." The trip was certainly a nice change of pace from the day-to-day grind of classwork and extracurriculars.

By: Laura Holthuis



2013 Freshman Class

To apply for the Honors College, students must have at least a 28 ACT and a 3.5 GPA after completing the pre-college curriculum as established by the Kansas Board of Regents. These students must also fill out an application, write an essay, and provide two reference forms completed by a school administrator/community member and a teacher. After these applications were scored, 45 students came to Pittsburg State University on February 10, 2013 for an interview. These interviews completed the application process and after the points were totaled, the top 35 students received an invitation to join the Pittsburg State University Honors College.

The 35 students who will be joining us next year are outstanding additions to the university and the Honors College. They have an average ACT score of 29.4 and an average high school GPA of 3.93. There are 8 males and 27 females in the group which is representative of the entire applicant pool. Also, 28 of the students are from in-state, five are from the Gorilla Advantage area which consists of 26 counties in Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas, one student is from out of state and one student is an international student from Paraguay. An interesting attribute of this year's freshman class is that six of them will be playing sports at the university. One student will be on the women's basketball team, two students are football players, two students will be playing volleyball, and there is one cross-country runner.

These 35 students will be coming to campus in early June for an overnight orientation to bond and learn more about the Honors College before attending the first Pitt C.A.R.E.S. orientation and enrollment program.

The upcoming freshman class is as follows:

Beardsley, Elizabeth	Riley County High School
Bernhardt, Spencer	Pittsburg High School
Casper, Andie	Pittsburg High School
Chase Marlorquin	The American School of Asuncion
Creech, Karsten	Baxter Springs High School
Davolt, Faith	Fort Scott Christian Heights
Dennis, Kristen	Eudora High School
Flood, Katelyn	St. Mary's Colgan High School
Flowers, Sarah	Joplin High School
Foster, Phillip	Maize South High School
Glenn, Heather	Liberty High School
Greene, Carlin	Wichita High School East
Hennen, Kristen	Labette County High School
Herlocker, Hadyn	Girard High School
Hogan, Emma	Bishop Miege High School
Houser, Gavin	Columbus Unified High School
Letchworth, Carson	Blue Springs High School
Llewellyn, Stephen	Oakley High School
MacGill, Kathryn	Mill Valley High School
Metzger, Christina	Saint Thomas Aquinas
Murphy, Sara	Olathe Northwest High School
Newberry, Carly	St. Paul High School
Pio, Hannah	North Kansas City High School
Platt, Marcus	Horton High School
Proctor, Kylie	Olathe Northwest High School
Rink, Logan	Pittsburg High School
Showers, Jordyn	Spring Hill High School
Shumny, Megan	Webb City High School
Spencer, Mary	Pittsburg High School
Stainbrook, Paige	Uniontown High School
Stricklin, Marina	Southeast High School
Thomas, Hannah	Ottawa High School
Tran, Steven	Chandler High School
Whitesell, Hannah	Eisenhower High School
Willis, Elizabeth	Pittsburg High School

By: Mary Lipp

Alumni News

Kate (Bryant) McNeil-BBA Accounting '99-MBA '00

I live in Olathe, KS with my husband Matt (BBA in Finance '00) and our son Evan (3.5 years old). I worked for Deloitte, a Big 4 public accounting firm, after I graduated. I was there for nine years and was an audit senior manager when I left. I've been with Oxford Companies for a little over three years now as their controller. Our largest subsidiary is Hangar 10, an aviation services terminal at the downtown (KC) airport. I also teach accounting for Johnson County Community College and MCC (KCMO) on an adjunct basis.

Roxanne Wallace-BS in Biology '10

I am currently in my third year of vet school down at Oklahoma State. I am leaning towards a mixed animal practice and after I graduate I am hoping to find a job in a rural community somewhere in the US.

The Adventure of a Lifetime

On May 15, thirty-seven of the Honors College students will embark on a trip to Europe following the path of World War 2. The countries they will visit include England, France, Belgium, Germany, and Austria. These students will also have the privilege of seeing historical sites including the Houses of Parliament, the Eiffel Tower, Normandy Coast, and the Eagle's Nest. The duration of the trip is fifteen days and each second is jam-packed with national landmarks, historical sight-seeing, and free time to explore the wonders each country has to offer.

In addition to the actual trip, the students were also required to take a semester long class over World War 2 to prepare their minds for what they will be experiencing. At five o'clock on Tuesday nights, the class meets to discuss whatever the topic of the night is. The topic of the night is divided into three main sections: itinerary, documentary, and history lesson. For itinerary nights, Dr. Fuchs takes the class through a specific leg of the trip and details what they will be doing and when they will be doing it. This helps the students to gain an understanding of what to expect for each day. Documentary classes are spent watching the Ken Burn's video over World War 2. Through the film, the students were able to hear firsthand accounts of what life was like back then and see actual footage and pictures from the war. However, without a doubt, the best nights were when Dr. Daley, a history professor at PSU, came to lecture about the military strategies involved. Each class period, Dr. Daley prepared a talk regarding how the war was fought from a soldier's standpoint. He provided helpful insight into what the life of a soldier was like. He also spoke briefly about his own time in the military, which intrigued the students even more. The class eagerly anticipated his lectures and they greatly thank him for the time that he spent of their class.

In about two weeks, the students will be on the plane to Europe and the excitement is finally starting to set in. The buzz of energy is permeable as the students finish their finals and begin to pack for their two week adventure. When asked about her thoughts on the fast approaching trip, freshman Maria Newmaster said, "I am really looking forward to the trip. It will be interesting to see the locations and to trace the progression of the war as we travel through Europe. It will also be neat to see the culture and lifestyle of the various locations. It will be an amazing experience!" Overall, the students going are well-prepared and extremely excited for their adventure through Europe.

In total there are 43 total Honors College members studying abroad in 2013. Besides the World War 2 tour, there are members going to Spain, South Korea, France, Peru, and Ireland. These students will study a diverse mix of subjects from language and culture to business. The upcoming summer will definitely be a busy yet fruitful time for the Honors College students who are studying abroad.

By: Katie Nance and Austin Masters

Featured Alumni

Name: Timothy W. Puetz High School: Saint Thomas Aquinas High School (Overland Park, KS)

Current City: Washington, DC Years at PSU: 1997-2003

Current Position/Job:
National Institutes of Health - Bethesda, MD
(2012-Present)

Office of the Director
Presidential Management Fellow

Degree and Major:
- Bachelor of Science in Education (BSED) - Physical Education/English Education (2001)
Pittsburg State University - Pittsburg, KS

Certificates:
- Adapted Physical Education (Special Education)
- Master of Science (MS) in Health, Human Performance and Recreation - Human Performance & Wellness (2003)
Pittsburg State University - Pittsburg, KS

Post Graduate Degrees:
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Kinesiology - Biopsychology/Neuroscience (2006) University of Georgia - Athens, GA
- Master of Public Health (MPH) - Behavioral Science & Health Education (2012) Emory University - Atlanta GA

Certificates:
- Human Rights; Global Complex Humanitarian Emergencies; Mental Health; Sociocultural Determinants of Health
- Master of Business Administration (MBA) - Strategic Management (Expected 2015) Indiana University - Bloomington, IN

Certificates:
- Business Leadership; Global Supply Chain Management

Careers/Jobs Held:
- The Carter Center - Atlanta, GA (2010-2012)
- Mental Health Program - Liberia
- Research Coordinator
- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) - Atlanta, GA (2010-2012)
- Division of Strategic National Stockpile
- Management & Program Analyst
- United States Army - Ft. Drum, NY (2006-2010)
3-71st Cavalry, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), 10th Mountain Division
Infantry Officer
- United States Army - Natick, MA (2003-2006)
- United States Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine (USARIEM)
- Medical Service Corps Officer

Activities at PSU:
- Clubs: Fellowship of Christian Athletes; Health, Human Performance, Recreation (HHPR) Club; Residence Hall Assembly;
Student Activity Council
- Organizations: Honors College; Kansas Special Olympics; Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)
- Sports: Cross Country; Track & Field

Mentors/Favorite Professors at PSU:
Robert Frost once said, "I am not a teacher, but an awakener." Many a professor at Pittsburg State University gave me a gentle nudge to awaken me from the insipid slumber of an ordinary life and open my eyes to the possibilities of an extraordinary one. These "awakeners" have influence my life such that I have tried to duplicate this inspiration in others. By rousing just one student they have stirred the enthusiasm of so many more.

- Department of Health, Human Performance, & Recreation: Sandra Bauchmoyer, Scott Gorman, Janice Jewett, John Oppliger, Jerry Stockard
- Department of Athletics: Russ Jewett, Anton Stewart
- Department of Military Science: MAJ Jim Snyder; MSG Sam Haskins; SFC James Browning
- Department of Psychology: Steven Duvall, Rozanne Sparks
- Honors College: Chris Fogliasso

Favorite thing(s) about PSU:

"I can't list for you the majority of the courses I took at Pitt State. I can't pretend to guess the number of hours spent at clubs, football games, and campus events on nights and weekends. And I couldn't even begin to tell you the number of miles I logged around Prentice Gudgen Track. But I can tell you that I will never forget the professors, friends, and teammates that filled those classrooms, hours, and miles. The best part of Pittsburg State is the people."

Favorite thing(s) about the Honors College:

"One of the key tenants of the PSU Honors College is to provide a socially responsive, supportive environment to the students whereby members feel personally connected to others throughout the college. It has been over a decade since I have graduated from the honors college, yet I am still guided by the veracity and insight created through the relationships with professors and classmates within the organization. These personal and enduring connections continually influence my drive and world view. As Abraham Lincoln once said, 'I'm a success today because I had a friend who believed in me and I didn't have the heart to let him down.'"

How the Honors College affected/prepared you for the future/career:

"Pittsburg State University may be a little college tucked away in South-East Kansas, but it has a big influence on the world through those people that have had the good fortune to walk its hallowed halls. Indeed PSU Honors College creates a state of mind, a psychological condition, an innate philosophy that guards an educated mind against the hubris of today's society. PSU not only prepared me to be successful, but it also kept me grounded so I maintained the integrity needed to make success a reality."

By: Jayden Bowen

Design By Katie Nance

Special Olympics Basketball

On February 20, 2013 Pittsburg State University hosted a basketball Special Olympics event. Several of the Honors College members had the opportunity to help out with this. They helped to run the various events that were part of the day and assisted in totaling up scores and giving out medals. Mary Lipp worked at the score table for a few hours; she said "It was great seeing how excited the kids were to receive their medals; they had worked hard and it had paid off. I'm glad I got the chance to be part of their happiness."

By: Mary Lipp