

HSA Happenings

Happy Holidays, HSA! As we approach the end of the semester, we have a few fun and exciting stories to share. Remember to get some sleep as Finals Week progresses, and most of all, take advantage of that vacation time! We will catch up with you all in 2017!

-Max James, Head Editor

A Piece on Peace: The Nobel Prize Candidacy Debate Continues



Image courtesy of The Observers.

This past month, dedicated members of the Honors Student Association dug deep into debate to discuss an exciting and recent topic: the choice of a Nobel Peace Candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize. Announced in early November, deliberations on who would be chosen ran through the entirety of the month. A subset committee, led by Matthew Leinhauser and Robert Clark, spearheaded the campaign, which ended on December 8th, 2016.

Before discussing the choice for our candidate, we decided to take a deeper look into the processes of the Nobel campaign, via an interview with one of the heads: Matthew Leinhauser.

"...It's very long right now, but soon enough it will be rewarding. It's always tough being the inaugurate to do something, especially when said thing has never happened before. Overall, I'm happy with where the process was and where it's going. Now that we have our nominee, we can focus on establishing WCU's relationship with the Nobel Peace Institute.

...[the process] really invigorated me, but at the same time it was a lot to handle on top of regular school work. It's fun, but again long sometimes. Dr. Dean told me next fall he has some major

work for me to do with the Nobel Peace Institute. I'm looking forward to that.

I'm very excited to see Saber Hosseini as our nominee. His mission of keeping education and literature alive in places where they are getting executed is so honorable and inspiring."

So, essentially, students chose their favorite candidates-which ranged from the likes of Lin Manuel-Miranda to entire organizations-and then voted. The top three choices-Brandon Stanton of Humans of New York fame, Irom Sharmila (also known as the Iron Lady), and finally and Saber Hosseini.

December 8th held the final round of voting, during the HSA Holiday meeting. Many of the members of the Honors Student Association gathered to listen to treatises and supporting pages on each candidate. After this and a brief window of thought, these members voted on their choice of candidate: Saber Hosseini. This story is developing, and in the Spring semester we shall see where this takes us.



HSA Holiday Celebration: Cheer for All!

The Honors Student Association held their annual Holiday celebrations in the last General Attendance meeting of the semester on December 8th, 2016. The celebrations included numbers sung from the Honors Choir, a few classy takes on famous Holiday songs from the Jazz Combo, and lastly, two dances from the HSA Dance Team—one focused on the Holidays, and another throwback to the Homecoming dance celebrations.

The numbers served to distract members from the upcoming Finals Week, at least for one night—and help everyone grow into the upcoming and inevitable Holiday Cheer.

Archana Chungapally—an avid member of the HSA Dance Team—shared some words giving a behind the scenes look at the team's choreography.

"I absolutely loved choreographing the dance number for our holiday program! Having the opportunity to raise holiday

spirits with a cute & fun number with such a diverse set of dancers was incredible. Every one of my stunning dancers sleighed and we welcome anyone of any dance experience into our growing family!"

Alex Dwyer, a member of the Jazz Combo, shared his experiences as well.

"The HSA jazz combo has been a safe and welcoming environment for me to improve my jazz skills. Our director Ben Doersom works hard to improve the knowledge and skills each member brings when playing. It is a pleasure to play holiday tunes like Feliz Navidad and Holly Jolly Christmas for the MPAC fall concert and look forward to playing more for the incoming students during honors recruitment."

Everyone looks forward to next year's celebration, as they always hold some fun surprises.



Upcoming events

- January 21st, 2017: First Recruitment Event





Hannah Laboski, tutor of Cerena Williams.

ADP Speech Competition Brings Exciting Results

Honors students and faculty helped with the Academic Development Program (or ADP) speech competition-held on Friday, December 2nd and then the finals on Monday, December 5th.

The ADP Competition-held every fall semester and hosted by our very own Dr. Dean-highlights some of the most eloquent speakers in the program. Two students from each section of the ADP Public Speaking course are chosen to give their persuasive speeches to a host of judges (which are comprised of a selection of tutors for and professors of ADP Public Speaking).

The first part of the tournament, held on December 2nd, served the purpose of curbing the competitors down to five, and then the finale, held on December 5th, determines the 1st place winner. All students in the ADP program are required to attend the finale, giving the five speakers an audience of over 200 students.

To learn more, we looked to Hannah Laboski-the tutor of the ADP Public Speaking Champion Cierra Williams, and the Recruitment Chair of HSA.

"I am extremely proud of how far Cierra has come this semester. She has put an immense amount of work into her speech-focusing on UNICEF-and it showed. She was poised and confident...before the announcement of the winner, Cierra was nervous. I told her she was a winner in my eyes and it turned out she was a winner in everyone's eyes. I look forward to seeing what the future holds for her."



OMICRON DELTA KAPPA

The National Leadership Honor Society

On Sunday, November 13th, twenty-one students were inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa (or ODK). Of these twenty-one, thirteen hold memberships in the Honors College. The students who received this prestigious and rigorous award are listed to the right (including the members of the Honors College who hold officer positions).

From the desk of Dr. Dean:

Founded in 1914 at the University of Washington and Lee, Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) ranks as one of the nation's highest recognized honoaries celebrating scholarship, leadership and service among collegiate juniors and seniors. Founded at West Chester University in 2000, Omicron Delta Kappa serves as the university's most prestigious honorary. Eligibility mandates students achieve a minimum grade point average of 3.75 and have a demonstrated record of outstanding leadership and service in multiple areas of: academics, athletics, speech and journalism, the fine and performing arts, and/or campus/community governance, religious and/or service organizations.

The induction was held at the Phillips Autograph Library.

Officers

President

Devon N. Stroup

Vice President

Matthew S. Dummeldinger

Secretary Treasurer

Kellen A. Kane

Inductees

Sigfried Ryan Aragona

Stephanie Rose Binder

Amy Michelle Cander

Dallas M. Commons

Blair C. Cunningham

Richard Fontanet, Jr.

Danielle M. Kreppel

Sara Eva Nyholm

Rachel Schuck

Daniel Elizabeth Sherman

Shannon Lynn Shiring

Matthew W. Woolcock

Rebeka L. Yocum

Executive Board

President Shannon Shiring	Secretary Erica Knorr
First Vice President Anthony Fallacaro	Treasurer Matthew Jung
Second Vice President Jaclyn Giovinazzo	Director Dr. Kevin W. Dean

Work Study

Sara Nyholm	Nicholas Marcil
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7th Floor Allegheny Hall RAs

Mikaila Barba	Cameron Cooper
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Committee Chairs and Program Coordinators

Aid to South Africa Claire McCreavy	Music & Performing Arts Lindsey Anna
Alumni Dallas Commons	Choir Director Blair Cunningham
Awards & Recognition Samantha Roberts	Dance Team Archana Chungapally
Community Service Riley Orr	Jazz Combo Director Ben Doersom
Curriculum & Community Abbey Bigler	Peer Mentor Coordinator Micaela Forsyth
Diversity Sigfried Aragona	Public Relations (External) Alexander Schmidt
Fundraising Emily Stockmal	Public Relations (Internal) Taylor McCahan
Graduate School Fair Kaity Blair	Recruitment Hannah Laboski
Historian Sarah Henry	SGA Representative Robert Clark
Housing Anna Dyska	Social Courtney Brennan
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HSA Happenings is a student-produced monthly newsletter created and distributed by the Honors Student Association. Its purpose is to supplement the West Chester University community's knowledge of the Honors Student Association's activities and endeavors.

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