

As THON draws near, a dancer's perspective

Steve O'Holla reflects on the past and looks forward to the future

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With THON less than thirty days away, I will share my "pre-THON" dancing views with you. I want to clear something up first. I do not have to "dance" for 48 hours and I don't have to wear a thong for 48 hours, two common misconceptions people have about THON in general.

THON is the largest student-run philanthropy in the world and is officially called the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon. THON is short for marathon and is a year round fund-raising event benefiting The Four Diamonds Fund, conquering childhood cancer, at the Penn State Children's Hospital in Hershey.

The year culminates in a no sitting, no sleeping, 48-hour dance marathon held every February. This year's event takes place Feb. 17-19 at the Recreation Hall in University Park. Over the past 30 years, the students of THON have raised over \$30 million and have helped thousands of children and families fight pediatric cancer. Now that you know what THON is, here is my story.

I first was introduced to THON back at Penn State Hazleton four years ago. I did the letters, the pledge booking, the canning, and of course went to see the marathon at University Park



Members of THON and other students help to raise money by volunteering their time working at Cold Stone Creamery in Colonial Park.

every year. Why did I get involved in THON? I do it for the kids. The kids are enough of a reason.

When my 3-year-old neighbor died of pediatric cancer when I was younger, I often asked the question, "Why?" Why do things have to happen to good people? Everyone has their stories and many are tragic.

For those of you who say, "I don't care" or "I don't have enough time," I would like you to know that I work a full-time job, I am an intern, and

am a member of five organizations at Penn State. We make the time!

THON is such a wonderful experience that I encourage everyone to support your dancers from Penn State Harrisburg who have worked so hard fund-raising this past year. I will appreciate seeing your smiling faces that grueling weekend!

Dancers Erin Moskalczak and I will need all the support we can get. Staying awake for 48 hours will be extremely tough, but the fact that life

of the sales accumulated during the hours we worked are donated to THON. The scoopers who took the time to scoop had nothing but positive things to say about the experience.

Erica Cook, junior elementary education, said, "It was a fun night and we raised money for a good cause." Her interest in THON has prompted several others on campus to express interest in some of the many

is tougher for the kids will keep us going. We are going to be there for one another and realize that our determination will help find a cure! So many students have put in countless hours and very few get the credit they deserve. However, knowing we did it for the kids is all that matters.

This year we have been busy canning. No, we have not been preserving fruit for jelly! We have been standing outside of businesses asking for donations from customers entering and exiting the stores. We have also volunteered at Cold Stone Creamery, where twenty-percent

THON-related activities. We also had a "Cold Stone Shuttle" taking students who did not drive or do not have a car to Cold Stone Creamery.

We will be back at Cold Stone Creamery on Wednesday, Jan. 25 from 5-10 p.m. Show your support and stop by for an ice cream!

We are also sponsoring "PSU Idol," which will be an event that everyone will be talking about! It will be held on Feb. 1 from 9-11:30 p.m. in the student center of the CUB. Those who wish to sing are eligible for great prizes and of course the title of "PSU Idol."

"PSU Idol," similar to "American Idol," will feature Penn State

Harrisburg's version of Simon, Paula, and Randy as judges and plenty of fun for all in attendance. Singers will make a donation of \$10 and there will be different seating prices for those who wish to attend this grand karaoke event. A 50/50 raffle will kickoff the evening.

So who will be the Penn State Harrisburg Idol? You will have to find out for yourself on Feb. 1. Look for us in the lobby for more information.

For those who wish to sing, simply e-mail myself at saol42@psu.edu or Maruja Rosario at mxr300@psu.edu. Rosario is the THON-chair and she has done a fantastic job of getting funds raised and getting our committee active. Having danced in THON last year, she has a first-hand experience of how incredible THON really is.

I am counting the days to THON and I can't wait until I experience being a dancer for myself. I hope this article cleared up any questions you may have had about THON and at the same time, inspired you to get involved in THON next year. Remember, we are doing this for the kids!



From left: Erin Moskalczak and Maruja Rosario.

Thinkfast for cash

Student Activities challenges students to test their knowledge

BEN: Humanities celebrates

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to pave, clean, and light the streets of Philadelphia. He started the first fire company and opened a hospital.

Franklin was not just about public service. He also helped to make the colonies an independent nation.

Franklin was elected to the Second Continental Congress and worked on a committee of five that helped to draft the Declaration of Independence.

A few years after his wife's death, he traveled to France as an ambassador to the Court of Louis XVI. In his late seventies, Franklin returned to America.

He became the President of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania and served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention and signed the Constitution.

It was a sad day in April 1790 when the 84 year-old Franklin died.

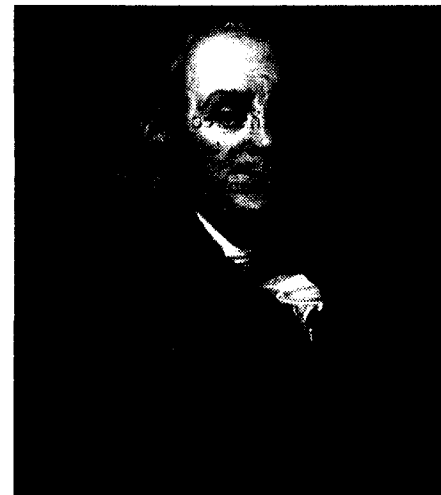


Photo courtesy of google.com

In attendance at his funeral were 20-30 thousand people who marched to Christ Church burial ground where Franklin was put to rest next to his wife Deborah who had died twenty-five years earlier.

On Jan. 17, 2006, the 300th anniversary of Franklin's death, Boudreau, along with more than 300 others, marched that same route which so many took the day Franklin was buried at Christ Church.

"Thank God we didn't get the ice storm they were calling for," Boudreau said.

What's his legacy? "Franklin won Penn's Heart as well as America's heart," Boudreau shared at the celebration Thursday.

As faculty, staff, and students enjoyed cake to celebrate Franklin's birthday, a remembrance of all the good did not only for Pennsylvania, but also for America was celebrated.

As a belated birthday wish, we would like to say thank you and happy birthday Benjamin Franklin.



From left: Sean Stanton, Steve O'Holla, and Micheal Edwards made up the team "The Navy Seals" who reached the final rounds where O'Holla was second runner up in attempt at the win.

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On Thursday, Jan. 20, at 9:30 p.m. students enjoyed a quiz show style event, sponsored by the Entertainment Council, called Thinkfast, an audience-response interactive trivia game.

Nichole Duffy, student activities coordinator, helped plan the event which took place in the Capital Union Building.

Students and faculty in attendance competed in several rounds of competitive, brain-teasing trivia.

Contestants were able to form teams consisting of up to four people or contestants could compete solo. Each team received a remote with selections 1 through 5 to use in order to answer the questions.

Every round provided 20 questions shown on a projector screen ranging in topics, including: TV, movies, name the artist, history, geography, famous speeches.

As every question was answered, contestants' scores rose depending how quickly the questions were answered.

On the last question of each round, competitors were able to bet all, some, or none of their points in order to gain the most points in the end (similar to Jeopardy).

During each round at random times, the announcer gave

contestants a chance to earn the most points for the question before the answer was shown on the screen by being the first to answer a question unrelated to the game. Some questions involved the students having to show the announcer something before other contestants could.

"I earned our team one thousand points by being the first one to show him an out of state license," said Matt Mahoney.

The teams competed until there were four top teams. Then one

person was chosen from each team to compete in a round. They competed until the first team reached 50 points.

From there, the top two teams chose one person to compete in the final round as semi-finalists against two wild card players where they competed for 100 points.

The wildcard players were chosen from the people left in the audience in some unique ways. Some people danced to try to get a seat and some even sang.

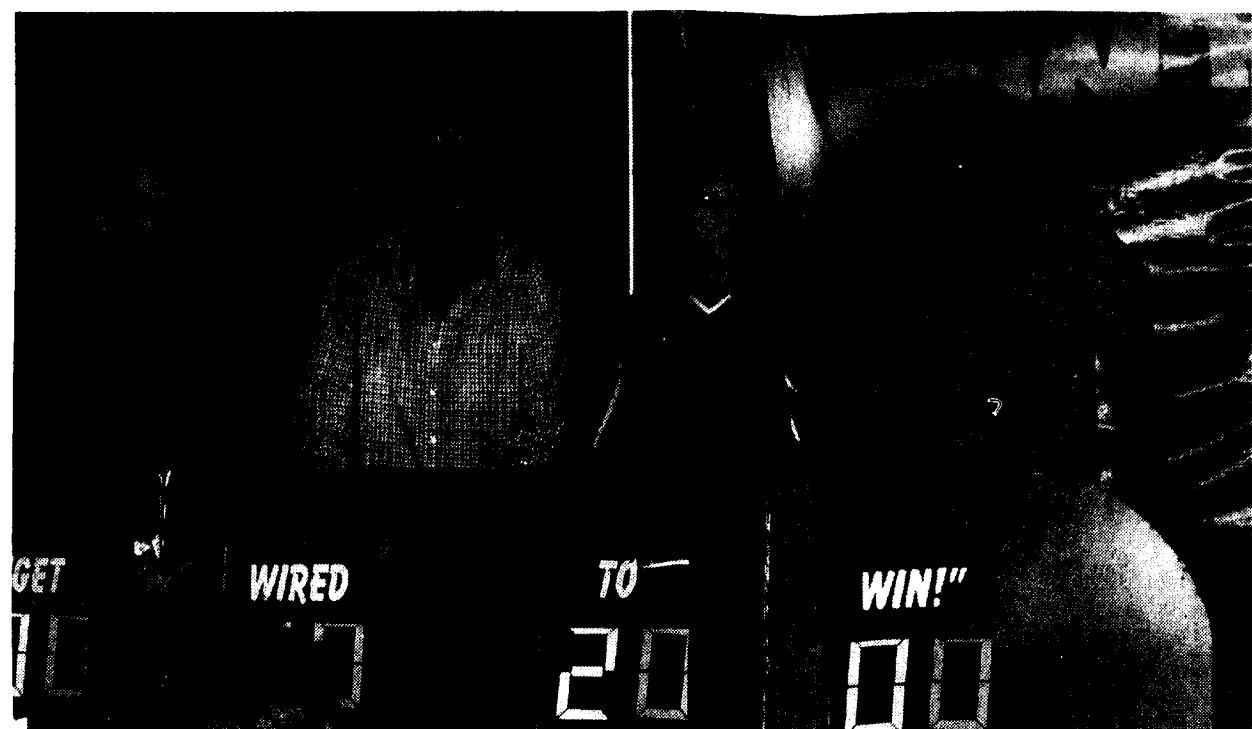
"The stuff they did to get people

up in the wildcard seats was hilarious," said one of the semi-finalists, Steve O'Holla from "The Navy Seals" team.

The final winner was a student and professor from Penn State Harrisburg. The prize was \$200 in cash.

O'Holla stated, "I was okay with not winning because I had a great night."

The students in attendance all participated with excitement throughout the night and seemed to really enjoy this unique and spirited event.



Photos by DIANE KENNEY

Students compete in the final round testing their knowledge for a chance to win the grand prize of \$200.

FUNCK: Beyond the classroom

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Funck has many degrees including a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, a Masters of Science in Petroleum Management, and Masters of Art in National Security and Strategic Studies.

Funck said, "I got my undergraduate degree in 4 years at Grove City College, the Navy sponsored me getting my masters in petroleum management at the University of Kansas and you had to complete it in eighteen months and the Naval War College Masters was a 1 year course."

One of the things that Funck enjoys most about teaching is getting the chance to work with students in small group settings or one-on-one. "It is especially nice to hear someone who came into a class 'hating science' tell you at the end of a semester that they may now take more science courses or even change their major," said Funck.

Junior Jan Hutwelker had Funck for Chemistry 012 and says that he would take a class with him again if he had the chance. "He has a genuine appreciation for the subject matter and presents everything in a fairly engaging fashion," said Hutwelker. He also added that Funck is able to convey the ideas of the class clearly and

even add a touch of humor to every lecture.

During the upcoming year, Funck hopes to finish a research project that one of Penn State's graduate students and Dr. Ciocci have been working on for the Environment Protection Agency. He also wants to take a look at what Penn State can do to better support their ever-growing chemistry course enrollments.

Currently, Funck is an XGI advisor and is also active in the local chapter of the American Chemical Society. He enjoys fishing and hunting and is a Boy Scout leader. Funck has been married for twenty-four years and has three children - a son who is a graduate student at Texas A&M, a daughter who is a freshman at Washington College and another son who is presently in high school. "One achievement that I have been most proud of in my life above all other things has been raising three great children," said Funck.

Where one chapter ends, another one begins. So next time, look beyond the book's cover to find out what a person's really about because you'll never completely understand the book if you never look inside.