

## Exotic food and dance headline IAA event

Angie West  
Capital Times Staff

Dancing and samples of over 50 ethnic foods attracted faculty, staff, students and people from different nationalities and cultures to PSH's Capital Union Building on Saturday, Nov. 7.

Jason Wingert, a junior secondary education major and president of the International Affairs Association, said the purpose of the event was to "come out and experience different foods."

Dr. Clemmie Gilpin, assistant professor of African-American studies, said, "By the time I got to the dessert table, there was nothing but crumbs."

Following the food sampling, the guests got a taste of African dance from the Jaasu Ballet Company.

Established in 1985, the 11-member dance group dazzled the audience with

African music and ritual dances from Gambia, Senegal and Guinea. Kwasi Agiri, leader of the troupe, said Jaasu means "eternal light."

Each dance featured the performer dressed in costumes decorated with beads and traditional African designs.

Although the program lasted almost two hours, the crowd was ready for more. As an encore to their performance, the North Philadelphia troupe shared a few African dance steps with the audience.

"I had a great time," said Pat Foote, a secretary in the Student Assistance Center.

Arek Keminski, a senior electrical engineering major from Poland, said, "I was trying to sit and watch but I couldn't watch any longer. I just get into the rhythm and start wanting to go out there and do it."

The International Affairs Association sponsored the event.



Photo by Michael Starkey

The Jaasu Ballet Company from north Philadelphia performs native African dance in the Capital Union Building.

## Stoner eyes bright future for Black Student Union

Hilary Zeiders  
Capital Times Staff

Bill Stoner has brought his experience, knowledge and unique view of the world to Penn State Harrisburg. This 50 year-old-student has spent the past four semesters at Penn State Harrisburg learning and interacting with his fellow students.

Stoner feels that living on campus has given him an in-depth feel for the campus and its students. This is one of the reasons he decided to act as the president of the Black Student Union (BSU) for two semesters.

"I ran for president because I had the time to revitalize the club and do some exciting things," Stoner said. "I also felt that it needed a change in direction."

Although all black students on campus technically are members of the BSU, only

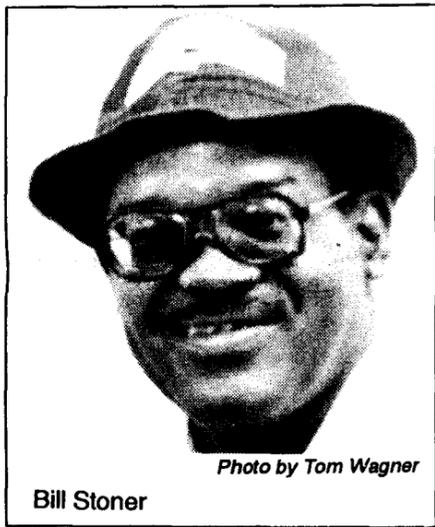


Photo by Tom Wagner

Bill Stoner

about 25 are active participants, Stoner said.

"This club provides cultural awareness that students traditionally do not get in high school," Stoner commented.

Stoner said his goal as president is to make sure that the organization enjoys a smooth transition when it is time to elect new officers into the club.

"I want students coming in to be able to be trained and take over."

Stoner said that what he most likes about being president of the BSU is bringing direction and providing others with new experiences.

The BSU not only benefits students and faculty at Penn State, but community residents also, Stoner said.

"Some of our community involvement projects include tutoring projects and taking toys to children in hospitals at Christmas time," Stoner said. "There will be a bigger emphasis on this in the future."

The majority of the BSU programs take place in February, which is Black History Month.

"Recent events we have provided include the Intergenerational Luncheon, bands, panel discussions and speakers," he said.

Stoner commented on this year's new strategy of different clubs combining to

sponsor an event.

"This joint sponsorship promotes cooperation within organizations," Stoner commented. "It helps with the budget cuts we are facing."

Stoner began his college career at Cleary College in Ypsilanti, Mich., where he earned an associate's degree in business administration. He completed his bachelor's degree at Penn State in 1991 and is currently working toward a masters degree in community psychology.

"I chose this area of study because it ties in with my activist background," Stoner said. "It will allow me to interact with agencies and people, not just theory-oriented research."

After his graduation in May, Stoner is making plans to attend a Ph.D. program in a seminary. He has future plans of working in some part of the social ministry.

Stoner is also a member of the Psychology Club, Delta Phi Kappa, Capital Christian Fellowship, Minority Academic Excellence Program and the International Affairs Association. Stoner is also a graduate school representative for the Strategic Planning Management and Enrollment Committee.

## Student balances his ambitions with school

Ann Feeney-McGovern  
Capital Times Staff

If overachieving leads to success, Jim Mullane is well on his way to fame and fortune.

"Whenever I get involved in something, I like to give 110 percent. I want everything to be perfect."



Jim Mullane

And for the 21-year-old senior, perfection is a quality that fits quite nicely with his career plans. Mullane is an accounting major, and his dream is landing a partnership in an accounting firm.

To help achieve that goal, Mullane is serving as treasurer of Penn State Harrisburg's Student Government Association. That job alone is a handful,

but Mullane doesn't settle for just a handful.

In addition to maintaining a full class schedule, the Norristown native is a resident assistant in Meade Heights and is active in three campus groups--SGA, Association of Student Accountants and Phi Beta Lambda.

He's a go-getter and it's evident not only to his fellow club members, but to professors. According to Charles Kern, instructor of accountancy, Mullane's ambition and drive enhance his leadership skills.

"He's able to get people motivated and enthused," Kern said.

Mullane also is fond of sports--particularly college basketball, and although he's heading for an accounting career, his ideal job wouldn't involve pushing a pencil.

"The perfect job would be to work as a sportscaster," Mullane said. "I just love all kinds of sports."

But while he'd like to watch numbers on the scoreboard, for now Mullane is content watching numbers in his accounting journal.

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