

HSA Happenings

Edited By: Mackenzie Taylor and Finn Schmidhuber

TO BE HONORABLE IS TO SERVE



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.

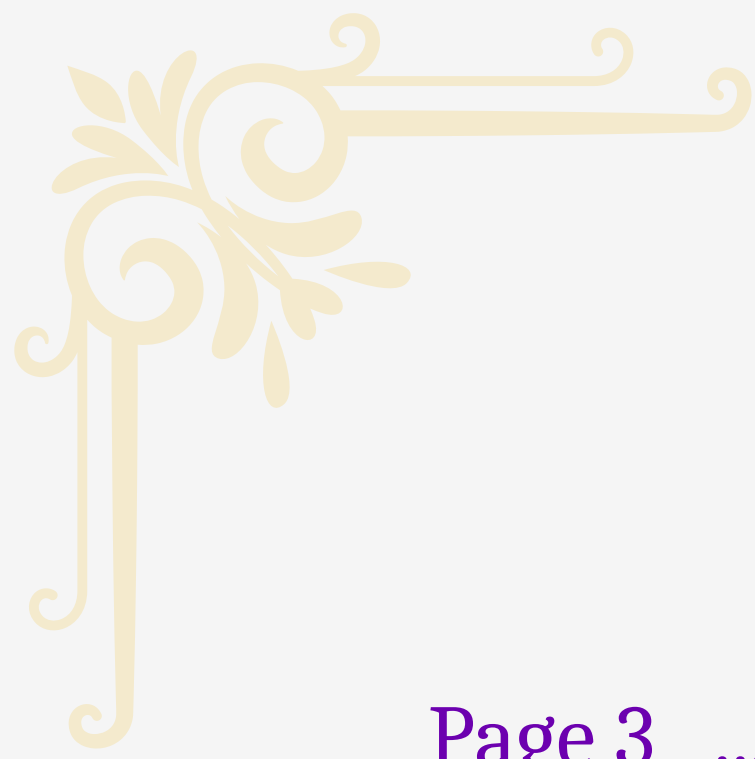
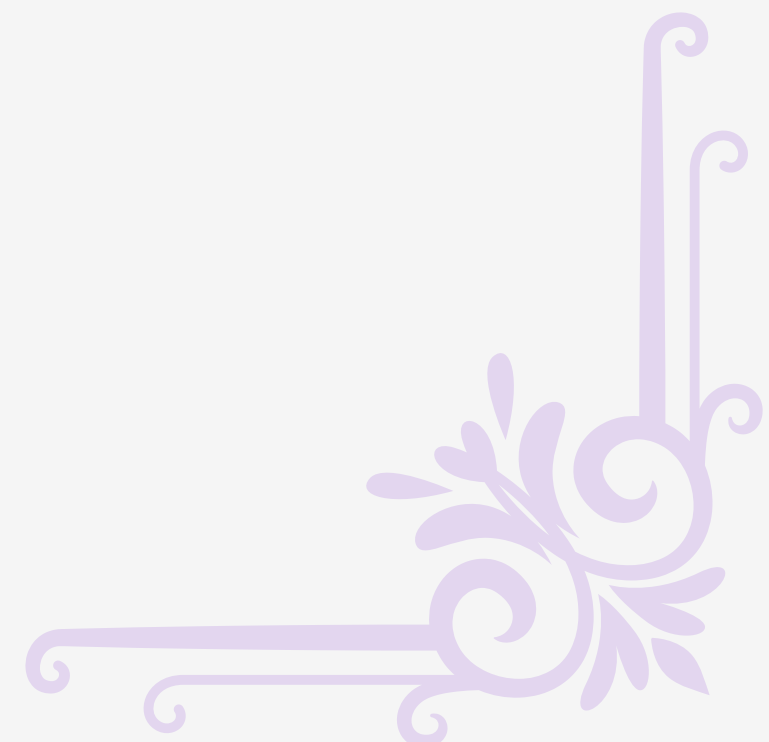


Table of Contents

Page 3	Letter From the Editor By: Mackenzie Taylor
Page 4	When the Carnival Comes to Town By: Dr. Kevin W. Dean Director & Chair, Honors College
Page 6	Welcome Back By: Abby Boquist
Page 7	Alumni Spotlight Info courtesy of: Julie Stinson
Page 8	Community Service By: Emily Miller
Page 9	Wellness Wednesday By: Jordan Avallone and Sophia Shaloka
Page 10	Creative Writing By: Galee Griesler
Page 11	Shoutout By: James Lingman
Page 13	Executive Board



Letter From the Editor

Hi H.S.A. Members, Alumni, and Prospective Students!

Being officially an entire month into the school year, I think it's safe to say that classes, responsibilities, and overall fatigue may start to take over. However, it has been a fantastic opportunity to be able to meet our new first-year class – with the first in-person symposium since the pandemic – and see our upperclassmen once again!

Despite only having a few weeks with this new collection of members, there has been an uproar of involvement and service within H.S.A. already. Many of the submissions for this first edition are even by first-year students. It has been so incredible to see these students stepping into leadership roles so naturally and quickly. With that being said, we would love to hear from you about your time in Honors! Whether you enjoy writing, designing, video production, etc., there is a place for you here at H.S.A. Happenings (HSAH)!

As the new editor, I hope to get students from all years involved in HSAH in a welcoming and creative environment. While in the past, we have primarily focused on community service and events happening strictly within Honors, we are now also striving to include other aspects that are so prevalent in students' lives, such as sports, creative writing, and much more.

I'm thrilled to be able to share some of the incredible students we currently have in the Honors College and all of the groundbreaking work they are doing not only for our Ram community but also for the surrounding communities as well. I hope you all enjoy the newsletter and even find inspiration in getting involved on campus and in Honors!

Sincerely,
Mackenzie Taylor

Mackenzie Taylor




When the Carnival Comes to Town


Director's Corner – H.S.A. Happenings – September 26, 2022

By: Dr. Kevin W. Dean
Director & Chair, Honors College


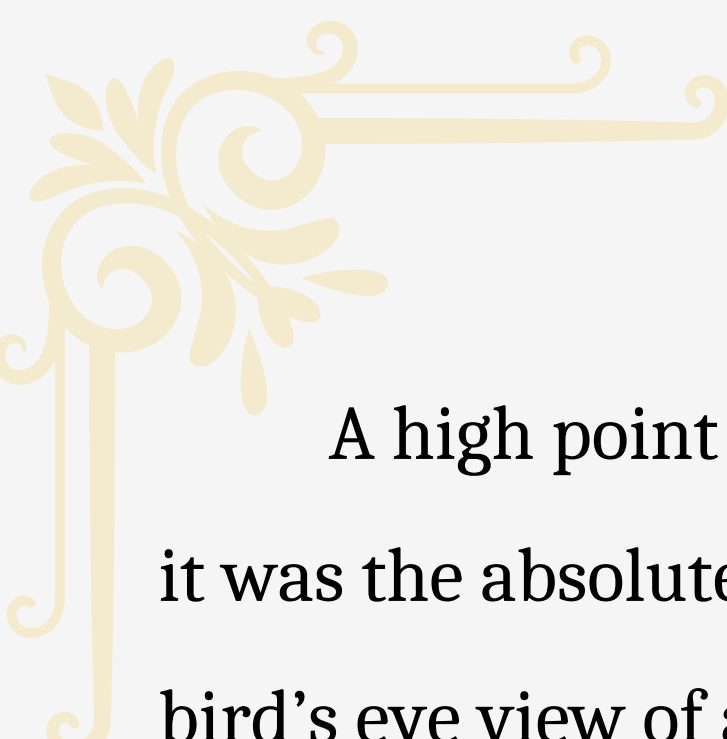
As I reflect on childhood memories, I always get a smile when I recall the absolute thrill each summer when the Patterson Carnival came to town. Posters would dot the neighborhood weeks before, which only heightened the enthusiasm. The carnival gained its reputation for multiple reasons, but a primary one came from its ability to provide ways for everyone in the community to engage and celebrate.




In my 32nd year at West Chester, similar enthusiasm hits with the start of the fall term and, more specifically, with the annual start of the co-curricular life of the campus community. While I will always champion the value of classes, for me, the most transformational moments of my undergraduate career came through the time I gave to co-curricular activities; they enabled the formation of my most meaningful relationships and mentorship opportunities.



Most upper-class students and alumni have heard me make a clear distinction between co-curricular and extra-curricular events. While both hold value, it was always the co-curricular activities----**organizations, programs, events, and opportunities that extend from the classroom into the service and social life of a campus community**----that I have always found most engaging. For my undergraduate career, my primary “go-to” was the Bowling Green Forensics Speech and Debate team. The speech team provided a “laboratory,” where the theory and concepts I learned in my communication classes could find application....and fun! It is also where I made lifelong friends and found lifelong mentors.



A high point of the Patterson Carnival, both literally and figuratively, was the Ferris Wheel; it was the absolute first-go carnival experience every year. From the top of that ride, you gained a bird's eye view of all the opportunities the carnival offered. There was a constancy in the experience but always little tweaks, adjustments, and renovations that make the experience seem grander from one year to the next. I hope you find that the Honors Student Association (H.S.A.) brings such an experience for all members of the Honors Community. Through the consistency of H.S.A., you can find multiple places to explore. Thanks to the contributions of its new members, H.S.A. is always evolving and there are always new experiences and opportunities to enjoy. When we held our first H.S.A. meeting in the fall of 1997, we had less than a dozen members and three committees: social, service, and fundraising. Today H.S.A. has a mailing list of over 350, over two dozen different committees, and is recognized as one of the university's most vital organizations; not just because of its size but also because of the service its members supply to the campus, community, region and yes, even world.



I am proud of the diversity H.S.A. offers, affording members opportunities to hone leadership skills through their active engagement in a wide range of committees, events, programs, and activities. H.S.A. literally has topics and experiences for everyone. Come and apply your unique passion: intramural sports, environmental/sustainability projects, journalism, vocal/instrumental performance, research, marketing and public relations, event planning, social and political activism, global engagement, and alumni partnerships, to name just a few. H.S.A. has much to offer, but you won't benefit without contributing your time and energy. Just like the carnival, you won't get the benefits by standing on the sideline and looking in – you must join in the line and get on the ride! I hope you will all come and join us in SSL 151 on Thursday nights from 8:00 P.M. (7:45 for pizza)-9:15 P.M. New folks, explore the offerings, and returning folks, see what is new. We have an open space, come as you are, and know we have your admission ticket purchased!

-Dr. Kevin W. Dean
Director & Chair, Honors College

Welcome Back!

By: Abby Boquist (she/her)

Hello, all! I hope that you are enjoying the fall weather! Be sure to take some time for yourself as we move into the next few weeks of the semester. Even with the delightful autumn scenery, you might be feeling more stressed as midterms approach. That's completely okay, so listen to the feelings that accompany the change. Go for a walk, drink some water, make a craft—take care of yourself in a way that makes sense for you.

H.S.A. can be a place to ease some stress. Whether you want to get involved in community service, need help scheduling classes, or want a space to connect with people after a long week, H.S.A. is here to support you throughout the year. Being able to rely on H.S.A. every Thursday evening has greatly enriched my time at West Chester, and I would love for you to get involved this semester!

I'm so excited to jump into another month of H.S.A. with you—my email is always open for questions or suggestions. I hope to see you on Thursday evenings! :) Have a great October!

-Abby Boquist (she/her)



HSA intramural soccer team wins championship game (Spring '22)

Alumni Spotlight

Information courtesy of: Julie Stinson

Dr. Alexis Stewart



Honors College Class of 2013

**Major: Pharmaceutical Product
Development**
Minor: Biology

**Current Position: Associate Director of
Hematology-Oncology Marketing at Merck**

Favorite Honors Memory:

“So many to choose from- but probably when we delivered pancakes and other breakfast foods to Allegheny Hall for a “Welcome Dinner” for all the new Honors Students. It so happened to be during a hurricane, and we were sheltered in place for a few hours. But it was a great opportunity to get to know incoming honors students as an upperclassmen.”

Involvement at WCU:

“IGR Marching Band and Colorguard
VP of HSA
Founding Director of Dance for a Chance
LARC Tutor
Miss WCU 2012
And likely so many more clubs and activities”

What she’s doing now:

“I recently moved back “home” to Phoenixville, PA, from the DC area with my husband Vince and rescue pup Scooby. We are enjoying suburban life with lots of house projects, and being back in greater Philly as Eagles season ticket holders. Also, I am glad to continue to be involved with the university, specifically with the Miss WCU program.”

Favorite Honors Class:

Self-Awareness with Dr. Helion

Anything else you want to share in your alumni spotlight?

“That students are always welcome to reach out!”

Email Mackenzie Taylor (mt947930@wcupa.edu) for contact information

Community Service

By: Emily Miller

Once a month or so, the Honors Student Association (H.S.A.) seeks to host an Adopt-A-Spot event to help clean up litter and other debris throughout the borough of West Chester. On September 25th, students ventured out to clean up the block of E. Niels St. and S High St. and helped keep litter, trash, and everything in between at bay within West Chester. The weather was thankfully fair, and students collected over two bags of trash and disposables.



While the 10 am timing may be early for some, the rewards of going out and helping clean up are numerous and far-reaching. With just under an hour, students can completely clean up a block and make it free of litter, help the environment, and gain valuable community service experience. I was lucky enough to participate in several Adopt-A-Spots last year, and I can say they're one of the simplest but most effective ways to help a community. If every organization at WCU takes one block a month, most of West Chester could be cleaned of litter! Doing so would help the ecosystem, help reduce waste in local bodies of water (like streams or lakes), and help avoid further pollution of the environment.

To get involved in next month's Adopt-A-Spot, be on the lookout for the weekly H.S.A. email that contains the community service PDF. The date is typically a Saturday or Sunday at the end of the month and is hosted by fellow Honors participants. Friends from Honors are always welcome to attend (which help reduces the amount of time needed to clean the block!). Students can expect to be at Adopt-A-Spot for no more than an hour, which leaves the rest of the day for other activities—such as HON 352 Question Sets!

Wellness Wednesdays

By: Jordan Avallone and Sophia Shaloka



On the first Wednesday of September, students in the Honors Student Association (H.S.A.) were invited to participate in a fun dance workout in Allegheny Hall. This activity was coordinated by the H.S.A. Wellness and Social Committees as a way for students to destress, get active, and socialize with their peers. Students of all different classes danced to 2010s music (as per request) in a judgment-free zone and everyone had a great time! Based on its success, Wellness Wednesday is now becoming a bi-weekly event, so be sure to check it out if you have the chance! Keep in mind that you do not need any experience with dance to participate. The next dance session will be held on Wednesday, October 5th at 7:30 in the yoga studio on the 6th floor of Allegheny.

Feel free to email Jordan Avallone at JA946683@wcupa.edu or Sophia Shaloka at SS950179@wcupa.edu with any questions or suggestions!

Creative Writing

By: Galee Griesler

Little Leaf

Twisting and turning in the wind,
A crisp, amber leaf frees itself from the grasp of a branch

It begins its descent to the ground,
Flitting just past a brunette head
And dancing around a black backpack

It dives towards the blades below,
A speedy end to the just begun journey,
When a gust of wind brushes beneath it
And sends it soaring back into the sky

Swooping up, it glides across cars and buses
Before entering an ever-moving sea of faces.
It casts a minuscule shadow
Over the heads of the bustling crowds,
Barely a speck in their peripheral vision

With the stirring of another zephyr,
It casts itself to the left.
It ducks out of the bright spotlight of the sun
And finds shelter beneath the extended arms of the trees neighboring its own

The leaf's brown surface intermingles
With the fading green ones
Of leaves yet to escape their own branches

Tapping the leaves it passes in quick greeting,
The leaf begins its third, and final, descent

Farther and farther down it goes,
Swaying left and right in a dance only it knows,
Before finally falling into the blades of grass below

In the soft grasp of the grass below,
The leaf completes its cycle of life,
And awaits its return to the earth
So the next one can begin



SURI Recognition

2022 SURI Students!

Congratulations to the following students for completing the Summer Undergraduate Research Institute (SURI)!

Joe Blaney

Emma Harris

Ronan McDermott

James Lingman

Grace Montgomery

Brian Lynch



Award Recognition for James Lingman

By: **James Lingman**

My name is James Lingman, and I'm a fourth-year History major with an Elective Social Studies Certification. Over the past year, I've been working on research into late Roman literature, with a specific focus on historiography, or the way historians write about history. In the spring of 2022, I completed my HIS 400 capstone paper. This paper became a 33-page, 55-footnote article on death-omens in Roman historiography, and my work made me think that I might be able to take the research further.

Death-omens are exactly what they sound like: strange events that portend, or predict, the death of an important Roman figure. I focused specifically on the emperors. My thesis hinged on the combination of two historians: first, Roman historians included omens as genuine reflections of religious beliefs in apotheosis at the time, and second, omens fulfilled a literary purpose akin to foreshadowing in fictional literature. I liked my research and wanted to see how much further I could take it in the field.

As a member of Phi Alpha Theta, the National History Honor Society, I could submit a paper for a national prize. So, after numerous workshops with Dr. Eric Fournier and at the urging of Dr. Robert Kodosky, I condensed the paper to 25 pages and submitted it in late June. I waited until September 26th to learn if I had moved forward in the competition.



My paper, titled “Death-Omens in Roman Historiography,” won a Nels Andrew Cleven Founder’s Prize from Phi Alpha Theta. Basically, I was one of three undergraduate students recognized for outstanding historical research and writing in the nation. Hearing the news absolutely shocked me; I’d always hoped to achieve in my field, but I had never expected to be recognized like this. Even now, I’m still shocked and incredibly thankful for the honor.

Moments like this often ask me to reflect on what I’ve learned from my education and experience. I can honestly say that while History prepared me to write this article, I never would have dreamed so large without Honors. Honors, and in particular HON 352, pushed the boundaries of what I thought I was capable of as a student and a writer. Passive voice, clear theses, and proper citations are fundamental to success in “real-world” academics, and I never would have learned these skills without Honors.

The best advice I can share with those of you looking to publish and write professionally is to take your classroom writing assignments seriously. This article arose from work I completed in my History capstone. If I hadn’t put the work in then, I would never have achieved this prize or even thought to submit my work! The article will be published sometime this year. With this award, I hope to jumpstart my graduate school applications for a Master's degree in History, and focus on continuing my work in the field moving forward.

-James Lingman





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Co-Vice President**



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