

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2023

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 & 5 | An Upperclassman's Guide to Town By: Sophia Shaloka |
| Page 6 | Honors Open House Review By: Owen Cutler |
| Page 7 | Wellness By: Ellie Poplar |
| Page 9 | Better Together Day By: Joe Blaney |
| Page 9 | Pets of HSA |
| Page 10 | P.E.A.C.E. Brings Back Dates for Dollars! By: Grace Riley |
| Page 11 | Community Service By: Aliza Greenfield |
| Page 12 | Executive Board |



Letter From the Editor

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

As the weather finally starts to warm up and the daylight lingers a little longer each evening, we students here at WCU are feeling the effects of the Spring semester in full swing. As such, there have been so many amazing things that we have done these past couple of months, and we are so excited to share them with you in this edition! From P.E.A.C.E.'s first Dates for Dollars back in person since the pandemic to a coffee house featuring Honors capstone projects and a well-deserved spring break thrown in the middle, the honors cohort has achieved so much in such a short period of time.

Moreover, most college students can attest to how busy April can be for classes, events, involvements, and much more. So, be sure to keep an eye out for the April edition of H.S.A. Happenings, which is sure to be full of even more fantastic engagement from our honors community!

Sincerely,

Mackenzie Taylor

Mackenzie Taylor



An Upperclassman's Guide to Town

By: Sophia Shaloka

As the weather starts to get warmer, now is the perfect time to get out and explore the town of West Chester! With so many locations and so many things to do, the venture into town can seem quite overwhelming at first. Luckily, I've been living in West Chester for almost three years now, and I've had a chance to explore places to eat, shop, and eat some more (West Chester is notorious for its food spots). Here's a guide to my favorite locations that I recommend anyone to check out!

South High Street

- Dia Doce Gourmet Cupcakes and Cathey's Coffee Bar
 - These two locations are connected so you can enjoy some cold brew with your cupcake! Fun fact: Dia Doce won an episode of Cupcake Wars for their incredible cupcake recipes! Check out [@diadocewc](#) on Instagram to learn about their weekly flavors and [@catheyscoffee](#) to get updates on new drinks.
- The Prana House
 - Prana House is a shop that sells herbal medicine, crystals, skincare, and more! This shop transports you to a calm, meditative space that is great for some relaxing shopping in town. They also have various wellness events each month, such as yoga and birth chart readings. Go to www.ThePranaHouse.com to learn more!
- (NEW!) City Buns
 - City Buns is a new spot that opened in town that I tried this semester and fell in love with! They have delicious cinnamon rolls and sticky buns that will leave your taste buds tingling and your fingers, well, sticky. Check them out at [@eatcitybuns](#) on Instagram, and consider applying to work there as they are looking for more team members!

An Upperclassman's Guide to Town

By: Sophia Shaloka

West Gay Street

- (NEW!) Blazin' J's
 - I may be a little biased since my favorite food is Nashville hot chicken, but Blazin' J's has incredible sandwiches, tenders, and fries. You can control how much heat you have with your meal (from no heat to blazin' hot!) and enjoy your food on-site with lots of room for seating. They also make it super easy to order: you can go to www.blazinjs.com and order your food for pickup so it's ready when you arrive!
- Green Eyed Lady Boutique
 - I love Green Eyed Lady Boutique because it has unique clothing items and an entire wall of jewelry to explore. They even have items like sunglasses, stickers, and crazy socks! They are also regularly adding new items to their collection, so follow [@greeneyedladyboutique](https://www.instagram.com/greeneyedladyboutique) on Instagram to stay updated!
- Creep Records
 - Creep Records is one of the most unique spots in town. Although I don't have a record player, I love going here to browse their vinyl records and check out their apparel. For those of you who do have a record player, they have so many options to choose from, including bins with super-discounted vinyls! Go to [@creeprecordshop](https://www.instagram.com/creeprecordshop) on Instagram to stay up-to-date on restocks and more.

North Church Street

- (PRESIDENT'S PICK!) West Chester Grower's Market
 - Abby's favorite spot in town is the West Chester Grower's Market, where all items are farmed by the farmers you meet at the market! There is a multitude of vendors you can check out on Saturdays from 9 AM to 1 PM from May through December. To learn more about the Grower's Market, go to www.westchestergrowersmarket.com. Also, follow [@wcgrowersmarket](https://www.instagram.com/wcgrowersmarket) on Instagram for updates!

I hope you get the chance to explore some of these amazing locations in the town of West Chester! If you do, be sure to take some pictures (including friends for extra fun) and send them to MT947930@wcupa.edu!

Honors Open House Review

By: Owen Cutler

At the end of March, the Honors College hosted a coffee house in the Honors Backyard with food, drinks, and activities. Juniors Nolan Hibsman and Eli Leighton held a pop-up table for their capstone, Artists of West Chester. Students and staff from the Honors College created art for a community gallery. Junior Matt Cobos also shared his capstone with students and faculty, painting rocks to spread positivity around campus. Everyone who stopped by had a great afternoon, spending time with their friends and flexing their creative muscles. Be sure to stop by for the end-of-semester open house in April!

- Owen Cutler



Wellness

By: Ellie Poplar

While staying motivated during the cold months of February and March is hard, we must find motivation and ways to get up and stay moving. During the winter, people tend to lose motivation due to the lack of sunlight, colder temperatures, and dampened moods. It is more difficult for people to stay positive and productive in the winter because there are fewer daylight hours.

However, there are creative ways in which people can stay motivated during the winter. Taking care of your mental and physical health is necessary, especially during the winter. Even just going for a walk can be beneficial as it is a good form of exercise and can boost your mood. If you are having trouble staying motivated, finding a workout group or partner might be beneficial as it holds you accountable, keeps you on track, and can help form a bond or deeper connection. The winter can be challenging, but there are some good things about it, such as snow. If it snows, you can use this as a day to go out and play in the snow. It will help get you out of bed and lighten your mood. You can also shovel the snow and go sledding or skiing. These are all attainable, great ways to get up and move around to stay motivated!

- Ellie Poplar



Better Together Day

By: Joe Blaney

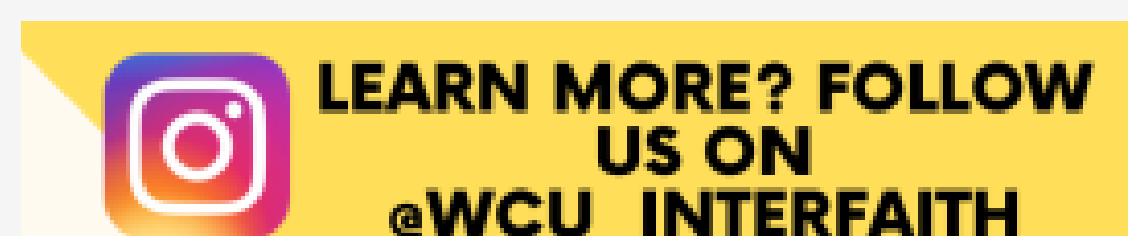


This past February, West Chester University's Interfaith Action Committee put on an interfaith education event called Better Together Day in Sykes Ballroom. In addition to this event, in which students learned about the perspectives of on and off-campus religious, spiritual, and philosophical worldviews, the committee hosted a networking event for the executive members of these on-campus organizations to meet and discuss possible collaborations. These events aimed to further the group's mission of connecting typically independent groups across campus. Both projects were a success, as the networking event involved eight executive members from on-campus groups, and the Better Together Day tabling event saw 20 on and off-campus partners attend.

These events were part of the committee coordinator Joseph Blaney's Honors Capstone—a 150-hour, research-based, service-learning project. In collaboration with Dr. Zachary Wooten of the Honors College and the newly formed interfaith leadership fellows, the project came to fruition and was able to become more sustainable for student leaders of subsequent years. The work of the students comprising the student Interfaith Action Committee also contributed to this end goal. In addition to the work of these students and their faculty advisor, Patricia Reilly of the Office for Student Leadership and Involvement was involved in making sure that each and every box was checked in preparation for the event. Without the logistical perspective that she afforded the group, many administrative tasks would surely have been missed.

With the success of these events, West Chester University can expect to see a heightened sense of cooperation and collaborative action between the previously more separated religious, spiritual, and philosophical organizations on campus.

- Joe Blaney



Pets of HSA



Provided by Aliza Greenfield



Provided by Mackenzie Fulton



P.E.A.C.E. Brings Back Dates for Dollars!

By: Grace Riley



P.E.A.C.E. has a tradition of hosting a Valentine's Day-related event each year. However, the Valentine's event has not happened since before covid. This year they brought it back with its new name: Dates for Dollars! The event was held on Thursday, February 16th, and raised a total of \$451.01.

In Dates for Dollars, each contestant receives a gift card of their choice. The contestants then go one at a time, answering questions and dancing, to promote themselves as a date. Audience members bid on the date, almost like an auction. The highest bidder wins a date with the contestant, paid for by the gift card. Despite the gift cards only being around \$20, audience members were bidding in the \$30s and \$40s. A date to Juice Pod with Zack Shin even went for \$95!

Thank you to everyone who came out to support Dates for Dollars, hosted by P.E.A.C.E.. We look forward to seeing you at our carnival on April 16th in the academic quad. This year we will be celebrating a rebranding of the organization, including the name and logo change! We are almost halfway to our goal of \$12,000!

- Grace Riley



Community Service

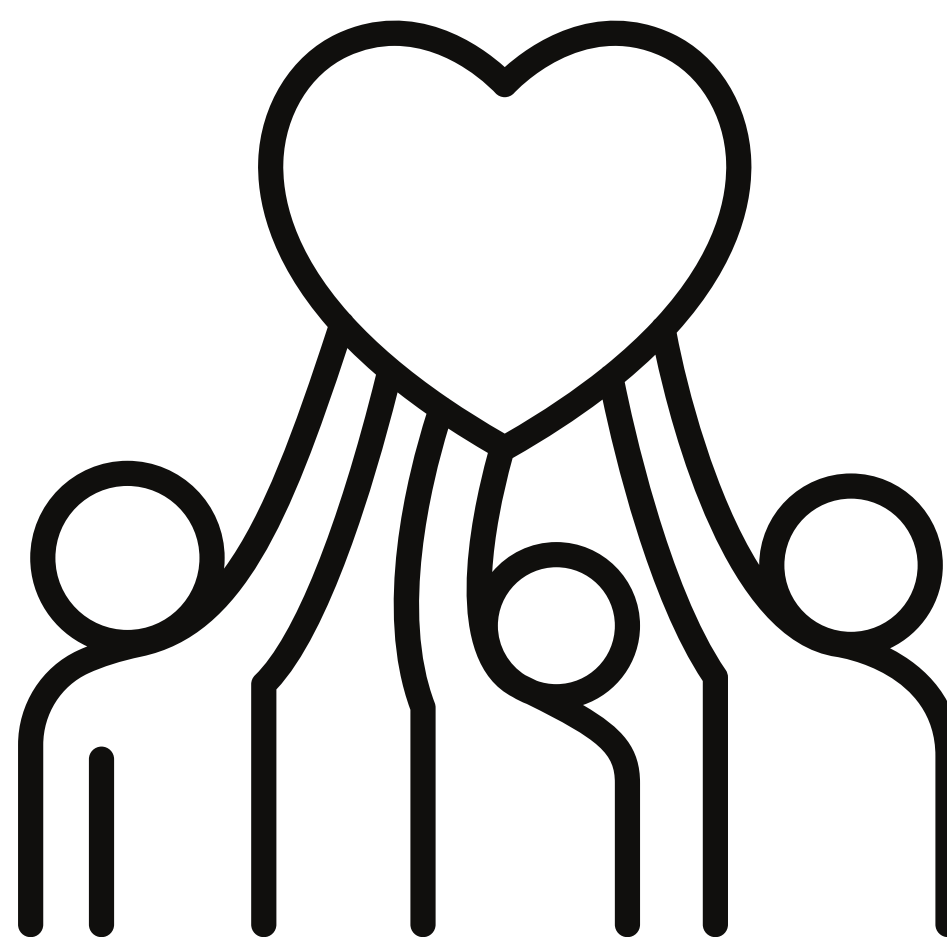
By: Aliza Greenfield



On Thursday, March 23rd, the Community Service committee hosted the HSA meeting alongside Caitlin Kohlenbeck, who is working with the Care Center Foundation in West Chester for her capstone project. The Foundation works to help serve underprivileged families through various programs like childcare and employment assistance, Easter ham distributions, and an internet cafe. Unfortunately, many of these families do not have enough money to fund a birthday party for their children.

As part of her capstone project, Caitlin is working to create birthday bags that will be stuffed with items for a birthday party and a handmade card so these children have the opportunity to feel celebrated. HSA members gathered to hand-make these cards and bags with puns, drawings, and heartfelt messages. Overall, this was an incredible experience that allowed HSA members to make a difference in their community together with their creative talents.

- Aliza Greenfield





HSA Executive Board



**Abby Boquist:
President**



**Victoria Grace:
Co-Vice President**



**Hannah Schindler:
Co-Vice President**



**Carson Danaher:
Treasurer**



**Annie Sample:
Secretary**



**Prof. Urrutia:
Iterim Director**