

# Honorable Mentions

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A Publication of the PSU Honors College Public Relations Committee

## A Letter from the Director

I continue to be so blessed to serve as the Director of the Honors College. I get to work with amazing young people day in and day out and it is truly an honor to be in this position. The energy, commitment, and dedication of the students are always at the center of our success as an organization. The students are focused not only on academic success, but also on giving back to the campus and community through involvement, leadership, and service.

We continue to seek new and innovative ways to impact our campus and community and to motivate and engage students to work for the good of the group. Our list of community service activities grows every year and the new Level of Distinction program you will read about in this newsletter is designed to reward those who give the most and go above and beyond to represent our mission and values.

I want to thank the students for all of their hard work and dedication and I want to thank all of the alumni who give so graciously to the Annual Fund Drive so that we can continue to build upon the firm foundation that the Honors College has in place.

All my Best-

Dr. Craig Fuchs



## Contents

Director's Letter.....	1
Runs in the Family.....	2
Valentine's Day.....	2
Dance Marathon.....	3
The Big Event.....	3
Alumni Awards.....	4
A Distinct Change.....	4
Senior Memoir.....	5



# PSU Honors College Runs in the Family

By Brad Southard

Freshman Brad Southard is the first known Honors College student to have had a parent graduate from the Honors College. His father, Randy Southard, attended Pittsburg State University as a member of the Honors College from 1991 to 1995. Randy was a Biology major with a Chemistry minor. He graduated from PSU with a Bachelor's degree in Biology in the spring of '95. Randy currently works as a physical therapist in Pittsburg. He says that he remembers the Honors College well, especially the classes that he was offered to take. During his time at PSU, Randy made some of his best friends through the Honors College.

As Brad finishes the end of his freshman year, he has experienced much of what his father did in 1991. Brad is a Chemistry/Pre-Pharmacy major. "I can honestly say that being in the Honors College has been great so far. It has opened so many doors for me already, and I'm excited to continue with my education here, knowing that I am part of a great organization and community," Brad said.

While walking through campus earlier, Randy noticed a lot of changes on campus, but he said that one thing has remained the same; the atmosphere that PSU and the Honors College provided Randy during his undergraduate career is now being enjoyed by his son.



Photo: Brad and Randy Southard

## Valentine's Day for Pals

By Callie rice



Some people dread Valentine's Day. Couples are exchanging heart-eyes glances, everyone is buying chocolate, and many people simply abhor the day for its focus on love. This year, however, the Honors College got into the spirit of things and hosted an event to celebrate the holiday – in a totally platonic way. Palentine's Day (Valentine's Day for pals) came to fruition last year, when Erin Simons decided to throw a party for herself and her friends on the special day. "I decorated my dining room with cheesy Valentine's Day decorations. We're talking full blown pink and red. Hearts everywhere. The whole deal," Simons explained. "I cooked some pasta, got some sparkling grape juice, and had Palentine's Day!"

This year's event consisted of a spaghetti dinner along with a few games. One of these activities was Cupid's Arrow, where participants shot Q-tips through a straw at a target. In another game, two people each put a tennis ball into party hose, pulled it onto their head, and swung it around to knock the other person's hose off and claim victory. The event was a great opportunity to eat, play games, and have fun with friends - or better yet, pals.

# Dance Marathon

*By Kolleen Gladden*

The Dance Marathon was intended to benefit the Children's Miracle Network by getting members of campus active and involved in the cause. Members of sororities made up a majority of the participants, with a prize booth run by students. As an organization, the Honors College was in charge of running a face-painting booth, and it was certainly a rewarding experience for our members. Hearing the stories of children who had benefitted from this incredible organization was astounding.

One Honors College student, in particular, has a friend whose sister has experienced the power of Children's Miracle Network. Previously suffering from life-threatening seizures, her medicine caused her immense lethargy and discomfort. However, at the Dance Marathon, she was happy, glowing, and dancing. As of now, she has been seizure-free for over a year.

The Dance Marathon also allowed our Honors College volunteers to improve their face-painting skills. At the event, several good base paints were laid out, ready for art. However, we also happened to have glitter. As you might have imagined, our Honors College students painted about 50-100 female faces in glitter. You have not learned patience until you have tried to recreate an American flag on the side of a girl's face with children's facial adhesive and loose glitter.

The Dance Marathon was well organized and enjoyable for every age group present. The Honors College is grateful to have participated in the event, and we eagerly look forward to next year!

# The Big Event

*By Gretchen Reed*

One tranquil April Saturday, a group of Honors College students gathered together among hundreds of their peers to participate in Pittsburg State's Big Event. The Big Event is a campus-wide community service project in which community members all over Pittsburg register their homes and yards to be worked on by various student volunteers. There is a wide variety of assignments that student volunteers can be given during this event, but the majority include cleaning gutters, basic yard work, and painting. "We raked a lot of leaves in the yard of an adorable old lady," said Camille Wallace, Honors freshman in Recreational Therapy, "and the best part was the personal gratification I received from making an adorable old lady's day."

The Big Event is a wonderful way for PSU students to give back to their loving community, and it gives them a way to put smiles on the faces of people who are unable to maintain their homes by themselves. "It was not much effort on our part compared to how much enjoyment it brought the community, and especially the lady that we helped," said Kristen Daniel, Honors student in Nursing. Overall, Honors College students had an enjoyable day working in their community, and the Big Event provided them with some fun memories, a greater sense of togetherness, and a heightened respect for the city of Pittsburg.



# Alumni Awards Presented At Spring Banquet

*By Craig Fuchs*

Two alums of the Honors College received awards at the recent Honors College Banquet which was held on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Receiving the Donor of the Year Award was Jon Cassity who graduated from PSU in May of 1992 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. Mr. Cassity was recognized for his very generous contribution to the Annual Fund Drive this year. After receiving the award, Mr. Cassity spoke of what his experience was like when he was in the Honors College and how those experiences have impacted his life over the past years.



Jaime Dalton was recognized as the inaugural recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award. Jaime graduated from PSU with her Bachelor of Science in Psychology degree in May of 2003 and then an MBA in 2005. Jaime currently serves as the Assistant to the President at PSU and has been an integral part of the campus administrative team throughout her employment at PSU. Jaime also spoke of her involvement and memories of the Honors College during her time as a student.

It was great to have both of them in attendance and for the current students to hear of their excellent experiences as Honors College students and how that has impacted their careers.



2016 Graduating Class

## A Distinct Change

*By Mason Williams*

On April 7th, Honors College students attending the monthly HCA meeting voted on a revolutionary change that will positively impact the Honors College for years to come. This new change is the “Honors with Distinction” system, a new point system rewarding those members who actively attend meetings and other HCA-sponsored events. Within the program, guidelines are set indicating a minimum number of points necessary to remain in good standing in the Honors College. Points are earned by attending meetings, participating in get-togethers, being active in campus organizations, and contributing to community service events, among other things. However, members that go above and beyond and reach a set number of points higher than that required of them may meet the “With Distinction” guidelines. Students that complete their distinction all four years will graduate from the Honors College with distinction, a special privilege announced at graduation.

Current HCA members are grandfathered in to their original contracts, but they may participate in the new program in order to receive “With Distinction” honors if they desire.

# Senior Memoir

By Lindsey Viets

Being a member of the Honors College goes beyond academics. It means being a member of one big family. The seniors who are preparing to graduate from the Honors College have a lot to look back on from their last four years as members. When asked what will always stick with them, this is what nine members of the senior class had to say:

## "I'll never forget..."

*"...our freshman experience class. We all became so close, and it was so nice knowing 35 other people at PSU so early on. Because of the Honors College, I always had someone to sit with at sporting events or to eat with at the dining hall."* – Michelle Forbes

*"...when we all got together to enroll in our second semester and then got breakfast!"* – Laura Allgood

*"...when our class got together for Halloween freshman year!"* – Jayden Bowen

*"...when we tried to use the word 'panache' as many times as possible in Freshman Experience without Dr. Fuchs noticing."* – Catherine Konek

*"...the look on Dr. Fuchs's face when I accidentally called him "dude."* – Abbey Chaloupka

*"...when we had our first softball tournament. A bunch of HCA members came out to eat hotdogs before playing a game between each class. Even though I played right field and didn't do much, it was still one of the best Saturdays I've had!"* – Kanon Steen

*"...the World War II trip to Europe. It was amazing to have a whole semester class about all this history and then get to actually go see it! It was indescribable."* – Rachel Evans

*"...when we had our Halloween party freshman year, as it was the first time we got our whole class together for something non-school related. It was there that I felt like our class really bonded for the first time because we were able to see how everyone's personalities came out when we weren't in class together."* – Sarah Nistler

*"...the friendships I know I've made for life."* – Heather Jensen

The moments we shared with each other and with Dr. Fuchs will be a part of our college experience that we will never forget. We hope that future classes will have just as much fun as we did.