

HBG is green with Earth Day celebration

By Sharon Furfaro
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Clear skies and warm breezes ushered in the annual community Earth Day celebration at PSH on April 13. From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. students, faculty, staff and the public were welcomed to experience a variety of demonstrations and activities. Organized by the student Society of Environmental Engineering, the event was free for all to enjoy.

Vartan Plaza was filled with music and a buzz of excitement. Two girls in shorts and flip-flops walk by laughing, their arms filled with flowerpots containing colorful pansies. A student, sunglasses on, passes through with one hand carrying a seedling and the other sticks of honey. A large crowd begins to gather around the flower arranging station.

The Dauphin County Soil Conservation Service offered information on soil painting and soil profiles, as well as a seedling give-away, information from the Green Building Council, and a demonstration of hybrid cars. Also provided were two Container Garden Seminar sessions in the Science and Technology



Photos by Maruja Rosario/Capital Times

Virginia Oxenrider carefully tends to her beautiful free plant. Anyone who brought a pot full of dirt could take home free flowers, and many took advantage of this Earth Day stand.

Building in room 112. Flowers and planting soil was provided – those who brought with them a pot or container from home left with a beautiful arrangement to keep, as well as great instructions and advice to care for the plants.

Andy Ohrman, a member of the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania, explained the importance of the many bluebird-nesting boxes on the PSH campus, and discussed interesting facts

of many common birds in the area. His lively presentation in the Science and Technology Building included sounds, slides, and movies.

One of the "sweetest" events was the bee keeper demonstration, where any passerby received free honey products. The sumo-wrestling arena was a big hit with students, and the free food seemed to disappear early in the day. Other events included free water testing from PSH environmental faculty and students, a presentation on the on-campus recycling program, soil painting, a poster contest, tours of the environmental engineering facility on campus, a silent auction whose proceeds benefit an environmental organization, and even Environmental Jeopardy.



Sumo wrestling was a huge highlight and "tons" of fun for all who participated in this interesting event.

Race against racism

By Devinique Murray
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Racism is something we have to address, so why not start with the race against racism," said Dr. Felicia Brown-Haywood, director of Penn State Harrisburg's Student Support Services and Intercultural Affairs. Saturday, April 30, the Greater Harrisburg YWCA will sponsor the first Harrisburg area "Race Against Racism."

The race is an annual event held throughout Central Pennsylvania and has been expanded to include the Harrisburg area.

The 5k (or 3.1 miles) race starts at 9 a.m. at the Pavilion on City Island. From there, the participants will go around the loop, around the island, across the bridge off the island, pass the Sunken Gardens, and then across the bridge back onto City Island.

However, don't worry if running is a problem. This race is for all ages and all physical abilities. The YWCA and Haywood, who is also a YWCA board member, are putting a lot of effort into this event. Haywood said she is hoping for a large turnout.

The purpose of the race is not only to raise money for programs that combat racism, but it is also intended to spark awareness of the problem. Proceeds will help support existing and new programs aimed at fighting racism, Haywood said.

Although this represents a first for the YWCA of Harrisburg, the YWCA of Lancaster has sponsored the event for the last six years. Seventeen thousand people participated in

the Lancaster event last year, according to organizers there.

"We hope to keep on participating and hopefully this event will be successful," Haywood said.

This race is more than an event to Haywood. It is her goal to eliminate racism.

"Racism messes up the structure of society. There's no way we can be one unless we eliminate racism. I'm committed to eliminating racism, even if one person changes their mind," she said. Haywood also says the time has come to step out of our comfort zone and address the issues.

"Black, white, yellow, brown. No one can reach their opportunity to reach full potential when racism is an issue," she said.

Haywood discussed Dr. Cornel West, the controversial Princeton professor of Religion and African American studies.

"Racism was spoken into existence and, now we must get together and speak it out of existence," she said quoting West.

Haywood's dream is that one day, racism will not be an issue of hierarchy. "I can't live my life to the fullest unless I know that the problems of racism can be resolved," she said.

Haywood believes the event has the potential to bring everyone together. "We not only have to do this for the generation now, but for the future generations," she said.

Don't think you can complete that 5k mile race? Well, don't worry. There will be cheerleaders from Steelton, Middletown and Camp Hill to cheer you on. There



Photo courtesy of PSH Web site

Dr. Felicia Brown-Haywood

will also be a host of bands and drummers from local areas.

When mentioning Camp Hill, Haywood smiled and said, "People are willing to cross the river to address the problem of racism."

Haywood believes everyone needs to support this event, even if you only come out and just walk a mile.

For registration and information, contact Felicia Brown-Haywood in C-120, Olmsted Building, or go online at www.ywcahbg.org.

"I can't live my life to the fullest unless I know that the problems of racism can be resolved,"

-Dr. Felicia Brown-Haywood

YWCA Race Against Racism

Saturday, April 30
5K run/walk starts @ 9:00 a.m.
Start and finish on City Island

Lunch Lady Land

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They can be seen serving breakfast, lunch and dinner for most of the students at Penn State Harrisburg, but what do these lunch ladies of Stacks Market do when not behind a counter or grill?

When not catering the many events on campus, Sabine Shearer can be found coaching a slow pitch softball team with her husband or scrap booking. She survived a tornado that ripped through her home in Bainbridge, Pa. several years ago as well as survive adjusting to a new culture.

Born and raised in the small town of Hainstadt, Germany, Sabine Shearer lived overseas for the first 20 years of her life. Between the ages of 10 and 16, Shearer competed in acrobatic bicycling, which is using a customized acrobatic bike to perform acts like standing on the handlebars, riding on one wheel, and pedaling backwards. She took one gold and two silver medals while competing in various countries including Germany, France and Belgium. Every three years she tries to go back to visit family.

Donna Miller, complete with blonde ponytail and big smile, can often be seen at the grill with Sandy Lescisko. She can act tough behind the counter – handling four orders at once, occasionally covering other staff's shifts – but she admits to having two weaknesses. "Shoes," she said, "my younger daughter breaks me down to buy shoes." As for her second weakness, Miller admits to being a "little obsessed" with Jeff Gordon. She currently has a Gordon cutout on

the wall at home, and frequently goes to see the races in Dover, Md.

Miller has two daughters; one is 25 years old and married, the other is 15. She is proud of being happily married for 25 years. Described by her co-workers as a hopeless romantic, Miller said, "My favorite color is green – like my husband's eyes."

"Donna speaks 'Altoonese' – y'uns instead of you, and keller instead of color," said Darlene Gratkowski, fellow 'lunch lady.' Miller just laughed, who said she is proud of living in Altoona, Pa.

Gratkowski "lives" – in her words – by the pizza oven. "My favorite pizza is chicken ranch," she said. Gratkowski loves to listen to jazz and old rhythm and blues. In her spare time, she cross-stitches, "especially lighthouses." She also spends time with her son, Daniel, who she said is "very mature for his age. More than I can say

about some of us working here."

Two years ago, Gratkowski worked for Greyhound Friends of North Carolina, which was a Greyhound rescue center. Although she does not have a dog, she does have a kitten named Noxi-Moon. "She's a pain in the ass," she said, "Kittens are overrated." She is currently engaged to an electrician that she met here on campus.

Sandy Lescisko said that she gets along with everyone. "We all have a wonderful working relationship with each

other." She graduated from nursing school and started work in a cancer unit. "I just couldn't do it," she said, "It was so hard."

Lescisko has worked a total of 31 years between this campus and University Park. When asked if there was an aspect of the job that she did not like, she



Photos by Supat Kanchamasakul/Capital Times

Doris Hoose reaches deep into the deli case to serve up some healthy sandwiches to the students of PSH.

Sandy usually spends her vacations in Ocean City during the summer.

Lescisko spends a lot of time with her mother, 96, and also in her garden.

"I love to work in the yard." She has a rock garden with over 200 plants, which has taken three years to complete.

Even though she enjoys Penn State Harrisburg, she said that she is looking forward to retirement. "It'll be fun to do something different, a new part of my life."

A die-hard Steelers fan, Doris Hoose admits to liking football as much as she likes the cooking channel. She watches the games with her three kids and dog,

Donna Miller prepares the grill area for the rush of hungry students coming soon for their hamburgers and fries, Miller's speciality.

smiled and simply said, "No. I wouldn't be working this job for 31 years if I didn't love it." Outside of work, she does volunteer work on weekends with dementia patients.

Although she does not have children, Lescisko feels that "in a way, the students here are my kids. The kids keep me young."

The most fascinating place Lescisko said she has visited is Hawaii, but she said, "You can give me Ocean City, Md. any day."



Darlene Gratkowski gets her coveted press ready to stamp out some delicious pizza to feed the hungry students.