

A Note From Your President



By: Daniel VanHassent, HC XII

It is hard to believe that this year has already come and gone. It went by so quickly! But the talents and gifts of those involved made this year another successful one in the Honors Student Association.

Over the past few years, HSA has continued to grow. Dr. Dean has mentioned to us on several occasions that there used to be very few members in HSA; trying to get anyone to participate was like pulling teeth. This is no longer the case. At the first meeting of the school year, there were 131 members in attendance. The entire freshman class came to this meeting along with several brand new members who were interested in seeing what HSA was all about!

In the past, HSA has been recognized as one of West Chester University's top organizations. This year was no different. For the second year in a row, the Honors Student Association was named the recipient of the 2012-2013 Community Service Leadership Award from the Division of Student Affairs!

This year could not have been an enormous success without the help of my peers. To my Executive Board, you all rock. You sat through those long meetings every week and contributed your time, energy and plethora of creative ideas to see the organization grow. Your dedication to the organization clearly showed while working efficiently with each other



Members of the 2012-2013 Exec Board



Members of the 2013-2014 Exec Board

to better the organization. I am so honored to have worked with all of you. To the committee chairs, you should be very proud of yourselves. The many components of HSA would not be able to function without you. You have contributed so much time to your different committees and have done excellent work. To the members of HSA, you made the ideas of the Exec Board and the Committee Chairs come to life. There would not be an organization if it were not for you showing up to meetings and different service events.

All in all, I am so honored to have served this year as HSA President. I have grown as a person and as a leader. This experience was exhausting and I lost a lot of sleep over it, but it was definitely well worth it. I am so proud of everything that we have accomplished this year and I look forward to what the new Executive Board has in store for next year! As I pass the torch to Christine and the rest of next year's executive board; I am proud to say this organization is in great hands. The Honors Student Association will continue its tradition of excellence and serving the community for many years to come. Thank you!

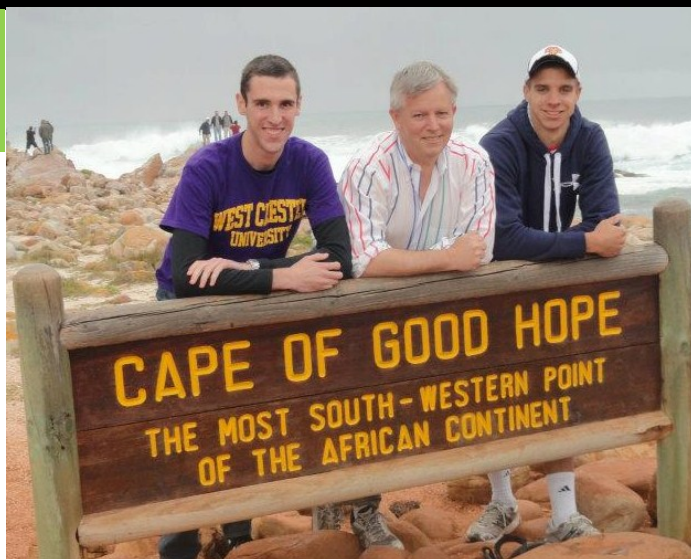
Director's Corner:

Once again the May 2013 Honors College banquet was enhanced by a performance from Gracenotes, the WCU women's a cappella group founded by Kristen Waghorn Von Barga (HC VII – 2009). They sang a ballad from the Broadway sensation *Wicked*, which I consider to be the WCU Honors theme song: "Changed for Good". "I've heard it said," the lyrics begin, "that people come into our lives for a reason." The words continue, "But I know I'm who I am today because I knew you.....I don't know if I've been changed for the better, but because I knew you I have been changed for good."

As we bid a fond farewell to the truly outstanding graduates of 2013, I hear these words playing in my mind. What an amazing year this has been! Just hitting the highlights, WCU Honors students had a tremendous impact on this campus: A record number of Honors juniors and seniors were inducted into **Omicron Delta Kappa**, the university's most prestigious academic honorary for scholarship, leadership, and service as was also the case with rising seniors being recognized for membership in **Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities**, the highest award given for scholarship and leadership by the Division of Student Affairs. Honors Student Anthony 'Tony' LaFratte was recognized as the **Madeleine Wing Adler Emerging Leader**, three Honors Students (Michael Jendzurski, Alexis Parks, and Francesca Cintorrino were named among six **Outstanding Senior Leaders** through the Division of Student Affairs), Dan Bach was recognized as the **Top Graduate** from the **College of Arts & Sciences**, Cierra Mautone was recognized as the **Top Graduate** from the **Department of Psychology**, Dan Hinderliter received acclaim from the **Department of Communication Studies**, Emma Fitzpatrick was recognized as the **Outstanding Student Teacher** from the **Department of English**, Justin Caiazzo took three top **honors in Theatre** (the very same night as the Honors banquet,) Ashley Dutcher, Chase Kriza, Michael Jendzurski, DJ Matsko, Cierra Mautone, Melissa Murphy, Likhitha Musunuru, Alane Presswood, Jessica Rossana, Alexis Stinson, Samantha Terrell, and Jena Wood have all been accepted to **professional/graduate school programs** (others are pending), Victoria Ravenelle will be participating in an AmeriCorps assignment, Christina Thomson recently received a placement through the **Peace Corps** in Madagascar, and Michael Jendzurski was named the **Ali Zaidi Award** Recipient from PASSHE, naming him the top graduate in leadership, academics, and service within the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

While all of these individual accolades----and the many more which were not specifically mentioned----are literally awe inspiring, what I consider to be the crowning accomplishment of the year is the collective recognition the Honors Student Association received by being named the **2012-2013 Community Service Leadership Organization of the Year**. This recognition cannot be attained from the devotion of just one member or a devoted core; it is a collaborative, community based effort that is attained only when service to others becomes a defining principle of who we are as an organization. This award attests that students in Honors are not only recognized for their intellect, they are celebrated for their gift of time as they use their intellect in the service of others. Through the relationships they form throughout the campus and broader community, Honors students at West Chester are characterized by being change agents for good!

It is such an honor and privilege for me to serve as the Director of such a fine group of women and men.....they remind me on a daily basis that "we are led to those who help us most to grow, if we let them, and we help them in return." For those graduates, I extend my appreciation and heart-felt gratitude, I can say with absolute confidence, because we knew you, we have been indeed changed for good.





Congratulations to the Students Inducted into Who's Who for 2013:

Elizabeth Amand

Amy Millar

Megan Berberich

Ashley Murphy

Anthony Blubello

Hannah Peters

Jasmine Forster

Victoria Ravenelle

Skye Hisiro

Elizabeth Sherman

Christine Klingaman

Lauren Simmons

DJ Matsko

Nikole Smith

Lisa C. McMahon

Daniel VanHassent

Hannah Velez



Farewell Class of 2013!



Honors Student Association
HSA Executive Board:

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Daniel VanHassent

Immediate Past President

Michael Jendzurski

1st Vice President

Amy Millar

Treasurer

Grant Hubbard

Director

Kevin Dean

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Christine Klingaman

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Brianna Plaxe

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Aid to South Africa

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Alumni Database

Skye Hisiro

Awards & Recognition

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Buddy Coordinator

Jenn Matusa

Curriculum & Community

Dana Fillman

Dance for a Change

Alexis Stinson

Diversity

Samantha McGinty

Fundraising

Alissa Conway

Grad School Fair

Hannah Velez

Historian

Elise Lerario

Housing

Rachel Polgardy

HSA Happenings
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Ashley Murphy

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Olivia Kenney

Music & Arts

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Recruitment

Kristina Lail

Seminar

Recruitment

Nicole Medeiros

SGA Representative

Jasmine Forster

Social

Kim Bydlon

Sports &

Recreation

Steve Roscioli

Technology

Taylor Holt

TAG

Emily Polefka

Congratulations to the 2013-2014 Exec Board and Committee Chairs:

President— Christine Klingaman

Immediate Past President—
Daniel VanHassent

1st Vice President— Brianna Plaxe

2nd Vice President— Samatha McGinty

Treasurer— Christopher Whittall

Secretary— Brian Schwabenland

Alumni— Melissa Christie

Alumni Database— Sarah Walker

Awards and Recognition— Amanda Gilbert

ASA Exec Director— Zachary Wooten

Buddy Coordinator— Rebecca Bannan

Community Service— Alex Sheriff

Curriculum & Community— Dana Fillman

Dance for A Chance— Jackie Iovine

Diversity— Abbie Ganas

Fundraising— Amber Coe

Grad Fair Coordinator— Ansu Bensen

Historian— Haley Paiva

Housing— Marissa Giovinazzo

HSA Happenings Editor— Marissa Caldwell

International Outreach— Carl Sandberg

Library Resource— Lauren Leonard

Music and Arts— Jon Ruths

Public Relations— Brooke Hillman

Recruitment— Kristina Lail

Seminar Recruitment— Nicole Medeiros

SGA Representative— Tony LaFratte

Social— Ahleah Miles

Sports and Recreation— Katie Rincavage

Technology— Lisa McMahan

TAG— Emily Polefka

Web Master— Joe Cosentino

HSA Happenings is a student-produced monthly newsletter created and distributed by the Honors Student Association Public Relations Committee.

Its purpose is to supplement West Chester University community's knowledge of the Honors Student Association's activities and endeavors.