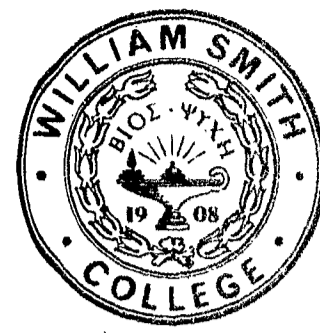


# the Herald



By and for the students of Hobart and William Smith Colleges

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GENEVA, NY

## Project Eye-to-Eye, Empowering Middle School Students with Learning Disabilities

By Shena Vagliano '10  
*Opinions Editor*

Project Eye-to-Eye is a nation-wide mentorship program aimed at empowering students with learning disabilities, such as Dyslexia and Attention Deficit Disorder. College and high-school students with learning disabilities participating in the program are paired with elementary, middle, or high school students with the same or similar LD. In a weekly meeting, referred to as "art room sessions", these students help their younger counterparts to identify and establish solutions for the frustrations they encounter in school. Through one-on-one conversation with their mentors, art projects, and group exercises students develop confidence in themselves and their ability to succeed in life as well as in school.

Alex Connell '10 founded the Hobart and William Smith Colleges' chapter of Project Eye-to-Eye last semester. Having been diagnosed with dyslexia in the second grade, Connell understood full well the challenge that kids with learning disabilities face in the academic as well as social environments. Her experience along with a desire to see more self-advocacy in children with disabilities inspired her to launch the program here on campus in

conjunction with Geneva Middle School. Twelve HWS students joined the program in its initial phases and underwent extensive training in order to prepare them for their role as mentors. Cat Patterson '10, one of the mentors, stated that her goal for participating in the program was "to show my middle school student that kids with disabilities are just as normal as those without disabilities".

This semester the number of mentors has increased to fifteen and the program continues to expand. Zoe Larson '09 and Liz Poulos '10 have recently established "Club Project Eye-to-Eye", in an effort to incorporate students without learning disabilities into the program's effort. By planning fundraisers and various events on campus the club hopes to increase awareness about learning disabilities and hope that it will aid in making our campus more inclusive overall.

For more information about participating in Project Eye-to-Eye please contact Alex Connell at [alex.connell@edu](mailto:alex.connell@edu) and check out the activities planned in the coming weeks as a part of The Center for Teaching and Learning's celebration of March as Disability Awareness month.

## Band Battle in the Barn: Victory for "Hidden Valley Ranch"

By Jonah Levy '08  
*Herald Contributor*



The "Battle of the Bands" which took place the evening of Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, was in support of the fantastic organization Colleges Against Cancer, with all proceeds going towards the HWS Relay-for Life. The dress code was purple, the official color for such a life-saving battle, and if you wore it to the event, a second raffle ticket would be awarded to you providing the \$5 entrance fee was paid.

The first band, Park Life, was the perfect kick-off for the classic college event. Cute, jammy and holding down the mini-quad aesthetic, these guys rocked the crowd in all the right ways. Their fan base seemed to be out in full force, which only extenuated the circumstances of grooviness. From a critical standpoint, quite a few transitions came out more than sloppy and not all of the predictable covers were optimal, but the front man held it together throughout. Their opening track, an original, was the most impressive: the highly recognizable classical tune riffed out rock-wise put was quite remarkable.

The second band, The Tyger Tyger (Inside Yr Head) Show, with their simplistic percussion, lyrical guitar and vocally driven version of the broken folk rock scene is not entirely whacked out. No one should deny that the tearing of two of the three lead vocalists, Hayley Mason '09 and Erin Laskey '10, is revelatory. Furthermore, the composition of guitarists Benjamin Mason '08 and Dave Dickinson '09 leaves something to be admired. The 5<sup>th</sup> and youngest member of the band, Reiná Apraez '11, isn't entirely superfluous on the washboard and xylophone, as her effervescent smile and onstage antics confirm the tone of the performance.

The third band and rightful winner of the Battle is Hidden Valley Ranch. Rumor has it that this team of talented, experienced and knowledgeable musicians of the class

of '08 played a sloppy set in comparison to their prior rehearsals, but a majority of their fans would disagree. Ranch managed a set of blues-rock tunes showcasing sick licks from lead guitarists Nick Wallace and Andrew Siskin. Siskin, lead vocalist and local celebrity, has been recognized as a rather inconsiderate individual in the past, but onstage his charm is indelible.

Despite Siskin's leadership, the band may have felt a slight lack of confidence at their "shoddy" set, which unfortunately led to a lack in stage presence from two of the other band members; but thank god for James Wilby. This drummer put up some great stage faces for those who could see him. Not only did he barely miss a beat, but he also laid down some properly synched-up thrashing on the faster numbers.

The band that everyone should have stuck around for was Bonus Plus. It's no secret that the Metal scene on the HWS campus is sorely lacking, but the important thing is that it doesn't matter if you don't like the music. These guys get a double check plus for stage antics and a triple check plus for body/fat index. This insistently self-referential cock-rock trio consists of King Walnut on guitar and vocals, Mayor Grape on drums, and Aquarium on vocals. Despite their fame in the YouTube universe, Bonus Plus kept the non-sequiturs and scatological humor to a minimum, for which I am thankful. Instead, they wrecked and rocked hilariously in the face of a grateful crowd all too small.

After the votes were counted and the cans and bottles were recycled, Hidden Valley Ranch was announced the winner of \$100 and the opportunity to open for singer/songwriter Deidra McCalla this Saturday at 7 PM in the Barn. This time, it's free.

## HSG Update

*Never Say Never Land*

By Trippe Duke  
*Managing Editor*

The Hobart Student Government (HSG) continued to nudge through the winter months last week after getting some great things done in the first part of the meeting. The representatives of the HSG approved \$200 to benefit The Geneva Food Pantry. These funds will be used to supply needy Geneva residences with much needed foodstuffs. Dan DeNose '10, who was behind the can drive, was then presented with a certificate congratulating him as the Student Leader of the Month.

There were multiple student clubs either applying for club status, or having last weeks application voted on. This caused concern among some attendees since any club who applies for official status is pretty much approved by the HSG regardless. The buck is then passed to the complicated realm of the BAC for funding. Vince DeFabo '08 caught the mood by jesting, "HSG: AKA rubber stamp."

While all of these groups have substantial qualities and interest that completely legitimize them as clubs, there is much concern by those involved in the process that some clubs over the past few years die out when their founders graduate. This leaves the BAC with dealing with many clubs that either overlap the interest of other clubs or academic departments.

Last week HSG heard a proposal for the re-administration of The Law Society. This club will combine with the interests of the already existing Pre-Law Club, which is composed of students in the program here on campus. The

Law Society aims to provide some lectures, as well as provide potential pre-law students to share ideas and questions, in an attempt to bring the subject of Law to the HWS community.

The HOT SPOT club was then approved. This is a geology club that aims to provide out of class trips for students interested in the regional geology of the Finger Lakes, and hopes to bring in students not affiliated with the Geology department here at HWS. The Media Club, Eye-to-Eye, and Active Minds were also approved to club status. Each status verification received a near unanimous vote of approval, despite the issues raised concerning the durability of many previous student clubs.

The Committee on Academic Affairs (COA) then gave a brief update with more to come next week. COA has been reviewing position requests for tenure track professors. There were also 27 new courses added to the curriculum in addition to two new abroad programs in South America and Rome. The Geneva program was unfortunately dropped due to faculty advisor issues. There was also an announcement of a complete refit of the Spanish curriculum.

Student Web Services will also be receiving a refit and a new pin number program called People Soft, which will replace the existing system. This new program will allow students to access their accounts 24 hours a day, whereas the previous system was only available during limited daytime hours.

## William Smith Congress Update

This week's meeting for William Smith Congress started with Hi Timiai requesting funds from the Congress to fund the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual gathering of William Smith students. The event remained nameless throughout the discussion, but essentially it's the last hurrah for William Smith seniors to enjoy each others company while sampling wine, or punch, from the Geneva area. Hi Timiai approached for a significant amount of funds and the Society received approximately half of the proposed amount.

Following the funds allocation, the Congress was given an update on the concert grant. There was a checklist sent around the quorum indicating suggested bands, within the current price range, in an attempt to get more student input. The list included artists such as Fabulous, Mat

Kearney, and Tegan & Sara. Up next on the list of performers as a result of the grant is Deidra McCalla performing Saturday in the Barn as part of the Reclaiming the Sunlight event. The committee that handles the New York State Music Grant will be holding an open forum Wednesday March 12<sup>th</sup> from 12p.m.-7p.m. in the library atrium to share information about the grant and also solicit student input about bands to perform in Geneva.

William Smith Congress also approved another club this week. The Law Society Club was proposed as a resurrection of previous, popular clubs here on campus. It was proposed in hopes to create an easily accessible information source for students planning on going on to law school, as well as to provide the basis for potential law related clubs in the future.

After the club proposal a two part discussion began. The first part centered around the William Smith Fundraising Committee in an effort to help bolster the fundraising already planned for this semester. There was a discussion about the upcoming loose change collecting competition between classes. Also, a possible event was discussed; a take-off on Dancing with the Stars highlighting professors, deans and students was proposed.

The final discussion of the night focused on suggestions for Sodexo mainly regarding the cafés and pub. Also, Jake Napier, HSG President, approached the Congress to propose another joint meeting. This meeting, voted on and approved by WSC, would feature the playing of the game Star Power, a game intended to highlight diversity in all areas.

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