

# HSA Happenings

Photo creds: Hayley Sholansky

*And...we're back! Please enjoy our first edition of the spring semester. This time around we will cover HSA's celebration of Super Bowl LII (a.k.a. the Eagles win of the decade). We will also cover the 8th Annual Date Auction along with a climate change initiative, both events organized and attended by HSA members. Lastly, we have a further update on the outcome of the "Winter Puppyland" from our last edition. So grab a snack and please enjoy!*

— Camryn Carwill, Editor

## On the Road to Victory

By Becca Shoemaker

History was made on Sunday, February 4th, 2018, and HSA was a part of it. From 6 to 10pm the 7th floor center lounge was abuzz with eager hopes of victory for the Birds. The HSA Super Bowl party had all the classic fixings—chili, buffalo chicken dip, mac n cheese, and plenty of other sweet goodies to go around. Green décor embellished the walls, lighting up the Allegheny seventh floor lounge and filling all the guests with Eagles spirit.

About 40 guests attended throughout the night, allowing for a great deal of mingling between current seventh floor dwellers and those of the past. One of the big hits of the evening was the raffling off of the one-of-a-kind football signed by Dr. Kevin Dean himself. Not much time passed before a bidding war ensued over the prized possession, but



ultimately a ticket put in by Beth Brunquell, Abby Macmahon, and Elise Klingaman was chosen as the winner. By the end of the night, the faithful few lingering in the room held their breath as they watched the final throw of the game result in a dramatic and

well-deserved win for the Eagles. Cheers and screams erupted as everyone leapt up to watch the die-hard fans running with fervor throughout the academic quad. All those who attended left that night with stomachs full of Super Bowl cuisine and hearts bursting with newfound Philly pride. ♦





Photo creds: Hayley Sholansky

# Dating for a Cause

By Allison Davis

On Monday, February 12, the Honors Student Association hosted the 8th Annual Date Auction. The event, held just in time for Valentine's Day, allowed guests to bid to win a date with one of the twenty bachelors that participated. The bachelors, a variety of students who were all volunteers, had the opportunity to strut their stuff while guests were read some facts about them to help them decide who was going to win their bid. Refreshments were provided and people had the opportunity to buy raffle tickets to win some cool prizes to take home. Between the bidding, West Chester University acapella groups Under A Rest and High Street Harmonix provided the entertainment for the evening with stunning performances.

The event turned out to be a great success. The bidding got intense at some points, with the highest bid of the night reaching \$225. At the end

of the night, the event had raised over \$1,500. All of the proceeds will go to the Honors Student Association's major charitable cause, Aid to South Africa. HSA member Anna Hewitt, who organized and served as the director for the Date Auction, was thrilled with the turnout.

"I'm really appreciative of all the bachelors and other volunteers for helping," she said. "I'm also really proud that we beat last year's amount. It's been a real pleasure to be the director this year."

The HSA Date Auction was an exciting, fun evening for everyone involved, especially the lucky bidders that were able to win a date with one of the lovely bachelors. ♦



Photo creds: Emily Powers





# Meet Our Climate Sweethearts

By Camryn Carwll

HSA's very own Ellie Sullum was involved in the organization of a "Be My Climate Sweetheart" initiative in West Chester. We asked Ellie a few questions about the climate change project, which culminated in the delivery of the Valentine collage to Rep. Ryan Costello and a rally in town.

**Q: What exactly is the Be My Climate Sweetheart Rally?**

A: Be My Climate Sweetheart Rallies happened all throughout Southeast PA this week. They intend to thank representatives who have a strong track record towards propelling climate change legislation and policy forward.

**Q. How did you get involved in the rally and the groups that planned it?**

A. I work as the Voter Engagement Coordinator for Dub C Votes, WCU's nonpartisan voter engagement platform. Nonpartisanship indicates a neutral political stance; therefore my job is to focus on voters and voter-centric issues. Sometimes we partner with

other nonpartisan political initiatives. This semester, we began a partnership with PennEnvironment, a nonpartisan climate advocacy group. They focus on achieving momentum in progressive climate policy without utilizing political affiliation.

**Q. What is the end goal of the rally?**

A. The rally ultimately serves as a public measure of accountability, and asks each representative to elevate their work, and invite their colleagues to join them.

**Q. What exactly does it mean for people to sign the petition?**

A. When signing the petition, each person commits to the unified accountability measures, asking their local representatives to increase the momentum of their work regarding progressive climate policy on a local, state, and national level.

**Q. What has it meant to you to be involved in this project?**

A. I believe in holding elected officials accountable, regardless of political affiliation. I also believe that climate change policy is nonpartisan- which contrasts with a commonly accepted narrative of climate change only serving as an issue for certain political parties to be engaged in. Climate change transcends affiliation and demands a nonpartisan, collaborative approach. I enjoyed working on this grassroots petition for accountability. ♦





# Winter Puppyland Update

By Aria Swanson and Danielle Gendler

As most of you know, back on November 16th, a place near and dear to our hearts suffered a tragic loss: the entirety of the Woolman Building at Barclay Friends Senior Living Facility burned down. The residents there, our friends, lost all of their belongings and their homes to the fire. Four residents died.

When we originally heard about the fire at Barclay, we assumed it would be a minor affair, like when someone burns popcorn in one of the dorms. So we turned on the news just to check. We saw the entire building engulfed in flames - residents being carried out by firefighters and neighbors alike. It was then that we knew that we had to do something.

We got our things together and headed out to help guide residents into the Red Cross shelter that the university set up in the Ehinger Gym. We brought coffee for the first responders, helped the Barclay staff, and checked in on some of the residents we recognized. Most of them made it out of the building with just the belongings on their bodies.

The West Chester community came together in the following days to donate

lightly used clothes, toiletries, bedding and household items for the victims. In fact, within just a few hours, they had to turn away donations because so many people came out to donate. Even after all the donations, there were still things that were missing. That's when we decided we needed to raise monetary donations to replace personal items like dentures and glasses.

We both volunteer at the Brandywine Valley SPCA, and an opportunity to bring puppies to campus for a fundraiser presented itself. From there, we worked for five weeks organizing what would eventually be called Winter Puppyland. With the help of the BVSPCA, we were able to bring fourteen puppies to campus on December 8th. To our surprise, we had a line of people wrapping around Sykes waiting to play with our puppies, two different news stations covered our event, and we raised over \$2500 in total.

After the chaos of Winter Puppyland subsided, we were able to attend the Barclay staff Christmas breakfast and present them with the check. In addition to that, within a week of Puppyland, all

14 of the puppies had been adopted. Seven of the puppies were adopted right after the event by attendees. This event was truly a win-win situation for the BVSPCA, Barclay Friends, and the community as a whole.

This past month, we were presented with the opportunity to represent the Community of West Chester as a whole at the Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry awards breakfast, where we accepted the "Nonprofit of the Year" award for our efforts. We were also cited by the Pennsylvania State House and Senate and by Chester County. Truly, this has been a wild ride.

Neither of us expected such a good turnout or result for simply bringing some puppies to campus, and never in our wildest dreams did we anticipate getting such good feedback from our university, the community, and outside entities. We would like to thank everyone, especially Archana Chungapally and Anna Hewitt, for helping us put together such an incredible event in our community's time of need. ♦





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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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