

New SGA Officers Are Appointed

By Bryan Kapschull
Capital Times Staff Writer

On Oct. 5, the Student Government Association (SGA) appointed several new officers to fill needed positions.

The new officers include M. Scott Richmond - Executive Secretary, Jessica Crum - Committee Secretary, Barb Roy - Public Relations, Lisa Nagele - Senior Senator at Large, Matthew Davis - Senior Senator Behavioral Science & Education, Jordan Merkel - Senior Senator Business, and Jennifer Scharff - Junior Senator at Large.

SGA President Roderick Lee hopes to open more lines of communication between PSH students and SGA.

The environment at PSH, with numerous commuter students, makes it difficult for some students to become involved. Many students simply show up for their classes and leave immediately after.

This leaves little time to interact with their fellow students or Student Government. Without the majority of students living on campus as in a traditional college setting, SGA must put extra effort toward encouraging non-traditional student involvement.

With the help of newly appointed executive assistants Alvin Black and Joe Marsicano, Lee plans to devise new ways of promoting more student involvement.

Marsicano will be able to offer suggestions from his past experience as SGA President at Harrisburg Area Community College. Marsicano will detail an overall mission for SGA at PSH and Penn State Schuylkill (PSSL).

Lee hopes this new mission

statement and increased organization will make possible more long term planning by SGA.

He explained that with better long-term planning higher quality student activities could be scheduled.

The current lack of such long term organization prevents some student activities from making set deadlines, thus preventing events from taking place.

Lee also plans to form several new ad-hoc committees. These are temporary investigative groups formed to address specific concerns or needs.

All students are welcome to join ad-hoc committees and share ideas. Some of the concerns to be addressed by the ad-hoc committees are Public Relations, Marketing, and SGA promotion.

Lee would also like to develop an open-forum committee in which students can interact with their professors and offer suggestions.

Community service will also be emphasized this year. With the creation of an Outreach Committee, Lee said the SGA will offer opportunities for students to give to the surrounding communities through various non-profit organizations.

If any students are interested in joining SGA, positions are still available for Junior Senator Business Administration, Junior Senator Behavioral Science & Education, Junior Senator Humanities, and Senior Senator Public Policy.

Anyone interested in these positions should contact Lee at 948-6137.



Photo by Cathie McCormick Musser

Rachel McNabb swears in Scott Richmond as Executive Secretary at the SGA meeting Oct. 5.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Events

Clothesline Project

Oliver Lagrone Center

Oct. 21 - 9 am to 6 pm

Oct. 22 - 9 am to 1 pm

The project includes shirts designed by domestic violence survivors and their family and friends.

Silent Witness Project

Oliver Lagrone Center

Oct. 25 - 8 am to 5 pm

The public exhibit is made up of life-sized red figures, each representing a woman who died violently at the hands of a batterer.

Candlelight Vigil

Vartan Plaza

Oct. 25 -

5:15 pm to 5:45 pm

In memory of domestic violence victims.

Legal Panel Discussion - Oct. 26

There will be a video discussion session at 6 p.m. in 215 Olmsted followed by a panel discussion in the Auditorium at 7 p.m. featured in the discussion will be a Lancaster County district attorney who prosecutes domestic violence cases, police officers, a legal advocate, and a civil attorney.

Domestic Violence Awareness

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Keen found a cohort in Jessica F. Swanson, a graduate student in Community Psychology.

Swanson also brought previous experience in women's issues to PSH. She acted as volunteer counselor for women at the Chrysalis Center for Women in Minneapolis, Minn., before relocating to Central Pa.

While not focused specifically on domestic violence, Swanson's work frequently included domestic violence.

The twosome was encouraged by the Women's Studies program faculty to fill the void in Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities.

Keen and Swanson were joined by Carol Obando, another graduate student in Community Psychology, to plan the campus activities.

"This all started because we complained," Keen said. "The faculty said, 'Why don't you do something?'"

Planning happened fast. "We didn't start until September," Keen said. The newly formed committee of Keen, Swanson and Obando scurried to navigate PSH red tape and arrange a series of activities and displays that began the week of Oct. 11.

The committee's goal is to raise awareness of domestic violence among the PSH community. Awareness brochures and discussions compare healthy and unhealthy relationships for possible victims while displays and

vigils aim to increase awareness of the severity of the domestic violence problem.

Domestic violence statistics are staggering. In 1993, The Commonwealth Fund of New York published the "First Comprehensive National Health Survey of American Women."

According to the survey, "4 million American women who were married or living with intimate partners were abused by their partner."

A 1995 survey conducted by Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine reported that one in three women had experienced domestic violence as either an adult or child.

Statistics also show that domestic violence knows no boundaries.

According to literature prepared by the Pa. Coalition Against Domestic Violence, "domestic violence occurs regardless of age, ethnicity, mental or physical ability, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status and religious background."

Domestic violence has economic costs as well. A National Institute of Justice study estimates that "domestic violence accounts for almost 15 percent of total crime costs - \$67 billion per year."

The PSH Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities were designed to educate and inspire the campus community to action.

One activity, Swanson reports, will be a large sheet of paper with the theme "It is your busi-

ness" as a central focus.

Both men and women will be encouraged to sign the paper as recognition of the significance of the domestic violence issue.

Once complete, Swanson plans to publish the document in the Capital Times.

Keen reports that she's found a career path. She recently accepted a part-time position as a Domestic Violence Police Advocate for the Manheim Township Police Department.

Keen provides abused women with referrals to housing and counseling and helps them understand the court system.

One advantage of the advocacy position, according to Keen, is that she is not a police officer. "Police tend to see things as 'victim, offender, court,'" Keen said.

Keen is able to help abused women break the cycle of violence and is pleased that police departments have started including advocacy positions.

"It frustrates me when there's a potential solution to the problem, but nobody's taking the time to do it," Keen said. But, as a domestic violence advocate, Keen said, "I have a voice in the system."

"The care of human life and happiness, and not of their destruction, is the first and only legitimate object of good government."
- Thomas Jefferson