

## JUNIATA COLLEGE HOSA

*President – Hannah Frank*

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*Secretary – Rachel Naar*

*Treasurer – Kelsey Thrush*

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**A**lthough we are only halfway through our first semester, the Juniata College HOSA chapter has already participated in and hosted numerous events. One of the ongoing projects that we are most proud of is our partnerships with the local JC Blair Memorial Hospital and the local nursing home. Each semester, numerous students from the club volunteer their time to help out in and around both establishments. In the hospital, students volunteer everywhere from the information desk to the maternity department. In the nursing home, we have established a program called Senior Buddies in which students are paired with residents and go visit with them each week.

In addition to our efforts at the hospital and nursing home, we also participate in several events in the community. At Huntingdon's Healthy Harvest, HOSA makes a table with information for the community revolving around different health concerns. For example, we have featured information on diabetes, proper nutrition, and how to maintain healthy blood pressure. Students from the club also volunteer with an annual charity run hosted by JC Blair Memorial Hospital. During the Scott Grugan Run, our club members help to clean off and mark the trail, fundraise within the community, and help out with various tasks on the day of the race. Another exciting community event that we host is Pet Therapy. HOSA students go to the nursing home with various pets and visit with the residents, allowing them to pet the animals and talk to the college students. Many of the residents may have had pets earlier in their lives or do not have any family members who come to visit with them, so this allows the residents to have some one on one time with students and the animals.

On campus, HOSA attempts to connect students with other health professionals by organizing meetings and lunches with various health care professionals and representatives from an assortment of graduate schools. During these events, the speakers give presentations about their fields or schools and students are able to ask questions and make connections with these individuals. In addition to these speakers, we host an annual Homecoming Tea event during which we invite HOSA alumni back to campus. During this time, students can speak with past Juniata students about their current careers and their experiences in graduate schools. Students are also able to network and set up potential internships and shadowing experiences which can be very helpful for the future.

The Juniata College HOSA chapter also makes efforts to pair with other clubs on campus. For example, we will be partnering with the Tri Beta Biological Honor Society for a biology learning night in which the clubs will prepare fun biology-oriented demonstrations to elementary and middle school students. This year, HOSA will be teaching students how to build molecular structures out of healthy foods. We also hold many fundraising events on campus throughout the year. Recent fundraisers have included scrub sales and a volleyball tournament in which a portion of the proceeds were donated to cancer research.

Finally, HOSA will be participating in a new and innovative event this year. A poverty simulation will be taking place in which role playing activities will be used for individuals to be able to experience what it is like to struggle as a low income person. This event is a collaboration between the school and community, and will be a very informative and educational experience for all involved.