

Vidalis: Beyond the Classroom

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 dreams. But these aren't the kind of dreams one has while they're asleep. These dreams are those she would want to come true someday, kind of like fantasies. One of the paintings she did was of the house of her dreams, entitled "Dream House," which she painted in 1999. This house sits on a mountain with trees right next to a lake. Another dream painting Vidalis did was in 1996 entitled "Looking out into the World."

This painting was how she viewed the world as a puzzle through a window frame as shown in her painting.

Both paintings took about a year to complete and are painted with acrylic paint. She doesn't really have anything outside source that influences her paintings, she said.

"They're mainly just my dreams of what I like or how I would want something to be," Vidalis said.

In addition to painting, her other hobbies include doing things on the computer, reading adventure and fiction books, and playing beach volleyball, which she can't play too much of in the cold seasons of Pennsylvania.

Vidalis was raised in Tarpon Springs, Fla. She moved to Pennsylvania in August and is getting used to it.

"There are positives to both places," she said. In Florida, she enjoyed the beaches, spending time with her friends and family, going to restaurants and shopping at various stores. She mentioned that there are some really good restaurants and stores in Florida that she doesn't see in Pennsylvania. "That's one of the negatives," said Vidalis.

But she is looking forward to seeing all four seasons. "Fall is coming up too," Vidalis said excitedly with a smile. "The leaves are so beautiful when they change colors. That's something we don't really have in Florida."

Florida has just two seasons,

spring and summer, she said. Even their winter is not terribly cold. She is even looking forward to the winter season for the snow because of the more wholesome holiday feeling it brings.

Another difference between Florida and Pennsylvania are the roads and highways.

"Florida roads are straight and there is everything you'll ever need on that straight road," said Vidalis.

In contrast, she said that Pennsylvania roads are much curvier and that it's much more difficult to find everything you need on just one road.

Vidalis attended the University of Florida in Gainesville, Fla. for her bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees that were all in civil engineering.

She also received an associate of arts degree in engineering at St. Petersburg College (formerly known as St. Petersburg Junior College) in Tarpon Springs, Fla. Classes she teaches at Penn State Harrisburg include construction planning and scheduling, and graphic communications.

Vidalis' list of fav's

1. Food: She actually has three- Greek, Middle Eastern, and Mediterranean.
2. Drink: Carbonated water because it's healthy. She doesn't drink soda because it's not good for the body.
3. Color: Wine color (kind of like a burgundy) or forest green.
4. Achievement: Finishing her Ph.D.
5. Sport: Soccer because she likes being competitive and using different strategies. Also because it's the best exercise and it's fun.
6. Music: Can't really choose just one. She enjoys everything but hip-hop and rap.

Santorum, Casey duke it out for Senate

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 knowing about that influence.

He also pledges to fix Medicare and Medicaid, while still saving tax payers money. Casey will ask "the tough questions" and plans overall to fix the problems within Congress itself in order to correct the mistakes and problems facing many Americans and particularly Pennsylvanians, especially regarding education, health care and retirement issues.

Casey's opponent, conservative, Rick Santorum, has been in the Senate seat since 1994. He also has multiple goals for the state. They are similar to Casey's, yet handled in near opposite political fashion. Rather than stop the cuts hitting Medicare, Santorum is dedicated to helping the people, not the insurance companies. He is also a staunch supporter of a plan to make insurance quotes and rates accessible to all companies, big and small.

Santorum is also strongly opposed to granting amnesty to illegal immigrants, saying it demeans the sacrifice of legal immigrants. So he supports increased border

security and consequences for illegals. In terms of conservation, Santorum has played an enormous part in creating multiple programs to protect Pennsylvania farmland from development.

In the race for Governor of Pennsylvania, Ed Rendell has political experience, even if that experience lies in question of effectiveness, over opponent Lynn Swann. One of the main issues in the campaign for governor is the debate over property tax.

Rendell previously signed into effect Act 72, a bill that would, over time, match Pennsylvania gaming revenue gained from slot machines, racetracks and the like to property taxes.

So far, this has been applied to all school districts. However, the effects of this act take place when the gaming revenue reaches a certain point, which has not occurred. Still, the possibility is there for major tax relief in the years to come.

Rendell has done a lot for education, providing needed supplies to school districts, in turn, increasing the amount of money going into

education by millions. Rendell also came up with a plan to generate lottery revenue into a way for seniors to get prescription drug coverage. Rendell has also created many more jobs, pushing Pennsylvania's rank from 41 in the country to 15 in terms of employment.

His opponent, Lynn Swann, is a very different sort of governor. Swann was an athlete in high school and beyond. He has been a leader on the field and off for years, and is trying to build a better Pennsylvania with strong leadership and hard work.

In terms of the Property tax debate, Swann wants to create a four point system, which gets rid of all the technicalities and focuses more on how much the home cost and on a simpler system to govern the taxes.

Swann also plans on making sure the money goes to the classrooms, not administrative costs. Swann plans to create more jobs by cutting costs for low income families. He also wants to improve life for veterans, such as focusing on maintaining overseas veterans' right to vote.

This election is set to be a close one. Ed Rendell has Philadelphia behind him, and Swann has Pittsburg. These are huge voting districts with millions of potential votes that can decide a victory.

As for Santorum and Casey, it's up to the state to decide whether to stick with Santorum or usher in a change with Bob Casey.

Both sides of each campaign advocate progression forward in Pennsylvania; either with a new direction or by strengthening the old campaign. Yet, from the ads and commercials we have seen, we know both sides are fighting to win at any cost. The game of politics is a cruel and vicious one, and the public is the deciding factor.

Regardless of the outcome in either election, Pennsylvania will be seeing many changes soon. Whether or not the results occur as when promised is another story.

So, with less than a month remaining until ballots are cast, the citizens of this state and its future leaders must decide who will best benefit Pennsylvania and provide some much needed change to already problematic and controversial issues.

The issue about Mac labs continues

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 students allowed access.

When asked why the IIT department hasn't followed the Engineering department's example, Terry Majzlik was unaware of students' concerns. She encourages students to speak out about issues because "it's the only way we can know if there is a problem." She also encourages students to speak with their Student Government representatives about issues. She also explained the IIT department has been looking into getting the swipe cards for a while now, but there is still a ways to go before they can. "It is something we are considering... well into that," said Majzlik.

Students taking more than nine credits this semester now pay 190 dollars a semester, up 45 dollars from last year's fee of 155 dollars. This money goes towards maintaining audio visual equipment, computer and visual aid maintenance and repairs, new computer equipment, updating and adding new software programs, and providing paper and toner for printers in classrooms, as well as maintaining the Macintosh Multimedia Studio (Mac Labs). Last year, 16,441 dollars were spent on updating and maintaining the Mac Labs.

The Olmsted basement, however, is not funded by the IT fee, but by grant money and our Chancellor Dr. Madlyn Hanes. This saved the IT department nearly 750,000 dollars. According to the IT website "Your [students'] IT fee maintains operations. There are other items, besides operations that IIT needs to provide the best possible service to students," however the IIT department does not have the money available to purchase the equipment necessary for swipe card access.

In the meantime, students who are in the lab before 10:30 p.m. Monday thru Thursday are allowed to stay in the Mac lab and finish their assignments until an alternative means is available. For more information regarding the use of your IT fees and software availability on IIT computers, visit the IIT website at www.hbg.psu.edu/iit

Drunk driving simulator aims to stop alcohol victims

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 was different from what I expected.

I thought it would be a regular arcade game; everything would be exaggerated and unrealistic. But as it went on, I noticed when I turned then wheel the car wasn't responding the way I thought it would. I must have been getting bombed," said senior Andrew Scott of his experience driving the simulator.

Students seemed to react positively to the event. Although they were attracted by the promise of a video game, they came away with knowledge of the dangers of drunk driving.

"It was a good simulation. It made an impact on how it feels to drive drunk and how suddenly it changes. I would never think of driving drunk, especially after this," said Ryan Pechart of his experience.

There was more than just a simulator to educate students on the dangers

of drinking and driving. Around the Special Events room were large posters that had moving images and slogans such as a picture of a foot with a body tag on it with the slogan "Another Innocent Victim".

There was also a coffin that was "reserved for the next drunk driving victim." Videos documentaries of eight different teenagers that were involved in drunk driving accidents also played. They gave account of their experiences as a passenger, drunk driver, or a victim of an accident.

Both Geysbeck and Wilson felt that the event was a success. "Our definition of success is that one person walks away thinking they will never drink and drive.

That's success." Said Geysbeck. Students that were questioned responded positively. They felt it was educational and provided a realistic simulation of drunk driving. To find out more visit www.savealifetour.org.



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