



Director's Message

by: Dr. Becky S. Brannock



At the time that I'm writing this there are only six weeks of the spring semester left. With spring break having come and gone; freshmen are still in a daze that year one of their college careers will soon be over, while seniors are experiencing bittersweet feelings that they are about to leave the nest!

What an *OUTSTANDING* past year we've had in the Honors College (HC) at PSU! When president, Rye Addis, approached me early on that he wanted to see us become heavily involved in Homecoming events, I had no clue the magnitude he envisioned. I was extremely proud of the way members rallied their support for our Homecoming King and Queen candidates, participated (quite successfully, I might add) in not only Yard Art and Gorilla Games, but also "Yell like Hell!"

Besides Homecoming activi-

ties, we also had a number of social events and community service projects throughout the year. You'll have a chance to read about our participation in each of these further in this newsletter.

After five years of being your director, I have never experienced such a feeling of satisfaction and gratification in my 27 years in education, as much as I have had working with you all. I will be forever grateful to Dr. Bob Ratzlaff for extending this opportunity to me in 2002. It is with regrets; however, as most of you know by now, that I have had to resign my position. My efforts to pursue the director role full-time were not successful; therefore, I will be returning to my faculty position full-time this fall in the department of Psychology and Counseling as well as continuing the School Counseling program coordinator role.

At the time of this writing I still do not know who my predecessor will be, but rest assured that the candidates who have applied are quality ones who will continue the tradition that was established in our HC nearly twenty years ago. I know that each of you will welcome your new director with open arms and will work along beside him or her to ensure that the quality and reputation of our HC continues. I hope you know that despite my role changing next year in terms of the HC, I will forever remember each of you, after all—from day one, I have always believed wholeheartedly that "we are family." May that legacy continue for many years to come!

Blessings to you with love,
Dr. B

*"If you hear a voice within you say 'I cannot paint,' then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced."
- Vincent Van Gogh*

Calendar of Events for 2006-07

Honors College Association (HCA) meetings were held the 2nd Thursday of each month in 307 Whitesitt Hall.

September 14, 5:00pm–7:00pm
Welcome Back Picnic @ University Lake (W. Shelter)

October 19, 3:30pm–5:30pm
Bowling Night @ Holiday Lanes

December 7, 5:00pm–7:00pm
Christmas Party & Caroling @ Sunset Manor

February 16, 6:30pm–10:00pm
Stone's Throw Dinner Theatre @ Carthage, MO

April 28, 9:00am–6:00pm
(rescheduled from March)
Float trip @ Shady Beach on Elk River—Noel, MO

April 30, 12:00pm–2:00pm
Honors College Luncheon @ Crimson and Gold Ballroom, Overman Student Center

June 3, 1:30pm–June 4, 12:00pm
Overnight Orientation

We had another year packed full of activities!

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With summer just around the corner, think of ways you can help others...

- Volunteer to be a Big Sib to one of our newest incoming members (Lil' Sibs).
- Assist with the Overnight Orientation in June.
- Consider serving as a volunteer tutor to those in need.



2006-07 HCA Events Continue the Bonding of our Honors College Family

September: The Welcome Back picnic was well attended again this year. Big Sibs had an opportunity to meet their Lil' Sibs in a relaxed, stress-free environment. It doesn't get any better than sharing a few laughs with old and new friends, enjoying a mixer activity to get things rolling, and savoring a meal cooked by grill at the university lake!

October: The month was packed full of exciting Homecoming events! (see article on p. 3)

November: "Strike it Up for HC" at Holiday Lanes Bowling Alley was a fun-filled evening for all in attendance. How many strikes do you think were made by fellow HC'ers? ☺

December: To bring in the holiday spirit we hosted a "carry in" Christmas party/dinner prior to Christmas caroling for the evening at Sunset Manor.



This year's HC team took 2nd place in raising the most money for the Hospice Walk!

February: This year's dinner theatre production, "Opal's Husband," was the funniest play in years!

March: The annual float trip was cancelled due to inclement weather, but have no fear— it's been rescheduled for April.

April: HC annual luncheon is on the calendar!

June: The Overnight Orientation is being planned as of this printing!



Freshmen HC women are all smiles while "Striking it up for Honors College" at Holiday Lanes!

It is more Blessed to Give than to Receive

"A smile is the lighting system of the face and the heating system of the heart."

-Barbara Johnson

Our Honors College members continue to be blessed in many ways through their gifts and talents. As a way of giving back to our community, here are some of the service projects which we participated in during 2006-07:

St. John's Hospice Walk: We came in 2nd place overall for being the community organization raising the most money in the Joplin area.

Safe Trick-or-Treat: HC members provided a safe halloween for many young children participating in this event on our campus.

Christmas Caroling at Sunset Manor: Residents at Sunset Manor enjoyed hearing traditional Christmas carols being sung by HC members. What a blessed event the evening turned out to be!

Adopt-a-Family: For the fifth year in a row, HC members adopted a family from a local elementary school providing Christmas to a needy family.

Each class adopted one of four children to make the season just a little brighter. Thanks to HC members, the family indicated this was one of their best Christmases yet!

PSU tutoring: HC'ers volunteered to help "our own" this year by serving as a tutor to PSU students in need. HC members made themselves available via a tutoring list for specific subject areas they were willing to tutor others in.

Big Event: A team of HC members participated in a community service effort to assist others in need in the community by doing various jobs around their homes.

"We are Family"... this year's theme for the Annual HC Luncheon

With an anticipated 150 (plus) guests on campus for this year's HC luncheon, this could be the most well attended event ever to be hosted by the HC! The annual luncheon is a great way to bid farewell and recognize our graduating seniors plus welcome our newest members with open arms. Incoming members are encouraged to bring their par-



Crimson and Gold Ballroom is filled to the brim for the Annual HC Spring Luncheon.

ents, school counselors, and/or gifted educators to the event. A

year in review will be made by this year's current HCA president, Rye Addis, as he recaps all of the events HC members participated in over the year! Letter of intent signing will be made available for incoming students wishing to have pictures taken for their hometown newspapers to publicize their acceptance into PSU's HC!

New HCA Officers Elected for 2007-2008

Congratulations to the newly elected officers for the upcoming year!

President:

Alison Stephens, Junior
from Carl Junction, MO
(Spanish Ed/English)

Big/Little Sib Chair

Darcy Peach, Junior
from St. Charles, IL
(Biology)

Vice President:

Dana Pugh, Junior
from Eureka, KS
(Justice Studies)

Social Chair:

Abra Sandage, Junior
from Raymore, MO
(Nursing)

Secretary:

Paresa Tafreshi, Sophomore
from Overland Park, KS
(Pre-Med)

Intramurals Chair:

Rye Addis, Senior
from Oswego, KS
(Communications)

Treasurer:

Eric Bluml, Senior
from Wichita, KS
(Pre-Med)

Co-Historians:

Ke'o Verzon, Junior
from Bentonville, AR
(Elementary Education)

Jason Landrum, Sophomore
from Mound City, KS
(Graphics and Imaging)

Service Co-Chairs:

Sonya Goetschius, Sophomore
from Mindenmines, MO
(Nursing)

Roxanne Wallace, Sophomore
from Tipton, KS
(Biology)

Homecoming Co-Chairs:

Samantha Heady, Sophomore
from Oswego, KS
(Psychology)

Jory Wire, Sophomore
from Chanute, KS
(Education)

"None of us knows what the next change is going to be, what unexpected opportunity is just around the corner, waiting a few months or a few years to change all the tenor of our lives."

— Kathleen Norris

Meet the Newest Members of our HC Family

Beginning Fall 2007 the following students will enter PSU's Honors College:

Freshmen Scholars

Arneson, Rebecca; Nevada, MO
Artinger, Stephen; Galena, KS
Carrington, Erin; Pittsburg, KS
Derfelt, Emily; Galena, KS
Giger, Paige; Neodesha, KS
Goben, Brock; Columbus, KS
Graff, Brittney; Eudora, KS
Hauser, Kathryn; Humboldt, KS

Keener, Hannah; Oswego, KS
Kryzstof, Emily; Baldwin City, KS
Mott, MaryJo; Belvue, KS
Nally, Garet; Erie, KS
Nance, Lindsay; Pittsburg, KS
Powell, Anthony; Louisburg, KS
Sibala, Taylor; Overland Park, KS
Skaggs, Frankie; Carthage, MO
Smith, Danielle; Walnut, KS
Smith, Shea; Augusta, KS
Stallard, Audrey; Pleasanton, KS
Stewart, Travis; Bronson, KS
Tate, Heidi; Leavenworth, KS
Tullis, Tieg; Altamont, KS

VanderTuig, Amanda; Baldwin City, KS
Wilson, Kathryn; LaCygne, KS
Young, Amanda; Arkansas City, KS

Transfer Scholars

Kramer, Megan; Ft. Scott, KS
Maharjan, Nadim; Baltimore, MD
Posch, Tara; Independence, KS
Tucker, Mariam; Ft. Scott, KS
Vinze, Tara; Chanute, KS
Watson, Misty; Miami, OK

"In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure."

— Bill Cosby



Participation in PSU's Homecoming: A Big Success for HC!

Thanks to the efforts of President, Rye Addis, HC became very heavily involved in Homecoming events this year for the first time. The hard work and efforts paid off as you can see from our results:

- Homecoming Queen candidate representing HC, Beth Perrey, was named 1st runner up for PSU Homecoming Queen!

- Our HC co-ed team won 1st place in Gorilla Games!
- HC won 1st overall in the Yard Art competition and earned \$100.00 for placing in the top spot!
- The awesome HC "Yell like Hell" team won 4th place in the co-ed division!



What fun our HC team had winning 4th place in the co-ed division!

PSU HONORS COLLEGE

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BRAG CORNER... Look what great things some HC members have done in '06- '07!

- *Golden Gorilla Award recipients for 2007 from HC were: Rye Addis, Kayla Carter, Bekah Grieb, Jeremy Johnson, Beth Perrey, Samantha Pinkal, and Audra Tope!*
- *Jessilyn Humble was awarded the National Lambda Sigma Society's "Emily Taylor" Scholarship Award!*
- *Ryan Campbell traveled to Russia for the SIFE organization. While there, he participated in an "Identity Theft" presentation and served as an interviewer for mock interviews!*
- *Kimberly Flory, Katie Nelson, and Rye Addis were inducted into Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society!*
- *Trey Wadell and Erin Smith competed in the semi-finals of the National Trumpet Competition at George Mason University. Erin also performed at the College Band Directors National Association Convention in Ann Arbor, MI. The end of May, a trumpet quintet consisting of both Trey and Erin will be performing at the International Trumpet Guild convention of the Metropolitan Opera in Amherst, MA!*
- *Chelsey Evans studied abroad in Malta during fall of '06!*
- *Jared Smith is currently studying abroad in Spain during spring semester!*
- *Brandon Mendez is completing his second year in Puerto Rico doing mission work and will be returning to Pittsburg State fall '07!*
- *College Bowl tourney champs were "Dictator Tots" consisting of HC members Ben Wilkins, Eddie Penner, and Jon Garrett!*
- *Bekah Grieb received the "Elizabeth Bird Small" Award from Alpha Sigma Alpha!*
- *Jackie Slater was accepted into the Library and Information studies program at OU to begin her Master's. She will also be doing summer internship at the National Archives in D.C.!*
- *Ginger Niemann was named the 2007 Outstanding Senior Woman at PSU!*

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

<http://www.pittstate.edu/admin/vpaa/>

Our Warmest Congrat's to the Fall'06 & Spring '07 Graduates!

Graduating Seniors

Evan Robert Besperet
Michael Ryan Campbell
Michael P. Campbell
Kayla Marie Carter
Kara Alison Chastain
Chelsea Evans Churchwell
Stephanie Dawn Conley
Amy Renae Crisler
Donna Sue Durkee
Chelsey E. Evans
Rebekah Grieb

Katie Lynn Henderson
Andrew Brian Kleinberg
Ginger Renee Niemann
Kara Kimberly Siegrist
Jacquelyn Deann Slater
Alexander James Ward
Summer Dawn Warren
Kathryn Leigh Weil
Megan Elise Wenzelburger
Petra White
Jeremy N. Wire

HC Alum News

- Ene Tuylieua, '06 grad, has been accepted into the Graduate Institute of Peace Studies at Kyung Hee University in South Korea for her Master's!
- Andrea Meierhoff, '06 grad, is a junior designer with Tandem Design in Las Vegas, NV!
- Dawn Delay, '06 grad, is studying abroad this spring at the University of Ohlu in Scandanavia.
- Ken Wagner, '06 grad, is currently living in Allen, TX working for TIB (The Independent Banker's Bank) as a project coordinator for Delit Services.
- Brent Cameron, '06 grad, is completing his first year of Medical School/Ph.D. program at Case Western University.
- Angela Meyer, '06 grad, is completing her first year of law school at the University of Tulsa.