



Photo courtesy of Paula Langsdale

Brandon Langsdale

IEEE Fundraiser Supports Autistic Child

By Steven E. Moses
Capital Times Staff Writer

Last semester, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers held a fund-raiser to support the son of a deceased alumnus, Kevin Langsdale. As reported in the October 23 issue of *The Capital Times*, Kevin graduated in spring 2000 from the electrical engineering program and a month after graduation, collapsed from a brain aneurysm. Kevin was 26 years old. He is survived by his wife, Paula, and their 2-year-old son, Brandon.

The IEEE recently received news from Paula that Brandon is missing his right cerebellum. Brandon was originally diagnosed with autism. His left cerebellum must take care of motor functions for both parts of his body. Paula reports that with years of therapy, Brandon will be able to live a normal, happy life.

The IEEE is holding a sub fund-raiser this spring to commemorate Kevin's life and to benefit the loved ones he left behind. IEEE is selling ham, turkey and Italian subs from Rock's in Hummelstown. For more information about ordering subs or contributing to this great cause, please e-mail Jason Ulshafer at jru107@psu.edu.

OPEN FORUM
with the
Student Government

GET

ANSWERS!

Weds., March 21

5 - 6 p.m.

in the Olmsted
Gallery Lounge

GSA Tackles New Island

By Jennifer Kasunick
For The Capital Times

The Graduate Student Association, barely out of rebirth, has already implemented a number of events within the past month, including a Graduate Mixer and a Graduate Bowling Night. However, their most successful event has been the recent Personal Care Item Drive for the Bethesda Mission. Three bags (one for women, men, and children) suddenly appeared in every department on the Penn State Harrisburg campus.

The item drive, originally scheduled to run for the week of February 20-27, was extended until March 2 to ensure a good turn out. When GSA

representatives made their pick-up rounds, they were greeted with an abundant harvest. Jennifer Boger, GSA delegate to the school of public administration and candidate for the SGA presidency, coordinated the drive. A little apprehensive about the outcome of the drive, Boger was delighted when donations poured in.

"There were a couple of times when I checked bags around campus and found nothing. Then on collection day, to have three cars filled with donations, was a great success — for the GSA and the Bethesda Mission shelters. I want to thank everyone who participated in this event. The items that were collected will be put to good use at the missions and will be greatly appreciated by those who benefit from them," Boger commented.

There were generous donations of all types, including a variety of toiletries, towels, blankets and many wonderful children's books and supplies. The GSA extends a hearty "thank you" to all those who selflessly contributed to this event. The drive would not have been so successful otherwise.

The Graduate Student Association, however, wasted no time resting on its laurels. Their next project is an even more aggressive one as they plan to adopt an

winters.

The island will not only function aesthetically, it will also serve as a refuge from cars. Under two of the trees (in a few years), an eight-foot bench will be installed — roomy enough for the weary student needing a nap or respite between classes. A conveniently-placed trash receptacle will be available for those Chocolate-Chocolate-Chip-Peanut Butter-Chunk-Sugar-Sprinkled Otis Spunkmeyer cookie wrappers.

Chosen for their hardiness, this foliage should have little trouble resisting the pollution in the parking lot and Pennsylvania's harsh winters.

The project's estimated price is about \$2,000. GSA is planning two fund-raisers to subsidize the cost.

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island of the new parking lot to be built south of the new library.

Members of the executive board met with representatives from PSH maintenance and operations to discuss various options and tactics behind the adoption. Armed with all the necessary information, GSA members debated what would fill the approximately 10' by 162' island. They decided to forego grass for the island and opted for a concrete slab. It will be low maintenance and require fewer tuition dollars. Three Ginkgo Biloba Princeton Sentry trees will be planted within the slab with two clusters of Hydrangea quercifolia shrubbery between the trees. Chosen for their hardiness, this foliage should have little trouble resisting the pollution in the parking lot and Pennsylvania's harsh

The first fund-raiser, a Spring Flower Sale, will run from April 9-12 and, appropriately, on Earth Day, April 17. GSA projects they will sell about 600 flowers, including daffodils, mums and hyacinths. The 6" plants will be fully foiled and sleeved and will cost \$6 each. Melodee Gerrish of the school of business administration, is managing this event. Pre-order sheets will be in the departments shortly.

The other fund-raiser, a silent auction, will be held during the week of the Rites of Spring/Earth Day. With a full schedule of events planned, the GSA hopes to raise the needed funds to bring the island beautification project to fruition. With any luck, GSA's example will challenge other organizations to step up and adopt one of the remaining five parking lot islands.

'In Search of Wild Trilliums'

Original Play Produced by Penn State Staff, Students and Community Members

In Search of Wild Trilliums, an original play by Communications Professor Louise Morgan will be presented March 28 at 7 p.m. and March 29 at 7 p.m. in Olmsted Auditorium. Graduate student Jesse Gutierrez is producer and assistant director. Gutierrez had a play produced at PSH under Professor Eton Churchill. "This is my first time working with Professor Morgan and I am enjoying the opportunity to work, create and continue to learn," Gutierrez said.

Graduate student Glenn A. Rudy III, is cast in two roles in the production. He plays the suitor to the lead character in one scene and then her nemesis, a chauvinistic professor at the University of Michigan, in a later scene. "I have found the experience of finding the character differences and playing two complete opposite objectives, to be very rewarding."

The rest of the cast was recruited from the Little Theatre of Mechanicsburg.

Candy Caine Spahr will recreate her role as Mira Lloyd Dock, an environmental activist who lived at the turn of the century in Harrisburg. Candy debuted the role in the play's premiere at LTM last summer.

Erica Carl, a graduate of PSH and president of LTM, is the technical director. As an added feature to the evening performances there will be audience talk-back sessions with local experts on playwright, cast and crew.

On March 28, Dr. Paul Stephens will speak about the feminist aspects of the play. On March 29 the talk-back will be led by Dr. Michael Barton and Norman LaCasse of the Greenbelt Association. They will talk about the legacy of Mira Dock.

The play explores the years between 1876 and 1900. These were the years of Mira's "becoming." At a time when a woman's influence was strictly confined to the home, Mira Dock found a way to

realize her potential as a leader by educating herself and seeking out opportunities beyond the borders of her home, her city and her state.

Her stirring speech to the Harrisburg Board of Trade in December of 1900 was the catalyst for the City Beautiful Movement in Harrisburg. She later served on the Commission of Forestry for the state. Describing her creative process, Morgan said, "I researched Mira's life and times and used history as a touchstone or a map to imagine the life of a Victorian woman of accomplishment. Though the story is fastened to real events and dates, much of the play is invention. It is a work of historical fiction."

A condensed version of the play will be presented on March 28 at noon in Olmsted. Also, a reception sponsored by the Office of Humanities will follow each evening performance.