

College Knockout a huge success

XGI spring blood drive: 159 screened, 115 pints received

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Chi Gamma Iota, more commonly known as XGI, is a service fraternity

here at Penn State Harrisburg. Chartered in 1968, XGI began with intentions of helping men and women veterans transition from the military life to the civilian life. At PSH, XGI is known for two major events, the

Veterans Day Ceremony and their infamous blood drive.

The blood drive happens twice a year, once in the fall and again in the spring semester. The XGIs work in cooperation with the Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank to help raise as many pints of blood as possible.

On March 29, this spring's blood drive took place. The drive ran from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. and turned out to be one of the most successful blood drives yet.

Everyone who attempted to donate received a free t-shirt. Matthew Mahoney, junior, Communications and XGI member, was very pleased with this year's t-shirts.

Mahoney said, "The t-shirts this year looked like something a person would buy at Abercrombie & Fitch."

Current Chi Gamma Iota President Andrew Dale was very pleased with the number of participants.

Dale said, "We had 159 people screened and received 115 pints of blood. This was a few more pints than received in last year's spring blood drive which was 106 pints of blood."

Many students were happy to donate blood

and save a life. Sophomore Matthew Carroll tried to donate twice to help the XGIs and the cause.

Some students were nervous and needed some convincing to donate, but XGI members were there to lend a helping hand of support.

Coordinator of Student Activities and Intercultural Affairs Nichole Duffy was more than happy to loan time and give a pint of blood for XGI.

After you donate your blood though, what happens to it?

According to the Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank's web page, the pints of whole blood donated are used for people that have lost massive amounts of blood due to a surgery or an injury. Then the pints can be broken up and used in different areas of the body.

Plasma, contained in at least half of your donated pint is usually used for burn patients and is replaced within an hour of donation. This process continues until they break up all the components in your blood and all is used.

With the XGI blood drive, all of the donated blood stays in central Pennsylvania. Eligible persons are able to donate blood every six-eight weeks and are encouraged to do so. If you are not sure as to where to go to donate blood please check the Central Pennsylvania blood drive web page at www.cpbh.org.

As the secretary of XGI, I would like to thank all of the people that came out and donated blood, and helped to make this a very successful blood drive.

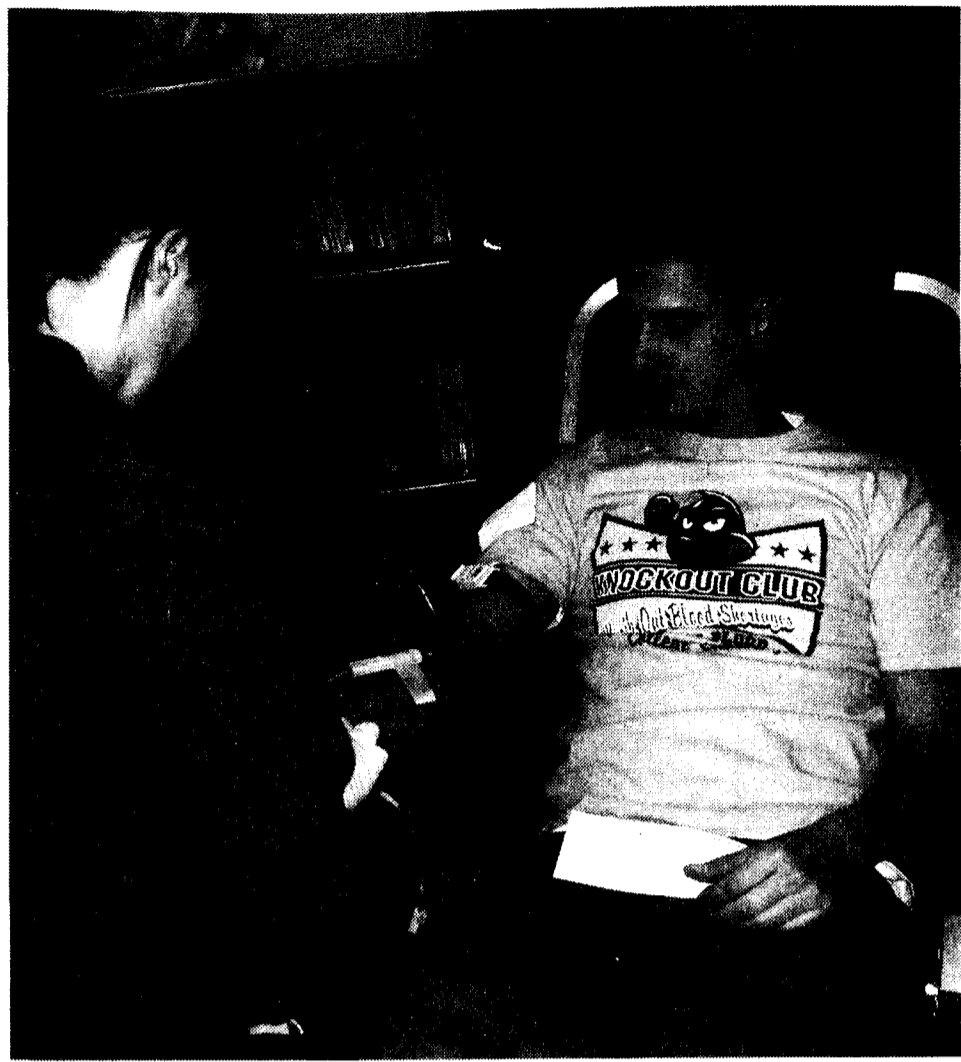


Photo courtesy of JAMES ELIUSON

XGI President Andrew Dale gladly did his part in the blood drive by donating a pint of blood. Dale was pleased with the donation turnout; a 9 pint increase from the previous spring semester's drive.

Business students' bull run to NYC

By **ROB JOHNSON**
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At the end of the Fall 2005 semester, the Finance Club received an e-mail from the IMASC/Accounting Club proposing a co-sponsored trip to one of the most important financial centers in the world, New York City- including visits to elite investment bank Bear Stearns, the most important of the US Federal Reserve Banks, the Federal Bank of New York, and a walking tour of the New York Financial District.

The Finance Club eagerly agreed and work on the project began over the winter break.

Registration for the trip filled quickly and in the early morning hours of Friday, Mar. 24, over 30 students and faculty met in the Olmsted parking lot to board the bus.

The Accounting Club entered orderly and seated from the front about 10 minutes prior to departure. Finance Club members, still groggy from a pre-celebration at ABC the night prior, crawled into the back just as the driver was ready to close the doors.

Amazing how the two clubs work so well together despite different personalities.

A sleepy bus ride into New York City quickly energized us as we passed through the streets filled with theaters and skyscrapers and along the Hudson River seeing such famous landmarks as the Empire State Building, Statue of Liberty, and Times Square.

The anticipation was building and I was excited that we had pulled it off.

First stop was Bear Stearns, and Company, one of the world's leading investment-banking firms. Investment bankers are the rock stars of the financial world, rumored to make obscene salaries in the millions.

The rumors are perpetuated in novels such as Michael Lewis's "Liar's Poker" and Andy Kessler's "Wall Street Meat."

After being treated to a continental breakfast and a short promotional film, Nat Singer led off a panel discussion of Penn State alums working at Bear Stearns, describing the firm, the recruiting process, and investment banking careers in general.

The group was then divided into smaller groups for a tour of the monstrous trading floors where we were warned to "watch out for footballs and other flying objects."

One student asked the real question on everyone's mind, "how much do

investment bankers really make?" The reply: "there are at least a dozen guys in front of you who made \$10 million last year."

We were introduced to several Penn State grads and graduates from other Big Ten Conference schools, including Wisconsin, Purdue, and Indiana, who work in the trading room.

We were introduced to one trader who "graduated from Cornell, but he roots for Michigan, so we all hate him."

At the conclusion of the tour we re-assembled back on Madison Ave., grabbing hot dogs from street-cart vendors and snapping a few pictures of the beautiful Bear Stearns Headquarters.

The bus picked us up and we were driven to our drop off point in Battery Park City, passing by Ground Zero. The 2001 terrorist attacks of the World Trade Center towers were an emotional time for most all Americans, but seeing the site first hand and up close still gives a surprising sense of emotion.

Throughout the city we saw the effects of the attacks in increased security personnel, barriers to prevent car bombings, and metal detectors in most every financial building.

A short walk and we arrived at the door of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. No electronic devices or pictures were allowed inside

or outside the building. We were escorted in 4 at a time.

After 30 minutes of being processed through security, we were given a short presentation on the role the Federal Bank plays in the economy and were then led 80 feet underground, 50 feet below sea level, to the gold vault.

The floor of the vault is polished bedrock painted gray and the only entrance is through a 10-foot long passageway cut in a nine-foot-tall, 90-ton steel cylinder door.

The vault holds gold bricks representing 25 to 30 percent of the world's official monetary gold reserves - an incredible site.

The walking tour through Manhattan, led by Dr. Cusatis, provided numerous photo-ops of important financial institutions and monuments.

We stopped for a few quick pictures in front of the very heavily guarded New York Stock Exchange - 3 rows of gates and barriers and hundreds of security personnel.

Passing the unmarked, but extravagant headquarters of Goldman Sachs, you begin to get a real sense of the incredible wealth that exists in this country.

We walked past Trinity Church and the grave of the Father of the US Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, past the American Stock Exchange, and we finally arrived at the "Wall Street Bull" bronze sculpture for

more pictures.

The "Bull" sculpture ended the organized portion of the trip, and groups formed to go their own direction for the fast approaching dinner hour.

A large group went to Chinatown for shopping and dining and the primary group from the Finance Club stopped in an Irish Pub to refresh before traveling by cab to the Spanish restaurant The Seville in the Village section.

A few pitchers of sangria helped to wash down heaping plates of paella, steaks, and other Spanish cuisine in preparation of the long return home.

Emily Mathews, Vice President IMASC/Accounting Club, with the help of IMASC/Accounting Advisor Mr. Bohenic, secured bus transportation and arranged the tour of the Federal Bank.

Emily also wrote proposals to the SAF and SGA with the help of Finance Club President Rob Johnson. Dr. Cusatis, Finance Club Advisor and former investment banker with Lehman Brothers, used his contacts to obtain an invitation of Bear Stearns investment bank.

The journey started at 6 a.m. and the bus didn't return to Olmsted until almost 11p.m., but cooperation between the two clubs made this event an overwhelming success that should be repeated.

What an incredible trip.

Leitheiser: Beyond the Classroom

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immigrated to the United States from the European country of Luxemburg.

She believes that her family and friends helped her to become the success she is today.

"To succeed in anything, a group effort is key," she said. There was always someone throughout her life who influenced or supported her. Whether it was her grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles or close friends, she always appreciated them in looking at her success.

Leitheiser's grandmother was a very influential person in her life. She was very kind and strong.

"I think her serving as a nurse because of WWII with English as her second language makes her a strong woman," she said.

Much of Leitheiser's maternal family is in the science field, so it was no surprise to them that she wanted to go into behavioral science. In addition to Leitheiser's grandmother being a nurse, her two uncles were a diplomat and a diplomat psychiatrist. On her father's side, however, many are educators. So, it's easy to see why teaching developmental psychology is appealing to her. It is indeed a part of who she is.

Surprisingly, though, Leitheiser's entrance into psychology was accidental. She actually went to study at the University of California-Davis to become a veterinarian. But when she took a behavioral class, she changed her mind.

"I loved that class," she said. "It was very interesting to me so I decided to change my major to psychology."

Leitheiser received her master's degree at the University of Guam in counseling and her doctorate degree in counseling psychology from the University of Houston. She has also done a clinical psychology internship and post-doc at the Wilford Hall Medical Center.

Being curious was always one of Leitheiser's pleasures.

"I was always interested in why things happen and why they are that way," she said.

Leitheiser said that just like anyone else, she's been around a lot of nice people, but also with a few mean people. She learned from being with them how to make the world a better place. Learning from the actions of both sets of characteristics, she realized what is good and what is bad.

"I love people," said Leitheiser. She said that each person is different so each person is interesting.

Even as a student in middle school and high school, her favorite subjects were the ones that related to humans.

A few of those subjects include history and religious studies. In school, Leitheiser was a good student and received good grades. But her good grades were not because she was always tried to be studious. They were actually good because of her social life.

"I hung out with smart people," she said. "And if that meant studying for a test with them, then that's exactly what I would do."

She said that studying with her group of friends was a group effort. So, in essence, because she had her friends' support, she did well. Leitheiser provided another example of where a group effort works well.

"When students struggle in class, it's not because they're not smart, but because they need someone's support or encouragement," Leitheiser said.

Her belief is that everyone needs some kind of support in order to keep them going. The more encouragement they have, usually the better they'll do, she said.

In college her favorite subjects were psychology and animal behavior. Leitheiser also owns a dog of her own, a Corgi named Liam that she bought four years ago. Liam is a Keltic name for 'good Sheppard.' And a good Sheppard Liam is indeed, said Leitheiser. He is very obedient, she added.

Something students may not know about Leitheiser is that she was in the military for two years. She was the chief of mental health in the Life Skills Support Center for family advocacy. The experience for her was challenging but rewarding at the same time. It was challenging because the military system conflicted with

what she, as a psychologist, knew to be most effective.

Leitheiser also cleared up a large misconception the general public has about the military.

"Many people think that the people in the military make its own decisions on when they want to attack a country." In fact, the opposite is true, she said. The military only follows orders as they are received from the U.S. Congress. And the strength of Congress is one of the most effective systems in the world because it, in fact, can't be individualistic, she said.

"It's a collective system in an individual structure," said Leitheiser. "They even dress the same," she added.

So, she said proudly, even if those serving don't agree with what they are told to do, they still do it. This shows a lot of determination on their part, said Leitheiser.

Currently, besides teaching, she is on a homeland security team on campus. Her presentation on a pandemic flu scenario will be held Tuesday, April 18, 2006 and will be open to the public. Look out for more details of this colloquium around campus if interested. Leitheiser also mentioned that Penn State Harrisburg might be offering a homeland security major in the near future.

Just in her first year, Leitheiser has taught cross culture competence, ethics, personality theory, development, human development and disaster mental health management. The disaster mental health management course will be offered for the last time on this campus during the first summer session because Leitheiser will be leaving and there is no other professor to teach it.

Leitheiser said that her favorite part of being a professor is working with future clinicians. But her least favorite part is working with disrespectful students. Adjusting to their attitudes is frustrating sometimes, she said.

"Obviously, they're not experienced like professors are, so we have to understand that and let them learn," said Leitheiser.

When it comes to hobbies, snorkeling is one of her favorite things to do because she loves being in the water. She also enjoys reading, talking on the phone with her friends and family, and traveling.

In addition to Guam, Leitheiser has traveled to every state in the United States when she went camping with her father and younger sister in their childhood. She has also been to Canada, Japan, Saipan and Managaha, which is a small island off of Saipan.

As far as music is concerned, she said that she is eclectic. The only type of music that she doesn't like is hard-core rap because, many times, it is very violent and demeaning. She said that the music usually only depicts the bad in the rapper's experiences and not the part they spent trying to recover that experience.

"It's not balanced," she said. "I like to listen to music that will make me feel good and that kind of rap doesn't so I don't listen to it," said Leitheiser. Nowadays, she's been listening to Shakira's new CD "Oral Fixation".

Guam's food called Chamorro is Leitheiser's favorite type of food.

"We have the best barbecue ever," she said. Chamorro food is similar to Thai, Pilipino or Hawaiian food. Her favorite drink is Diet Mountain Dew, which is indeed a pure American drink.

Maintaining her culture is very important to her, especially in the United States because to do so is difficult. Her future goals are to have a family, which is very important to her.

She also wants to make more friends and keep the ones she already has. In addition, she wants to continue going scuba diving and go back to visit her favorite place, Guam.

The last thing Leitheiser said brought out the fun side in her. She said that if she could have any other job in the world, it would be to entertain and cook for tourists in Guam.

"I want them to learn and enjoy themselves when they visit Guam," she said with excitement, "as learning is an important part of life."



Photo courtesy of ROB JOHNSON

The Finance and Accounting clubs visit Bear Stearns Company in New York City, the most important of the US Federal Reserve Banks. The clubs also went on a walking tour of the New York Financial District.