

The Honors College

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2022 Semester

A Note From the Marketing Team:

Hey readers! As most of you know, each semester we publish our newsletter, which we use to spotlight different people and events within the Honors College. We hope you enjoy reading, and we encourage you to send this to anybody who might be interested in joining the Honors College.

With second semester right around the corner, remember to go forth and conquer!

Stories:

- Go Forth and Conquer 5K
- Leadership in the Honors College
- Music Appreciation Class Spotlight
- An Honors College Semester in Photos



For Pittsburg State University, Fall of 2022 was a period of change. The Honors College changed directors, changed executives, and is currently considering changes to the very fabric of the organization. The semester could have very easily become a time of "reflection," "rebuilding," or some other euphemism for inaction. However, our students stepped up to the challenge, and accomplished feats seen on and off campus. Our members organized and volunteered at impactful events, competed in nationally ranked competitions, and travelled to countries oceans away. Honors College members even made up half of the Pitt's homecoming nominees, and walked away with a crown! Thanks to the hard work and diligence of this special group, the Honors College proved itself to be an irreplaceable force for good at Pittsburg State. The stories below are just a few examples of the Honors College's outreach, both internally and externally.

GO FORTH AND CONQUER 5K COMMEMORATES DR. FUCHS

Written by Leanne Trout

One of the most outstanding traits found within members of the Honors College at Pittsburg State University is the dedication towards each other. While the end of the spring semester of 2022 was fraught with challenging news about a change of directors for the upcoming fall semester, members instantly went to work to find a meaningful way to honor the legacy former director, Dr. Fuchs, would be leaving behind.

This manifested in the "Go Forth and Conquer" 5K and mile fun run/walk which was a fundraiser for the Mid America Chapter of ALS. Students, alumni, and members of the community showed up at Carnie Smith Stadium at 8:00 AM on the morning of September 10th to participate in an event that surpassed everyone's expectations. What started as a humble gesture of gratitude turned into a full-fledged event complete with snacks, a course map, custom T-shirts, and awards to honor category winners. There was no doubt of the love and appreciation displayed by the Honors College community in support of their former director.

The name of the event was inspired by the words Dr. Fuchs ended nearly every Honors College meeting and event: "Go forth and conquer." If you ask any Honors College student, they would agree that Dr. Fuchs is an inspiration to everyone in the association. Not only did he motivate students in the courses he taught or on the study abroad trips he attended, he was also available in his office whenever you needed him. *(Story continued on next page)*



He always made sure that his students were doing well in their classes and enjoying their time here at Pitt State. Two senior members of the association, Trinity Dobbs and Niamh Dixon took special care to give back to Dr. Fuchs just as he had given to all of us. They came up with the idea of the fundraiser not long after Dr. Fuchs announced his retirement from the position and shared his diagnosis with the Honors College.

Accolades for the 5K and mile fun run/walk event include men's first place and overall winner in the 5K Erik Jantz, women's first place winner Renee Trout, and Caleb Fuchs as overall winner of the fun run. Categories of the 5K race medaling top three for both men and women separately included: ages 25 and younger, 26-40, 41-59, and 60 and older. Top three male runners in the first category included Erik Jantz in first, Alec Rasmussen in second, and Aaron Higginbotham in third. Top three female runners in the category included Renee Trout in first, Jessie Jenkins in second, and Macy Gray in third. In the next category, Dan Rank was first for the men, followed by Zach Trosper, and Anthony Wright. Rachel Sachs led the women in the 26-40 category, followed by Donna Mulaer in second, and Bethany Enoch in third. For the 41-59 category, Neil Bryan was first for the men, and Timothy Pure took second. For the same category, Jenny Pure took first, followed by Pitt States' own biology professor Dr. Mandy Peak for second, and Christina Dobbs in third.

Overall, the event was an incredible success featuring members of the community, Honors College alumni, and current association members. The event raised a significant donation for the Mid America Chapter of ALS and was an amazing display of how much the Honors College appreciated the time Dr. Fuchs dedicated to all of us as director.



THE HONORS COLLEGE WELCOMES NEW LEADERSHIP

Written by Evan Taylor

The function of our organization is predicated on the sacrifices and time commitments of all members. All the members of the Honors College have demonstrated the ability to be leaders in the community and represent our university exceptionally well. Four members have made outstanding contributions throughout their tenure and have been recognized by their peers for it as the executive team for the academic year. Taylor Brynds, Tucker Jessip, Ragan Abernathy, and Camryn Cramer were elected in the spring of 2022 to hold the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary respectively. Without their exceptional leadership, every day operations could not occur, and the guidance and direction they provide would be missed in their absence.

Like with every great opportunity, there are chances to grow, learn, and develop as a person every day for our executive team. The operation of our Association has a lot of moving parts and behind the scenes activities that many members may be unaware of. The experience provides rewarding moments, but also presents challenges that our team is very equipped to overcome because of their infectious personalities and prior leadership and life experiences.

The executive positions provide an excellent chance for building strong habits and participating in meaningful experiences in the future.

Taylor Brynds and Tucker Jessip shared details of their experience to this point. Despite their heavy involvement with the Honors College in years prior, they still were able to learn new things. Tucker spoke of the impact the executive team's trip to Dallas had on him. He observed that many Honors Colleges across the nation struggle with connectivity and retention in their organizations.

He found a new appreciation for the excellence our association displays in those regards.

(Story continued on next page)



Naturally, a position of leadership can provide many rewards for those undertaking it. Taylor revealed that the most rewarding aspect of her experience so far has been the ability to work alongside high achieving and motivated individuals. She feels that all our members truly care about the organization. Tucker shared that his biggest reward was the chance to assist Heather in her transition as interim director. Taylor learned of the tremendous strengths that Heather brings to her position. Coming into a role such as those that Taylor and Tucker hold requires experience and comfortability.

Both of our leaders have held positions in the past that greatly prepared them for the job.

Taylor was fortunate enough to serve as our vice president during the last academic year and was able to observe the operations of the organization from the vice president role before running for the president of the association.

Tucker held the role of student council president in high school and got to work immediately in college earning the position of cohort representative. Outside of the Honors College, Tucker also serves as the president for two additional organizations: Students for Sustainability and Enactus.

Even after just one semester in their new leadership roles, Taylor and Tucker are already beginning to see how their position can help them in the future. Tucker said he has been learning a lot about understanding people's perspectives outside of his own. His work alongside the rest of the executive, as well as Heather, has created an environment where the facilitation of collaboration cannot happen without opposing ideas existing in the same place. Taylor said that serving on the executive team has enhanced her communication skills due to communicating in many formats with various audiences. From leading the monthly business meetings for members to connecting with campus leaders through email, she feels that that her skills of verbal and written communication have greatly increased through serving the organization.



When asked to share some wisdom with younger students, Taylor advised that it is important to utilize the members of your team and their strengths. Tucker shared he hopes that our members continue to be passionate, kind, and driven.

Those skills will carry you to end of your college career and allow you to experience the great success that you had envisioned for yourself.

HONORS MUSIC APPRECIATION IS A HIT WITH STUDENTS

Written by Emmy Beyeler and Trip Baker

Throughout the semester, around thirty Honors College students participated in Dr. Jim Clanton's "Music Appreciation Honors" class in Russ Hall. As a new addition to the rotation of Honors general education courses, the Honors College was pleased to welcome Dr. Clanton and his course. Taking a different approach, he sent his students on a trip around the world, learning about music and how it impacts all aspects of life in all different areas around the world. Dr. Clanton immersed his students in each country's culture, beliefs, language, musical sounds, and various instruments.

On top of that, students were able to immerse themselves in what they were learning through hands-on classes in the percussion studio, the "Musical Composition Assignment," where students got into groups and made their own piece of music to perform for class, or by going and listening to a musical performance on campus for their "Concert Review Paper" essay. He also assigned listening exercises throughout the semester, where students had the opportunity to write their feelings about pieces of music from various places around the globe.

Dr. Clanton did a great job not only with his lectures, but also with allowing his students to get involved in the course. Each class was very thought-provoking and engaging. Dr. Clanton always had his students discuss what they found interesting from each lecture.

Honors College student Hannah Dickens reflected on her experience taking this new course. "I liked that the class exposed me to so many different cultures. Each day I learned something brand new, and I found the class very interesting," Dickens said. "It was material I'd never had before. Our interactive assignments brought me out of my comfort zone and taught me a lot."

HONORS COLLEGE PHOTO COMPILATION

Assembled by Braden Zaner

Enjoy some pics of the HCA's activities throughout the first semester!

PSU Homecoming





Other Events