

campus life

SGA president looks to make changes at Penn State Harrisburg

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In the Penn State Harrisburg student government elections held Spring 2008, senior Antonios Avramidis from Vernon, N.J., emerged as the winner of the presidential race.

Avrimidis said he always knew Penn State was where he wanted to attend college.

"I only applied to PSU, but

I originally wanted to go to University Park," he said. "That was my first pick. I ended up getting accepted to the Harrisburg campus and really ended up liking the public policy department."

When he first arrived at PSH, Avrimidis said he came here knowing he wanted to get involved somehow. He then decided to be a part of the SGA on campus.

"I didn't know that I wanted to be the SGA president right away, but

the more I got involved, the more interested I became in running," he said.

Avrimidis has been SGA president since April. He said he had the desire to be SGA president because it would give him the opportunity to act as the voice of the students.

"Making sure that student opinions are brought fourth to the administration is really important to me," said Avrimidis.

As president, Avrimidis believes an individual should be willing to sacrifice their time for other people.

"I think a lot of people aren't willing to sacrifice time for other people," he explained. "And on top of that, I think it is imperative to get every view and perspective on an issue but still make your own decisions."

According to Avrimidis, his biggest challenge will be raising the bar on the expectations that people have for SGA. His goal is re-structuring the Student Government and taking as many suggestions as possible.

"I love taking suggestions and I do mostly everything on consensus," he said.

Another area of interest for Avramidis is campus life. He said he wants to have more cooperative events between Greek life, clubs and SGA. In conjunction, Avrimidis believed PSH could hold large-scale events that students would enjoy.

"There is a lot of stuff in the works at the moment, but that's to be seen in the future," he said.

Although Avrimidis is SGA president he still is an average college student.

"I wake up at 6 a.m., get to class at 8 a.m. and I am usually in class or in the office until at least 9 p.m. I have meetings throughout the day, and have people coming to me asking questions and giving me proposals."

In his spare time he enjoys hunting, fishing, watching "South Park" and "Aqua Teen Hunger Force."

"Believe it or not, I read history books on my spare time," he said.

Avrimidis said he plans on going to law school in the future. He wants to go into business law in the private sector.

"I am a Supreme Court case junkie. I look up cases and could read them all day. Law is fascinating to me."

Another interest of Avrimidis is traveling.

"I love traveling. I've been to most of Europe and I really would love to go to Asia ... as well as the Middle East. I'd love to go everywhere!" he said.

"With PSH's campus changing drastically and only a couple of years since freshmen have been let in, PSH is experiencing more of what it is like to be a four-year college. There are some growing pains that we are dealing with and need to attend to. There are a lot of new things on campus like Greek life, fraternities, clubs are growing, outing club, photography," said Avrimidis. "We have a lot of big clubs that provide activities, facilities, as well as a good direction for students go into."



Photo by **MARIN ALICE**/The Capital Times

Newly elected SGA President Antonios Avramidis points the way to a new Penn State Harrisburg.

Public administration program welcomes Professor Stalebrink

By **RABYIA AHMED**
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He traveled from Sweden to the United States to study public policy at George Mason University. In just one year, he met someone, got married and made the United States his new home.

Odd Stalebrink, associate professor in public budgeting and finance in the public administration program, is among Penn State Harrisburg's newest professors.

He moved to the area from Morgantown, W.Va. about three weeks ago, he said with his Swedish accent.

Between his two children and American wife, he tries his best to keep Sweden's traditions and culture a part of his family. It was just three weeks ago that he and his family returned to the United

States from a joyous two and a half month trip to Sweden.

While Stalebrink is fluent in Swedish and English, with basic understanding of French, he takes pride in knowing that his 5-year-old boy and 4-year-old girl picked up some Swedish on their trip. His wife also got better at speaking and understanding the language.

Stalebrink does miss Sweden, but he said that he came here for a better education, "which is what I was able to get at George Mason University," where he received a doctorate in public policy. He liked that the United States is open to different opportunities.

"Sweden, you know, is a very class structured society," he said. "So, it's nice to be somewhere where most things are open to everyone," said Stalebrink.

According to Stalebrink, the biggest difference between Sweden and the United States is in the approachability of the

different kinds of people.

He said, "Sweden is extremely homogeneous.

"People here are very nice and easy going and easy to talk to."

One of the many things he remembers from holidays back home is the smorgasbord, which is a buffet-like arrangement of different types of Swedish food. He said he does miss eating that food.

Living in the United States for about 12 years provided him the opportunity to sample a variety of food. Tai food wins the prize for Stalebrink's favorite type of food. Add a lagers beer to that, with water at a close second, and call it his perfect meal.

During his free time, Stalebrink enjoys golfing, which he is pretty

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