



Students from 7th Floor Allegheny proudly display their Free Hugs Shirts

The Freshmen Perspective

By Ashley Murphy
HC XII

The first day of college typically comes with a variety of expectations. Apart from the small rainforest worth of blank paper and freshly sharpened pencils as well as couple pounds of new textbooks, students bring with them many big, and often scary, questions. Will I make friends? Will the workload be too much for me? Is this where I should be? Moving swiftly through their fourth week of classes, the Honors College class of 2015 has already begun to find answers to these questions.

Displaying both confidence and a sense of humor, the freshmen have not only gotten a handle on the basics of figuring out where classes are, how many hours a week to devote to studying and how many chairs can be crammed around a table at Lawrence, but have moved on to getting involved with different organizations on campus.

So how do these freshmen manage to be volunteering, staying on top of their grades and having fun to boot? The answer, it seems, is that they get by with a little help from their friends.

“Being in honors gives you an automatic group of friends,” says **Samantha Sallade**, HCXIII. “I thought (being here) would be a lot of work but it is a lot of fun too.”

“Everyone here is really nice,” adds **Marissa Caldwell**, HC XIII. She went on to describe the relationship that has fostered between the freshmen and the sophomores. “We’re like one big happy family!”

Hugs for a Cause

By Brian W. Tracey
HC XII

Hannah Velez walks down the hall wearing a shirt that you don’t normally see; it says “free hugs” on the front, and she will follow up with anyone who asks for a hug. On any given day, a myriad of colors and styles of shirts saying “free hugs” can be seen around the honors floor and throughout campus. This new style is thanks to the “free hugs” shirt fundraiser, started by Hannah the spring of her freshman year in college as part of a public speaking project.

“I was looking for a topic on which to do my persuasive speech for Public Speaking class and I wanted to have a personal connection to the topic. So I went online and searched ‘non-profit organizations dealing with hugs’ and came across Operation Hug-a-Hero,” says **Hannah Velez**, HC XII.

See **Free Hugs**, page 4

See **Freshmen Perspective**, page 4

College on a Budget

By Lindsey Brodie
HC XII

We've all heard- 'money doesn't grow on trees'. However, it sure seems like college expenses do. Whether a student or their parent pays for tuition, room and board, there are still many costs to be considered while at college. Often times, that five dollars here or ten dollars there can rack up, leaving us college students with empty wallets and sad faces.

So this is where the issue arises. What are students of West Chester supposed to do for fun when they're low on funds? No one wants to spend all of their time sitting in their room, watching TV. Luckily, West Chester has many different activities that require little or no money, which many people don't take full advantage of.

First off, college students need food, and sometimes, they need a switch-up from the usual dining hall choices. Some inexpensive options downtown include Wednesday wing nights at Barnaby's. Anyone can get a dozen delicious wings for only three dollars. If you're looking for something a bit sweeter, head across the street to Kiwi, where you name the price. If you can only spend four dollars, you are able to get only four dollars of their various flavored frozen yogurt. As for coffee, another college staple, it's good to invest in a mug somewhere that allows for inexpensive refills. You could save up to two dollars every time you get coffee.

See **College on a Budget**, page 3

Director's Corner: *Share the Experience*

If your summer is at all like mine, it is full of fun, friends, and formative lessons. This summer was no different. After teaching first summer session, Kenda, Shannon and I (sadly Brendan had to work--- but hey, he is a college graduate with a job!!!!) had the amazing good fortune of traveling to Barcelona Spain. From there we took a cruise ship that allowed us access to Italian ports and the cities of Florence, Rome and Naples. An island stop preceded the trip back to Barcelona and a flight to Athens for three days before returning home. Obviously, experiencing these notable cities and locations was a fabulous opportunity but being able to *share the experience* was what really made it worth while.



Photo courtesy of: Cierra Mautone. On Right: Mrs. Weisenstein, Michael Jendzurski, HSA President, Dr. Kevin Dean, Honors College Director and President Weisenstein

As we begin the fall semester and welcome all the multi-talented and energetic members of HC XIII – the class of 2015 – it is the lesson of “*share the experience*” that I hope will resonate with everyone in the Honors College community. The 2011-2012 executive board of the H.S.A. achieved a lot this summer at their planning retreat. With input from the various committee chairs, they set goals for the year that link to our motto of “to be honorable is to serve.” Every month---indeed most every week--- provides multiple opportunities for celebrating community through social and service events. Yet all the time and energy put forth by Michael, Alexis, Grace, Dan, Christine and Matt and by the committee chairs who volunteered last spring to step forward and share their many talents will never have the impact possible without each of us making a commitment to “*share the experience*.”

The underlying value of all activities sponsored by the Honors College, that truly heightens the experience, comes from the bonding and building of relationships with peers who share a passion for making a difference. Indeed, the greatest gift Honors at WCU offers its membership is the possibility of relationships with each other. *Sharing the experiences* of Honors---both in and out of the classroom---deepens the impact as the multiple moments are remembered and reflected in further conversation after events are past.

Ultimately, *sharing the experience* means engagement. The H.S.A. was named “student organization of the year for 2010-2011” not because of any one person but through the dynamic synergy of everyone. We want each of you to *share the experience*---we need each of you to *share the experience*. Remember: no one becomes a member of the Honors College without being selected. Membership offers are based on the unique possibilities each individual holds---their gifts of scholarship, leadership and service---which can be shared with the community. So as the new year begins, seek your passion, become actively engaged, *share the experience*.....and “oh the places you will go!”

Important Dates and Upcoming Service Events:

September 24th
Fall Preview Day

September 24th
Walk Now for Autism Speaks

October 1st
Talent Show 7pm

October 2nd
Adopt-A-Block

October 6th
HSA GA meeting

October 8th
Priority Scheduling Opens

October 11th
D.C Trip



A very special thank you to Michael Selby and his staff for making the new sign on the 7th floor of Allegheny possible!

Come show your school spirit by supporting the **Rams!**

Upcoming home football games are:

9/24– Family Night

10/22– Homecoming

College on a Budget
cont. from 2



For other fun activities, you could see a movie on campus at Sykes Student Union for only two dollars. You can also head over to Painted Plate and paint your own piece of pottery. Prices are relatively reasonable, and your creation will be one less piece of dishware you need to buy. If you're looking for some new clothes, try some of the downtown consignment shops or the Salvation Army on Market Street. There are many treasures and finds that can be transformed into brand new outfits.

If you're more of a nature person, West Chester allows easy access to the outdoors. Try yoga in the Quad or head down to the woods area on South campus where there are many trails for running and walking. If you have a car, there's also the option of driving to a state park, the closest one being Ridley Creek State Park, where they offer numerous trails, horseback riding, and other outdoor recreational areas.

Lastly, there is always the option to spend your time volunteering in West Chester. There are many areas that need help, some on a daily basis. If you'd like to get involved with the Honors Student Association's volunteer work, contact anyone you know in the Honors College or Amy Millar, the community service chair.

There are many inexpensive activities in West Chester if you are just willing to take some time to go out and explore all there is to offer. And hopefully next time your wallet is feeling a little light, you'll remember some of these ideas and maybe stop by Barnaby's for some Bangin' Thai wings.

Do you like
to write?
Take pictures?
HSA Happenings
is for you!
Write one article
per month and get
a
bullet point for
your
resume!
Contact
am738358@wcupa.edu
for more info.

Honors Student Association

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

HSA Executive Board:

President
Michael Jendzurski

1st Vice President *2nd Vice President*
Alexis Stinson Grace Votta

Secretary *Treasurer*
Christine Klingaman Dan VanHassent

Director *Administrative Asst.*
Kevin Dean Donna Carney

HSA Committee Chairs:

Alumni HSA Happenings
Daniel Bach Editor
Ashley Murphy

Alumni Database Library Resources
Danielle Hamilton Olivia Kenney

Awards and Recognition Music and Arts
Lauren Simmons Sean Casey

Buddy Coordinator Public Relations
Skye Hisiro Ben Chadwell

Community Service Recruitment
Amy Millar Dan Hinderliter

Curriculum & Community Seminar
Jon Heintz Recruitment
Likhitha Musunuru

Diversity SGA Representative
Kate Monaghan Jonathan Russell

Fundraising Social
Alissa Conway Alex DiVito

Grad School Fair Sports and Recreation
Hannah Velez Vinnie D'Agostino

Historian Technology
Cierra Mautone Joseph Lauman

Housing TAG
Kaitlin Dylnicki Lauren Matter

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.

Free Hugs

Continued from page 1

Operation Hug-a-Hero is a national non-profit organization that supplies replica "pillow-dolls" to children of service men and women. They attempt to make it easier for children to acclimate to having a parent serving overseas. Hannah, whose father actively served in the Navy until she was five years old, was particularly touched by the goals of the organization as she had felt the loss of her father while he was serving.

While brainstorming a way to raise funds to donate to Operation Hug-a-Hero, she found a shirt she had made at a summer camp that encouraged people to overcome personal barriers by offering "free hugs." This sparked the idea that she would create customized shirts with the "free hugs" logo and sell them in order to raise funds for Operation Hug-a-Hero.

Students in the Honors College have eagerly jumped at the opportunity to be a part of this unique fundraiser. As of now, Hannah has sold almost 70 shirts to students within the Honors College and she plans to make another run of the shirts over winter break for those who have not received one yet. That comes out to almost \$500 in profit that she will be sending to Operation Hug-a-Hero. Hannah hopes to expand the fundraiser to the rest of campus in the spring semester in order to give the rest of the University the opportunity to support the members of the armed services. For Hannah, this represents her support of an organization offering even a small measure of comfort to those children whose parents serve our country overseas.



Freshmen Perspective

Continued from page 1

Indeed, when walking through the halls of 7th floor Allegheny, it is hard not to feel that connection. Whether they're gathering to play a game of Frisbee in the quad or studying for their next exam, the comradery among the students is evident.

Photo courtesy of Kaitlin Dylnicki.

"I couldn't have asked for a better experience," says Jamal Reddick, HC XIII, summing up his feelings about the Honors College. "I'm also really looking forward to the opportunity to go to South Africa."

“I couldn't have asked for a better experience”

Thus far, the challenges of the first semester have been met with an incredible amount of excitement. While the class of 2015 is still discovering the answers to the many questions that college presents, there is undoubtedly much to look forward to as we watch this class grow into the next generation of strong leaders at West Chester University.