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Professor Spotlight

Dauphin County judge brings expertise from the bench to the classroom

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The Dauphin County Courthouse sits just east of the Susquehanna River and is located on the south side of Front and Market Streets. The building's architecture is somewhat Romanesque, with a contemporary hint to it. Above the main fountain stands a statue of a man squashing a serpent with one leg.

Attempts are made to try to identify the character via memory. "Okay Cortez, you know this one" (I silently tell myself.) Prometheus?No, he conquered fire. Pandora? No, she was not a he, and if that were her she would have one leg on top of a box. The mere thought of Pandora with a foot on top of a box in front of the courthouse made me feel silly, and for the sake of ego I decided to retire from my game of mythological jeopardy.

I reminded myself that I am not here to waste time and walk by the statue without a mere glance. The steps of the courthouse are populated with mostly younger and middle-aged males, dressed in semi-formal wear: ties, shoes and the sort. They seemed to be uncomfortable; both in their clothes, and in their reasons for

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\$4.1 million 'For the Kids'

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As the Friday night countdown begins, the dancers link together throughout the dance floor. As 7 p.m. arrives, the dancers stand up together to begin the 48-hour Dance-a-Thon.

Tired and barely conscious students sat in anticipation as the number cards were raised on the stage. As the last card came into view, the students jumped to their feet cheering, screaming, crying, and hugging their neighbors. For 48 hours they had stood on their feet with no sleep in anticipation of this moment. Together Penn State has raised

a record \$4,122,483.65 million for the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children's hospital.

Under the amount is a sign with the traditional THON chant, "For the Kids."

Penn State was really the first breath of life for the organization said Charles Millard, founder of the Four Diamonds Fund. "I think this is fantastic," said Millard.

Penn State Harrisburg sent two dancers to THON this year. Maruja Rosario, senior Communications major and Molly Harmes, junior English major kept each other company during the two days of dancing.

"I feel really honored to be able to do this for these kids,"



Members of a fraternity sorority team embrace while watching a video remembering children who died from cancer. This team was first in fund raising.



Photo by Kathryn Herr

The crowd cheers on the dancers in their last hours. Many organizations adopt Four Diamonds families and spend time with them throughout the year. The crowd is packed into the stands in blocks of color representing the individual organizations that are sponsoring the kids. Adopted families are often shared between two related organizations such as a fraternity and a sorority. These teams are a great support system.

said Rosario. "It's always been a dream of mine to dance at Thon."

The 'line dance' is a special part of THON. In the first few hours dancers and the crowd learn the line dance from 'Morale captives' move by move. The line dance incorporates aspects of Four Diamonds, trends for the past year such as the 'Live Strong' bracelets, and Penn State pride.

The line dance keeps the dancers moving around at least once an hour and often is a burst of energy they need to keep going. The THON line dance is said to be the largest line dance in the world.

"The line dance is a great way to keep you pumped and helps

keep you going," said Rosario.

Motivation for the dancers lies within the kids. Throughout the 48 hours families roam the dance floor as their kids interact with the dancers. Some of the students have had first-hand experiences with cancer in their families. That provides motivation as well for dancers who are dancing in remembrance of friends or family.

The King family has been at Thon for the past three years. Brayden King is a 6-year-old with a strong will. He has been battling cancer since 2000. Many of Brayden's medications and treatments, costing thousands of dollars each month, were not covered by insurance. However, Four Diamonds picked up the tab.

"After five years of chemotherapy and radiation we still have a son," said Carrie Steel King. "It's because of the Four Diamonds that Brayden is still here."

The Speech Language and Hearing Association and the Sign Language Organization sponsor Brayden and his family through Four Diamonds. They spend time with the family at events, offer support to the family, and play with Brayden and his brother and sister at THON. Dancers for these organizations wore shirts with "Brayden's Buds" on the back.

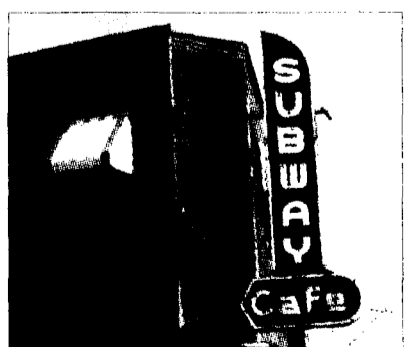
Many of the Greek organizations and various clubs on campus are paired together to adopt families. Some organization teams sponsor three or more families. A fraternity/sorority team is a common combination.

These teams are easily spotted

THON cont'd on 6



What's on 7
Herb recounts the greatest college basketball coaches



What's on 9
Subway Cafe preserves a slice of Harrisburg's past

The theology of multiculturalism

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When Rev. Dr. Anthony Alexander arrived at Grace United Methodist Church, the congregation was, in his words, "99 percent white."

Alexander was used to this. He had only served predominantly white congregations in the U.M.C. Interestingly enough, Alexander is black.

"After two years of this, I realized that something had to change," said Alexander.

Now, Alexander greets a congregation filled with African-American, Asian and Hispanic members.

"Accepting folks as God intended them to be, that is multiculturalism," said Alexander.

Six area clergy members discussed the theology of multiculturalism on Feb. 10. The presentation, held in the Olmsted gallery lounge, was a continuation of Penn State Harrisburg's public Multicultural Academic Lecture Series. Dr. Felicia Brown-Haywood, director of student support and multicultural affairs, organized the event.

Rabbi Carl Choper, of Temple Beth Shalom of Greater Harrisburg, explained multiculturalism through understanding that "God is the God of all the universe." Choper said that every human being is created in the image

CHURCH cont'd on 4

SGA pres. sets sights higher

By Peter Stella
Press and Journal Reporter

Rodney Horton has already climbed one mountain at Penn State Harrisburg.

Now he plans to climb another in Middletown's local government.

The college's 21-year-old student government president has announced plans to run for borough council next fall after he graduates in the summer.

Horton, a Republican who is originally from Philadelphia, now resides on Wilson Street and hopes to represent the borough's first ward in 2006.

"While I am not a lifelong resident of the borough, I do have a sense of pride in the place of where I live," Horton said. "We need individuals that think outside the box and I am one of them. I will attend every meeting of council, not miss a vote, and moreover the voice of the taxpayers will not be ignored."

Horton's political experience includes serving as student government president at both Central Pennsylvania College and Penn State Harrisburg, as well as being elected class president at Ben Franklin High School in Philadelphia. He has served as first vice-chairman for the Pennsylvania Federation of College Republicans and a state officer in Phi Beta Lambda, a business fraternity.

Horton said, if elected, he would first try to gain support to work to



Photo by Kelly Nagurny/Capital Times

Penn State Harrisburg's Student Government Association President Rodney Horton hopes to earn a position in Middletown's Borough Council after graduation.

repeal the \$52 million emergency and municipal services act, which will be collected from workers this year after Middletown Borough Council approved the tax last month.

"We're not Harrisburg or Philadelphia," Horton said. "Harrisburg is going to make a killing on that tax, close to three million dollars. In Middletown, the tax may only generate \$70,000. It's just not worth it to place that burden on taxpayers, especially low-income wage earners."

Horton said he has a plan to convince voters he can do the job despite his age.

"The first thing I'll ask them is if they like what they see," he said. "I can assure them I know what I'm doing. I know the law."

Horton, who is looking to earn a public policy degree in August, said his top initiatives will be to help improve the borough's quality of life and services. He also wants to help foster community and economic development, which he said includes supporting the greater Middletown Economic Development Corporation, a non-profit entity with hopes of restoring the borough's economic vitality.

"It's a very important initiative,"

Horton said. "Anything that creates jobs for the borough or brings in revenue, I'd like to help with."

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