

campus life

Penn State Harrisburg to host multiple campus choir concert

By VINCENT DANGOLOVICH
STAFF WRITER
VWD5006@PSU.EDU

A recent interview with Prof. O. David Deitz of Penn State Harrisburg confirmed plans to host a concert of Penn State choirs from several campuses. The event, entitled "Raise the Song" is set for Wednesday, Oct. 28 at the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts. The show begins at 7:30 PM in the Sunoco Performance Theater. Admission is free. Penn State choirs from Harrisburg, Altoona, Berks, Erie, Schuylkill and University Park will share the stage, singing 10-15 minutes each before performing Mendelssohn's "Verleih uns Frieden" as a whole. Penn State Laureate Anthony Leach will serve as Master of Ceremonies and conductor for the full ensemble piece.

Conductors for the confirmed choirs include: Prof. O. David Deitz, Penn State Harrisburg; Dr. Bonnie Cutsforth-Huber, Ass. Prof. of Music Penn State Altoona; Instructor David McConnell Penn State Berks; Dr. Jason Bishop, Director of Choral Ensembles Penn State Erie; Christopher Evans, instructor of music Penn State Shuylkill; and Dr. Lynn Drafall Director Choral Activities of University Park.

This will be the first event of its kind in the history of the university and its commonwealth campuses. It is all part of

an effort to promote the performing arts offered by Penn State programs.

"I've invited people here because I want people to see the campus and know that you can do artistic things here," says Prof. Deitz. "You can sing, you can be in a musical, you can do those kinds of things here. I don't think a lot of people know that."

The concert is also an opportunity to excite local high schools and middle schools about a potentially getting a Penn State education. A workshop will be held 10:00a.m. to noon, Wednesday morning at the Capital Union Building of Penn State Harrisburg. Student groups and teachers from Hershey, Central Dauphin East, Lower Dauphin, Cedar Cliff and Palmyra will have an opportunity to learn from Dr. Lynn Drafall. The adjudication sessions are open to public viewing while the invited schools work with the University Park choral director.

Prof. Deitz shares a distinction with the good Dr. Drafall: as conference chair and President respectively, both are members of the Eastern Division of the American Choral Directors Association. As such, both have had experience organizing large choral events in the past. In February, both conductors will aid in overseeing a Philadelphia conference with approximately 1,200 choir directors and some 50 performing choirs. Still this does not diminish the unique events set for Oct. 28. With his highly involved

group of 27 choral students, Deitz is primed to host his colleagues and their individual choirs.

"They're a lot of fun," says Deitz, "I really like these folks." This semester's choir has grown from 18 to 27 members of motivated young people. Deitz even claims that they have voluntarily added extra rehearsals.

If the visiting students of the other campuses inspire half as much enthusiasm in their conductors as our own students do theirs, the free concert at the end of the month should be nothing short of extraordinary.

If you have any interest in joining the Capital Campus Choir, be sure to contact Prof. Deitz using the Penn State email directory. It is available as both a credit and non-credit activity for performing students of all experience and backgrounds. Those who wish to attend more PSH student performances should keep their eyes peeled for the production of *Little Shop of Horrors* in late November and the *Faiths of our Fathers* holiday concert in December.

If you're planning to attend:
Penn State Campus Choir Concert
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct 28 2009
Sunoco Performance Theater
Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts
Free Admission.

Cause and Effect Club makes a difference

By JENNA DENOYELLES
EDIOTR IN CHIEF
JHD5035@PSU.EDU

Cause and Effect tries to make an effect by promoting social awareness through community activism.

It began with Sara Marie Williams and Christopher Leidy last fall. The two Penn State Harrisburg students have been friends for two years and share common interests in social awareness and a passion for community activism.

While hanging out at Williams' house they were talking about social issues and about how to be involved more on campus when Williams asked Leidy if he wanted to start a social awareness group. Leidy agreed to form Cause and Effect but wanted a big aspect of it to be community service as well. They agreed to fuse both ideas of community service and social awareness together.

"I think that's one of my main goals while I'm here is to see more students get involved in community service and community activism," said Leidy.

Since the formation of the club last fall, Cause and Effect has taken off. There are 55 students enrolled in the emailing list and in only one year of being active participants have doubled, according to Leidy.

Cause and Effect looks to promote social awareness and provide a place for other students and faculty who are also interested in similar socially conscious activities. Seeing growth in the club and making an impact is also important.

"To see us impact the community in some ways that could be noticed or felt and get not just get Sara and myself recognized, but also the school recognized," said Leidy.

The members of the club have been busy in the last two months. Right now, Cause and Effect is still working on their food drive, which benefits the Interfaith Food Bank in Middletown. Food drive collection boxes are located in the Olmstead Lobby, Stacks Cafeteria, the Community Center, Faculty Offices, as well as the CUB. The donation boxes will remain up until Oct 29.

Cause and Effect is also planning the "Peanut Butter and Jelly Project," where on Thursdays during the common hour this fall, students and faculty can make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches on Stacks stage, which go to feeding the hungry. The club intends on providing all the supplies and materials needed for the event. The sandwiches will be donated to the Central Pa. Foodbank, and the Interfaith Foodbank of Middletown.

In September members of the Kappa Alpha Psi combined efforts with members of Cause and Effect to clean up trash on their adopted highway along the front of the school.

In the summer the club ran a pre-orientation community outreach program, which ran from Aug. 20 - 21. The school-funded program, Fresh S.T.A.R.T. (students taking active rolls today) had about 20 freshmen and transfer students who participated. While the program has been around at University Park for a few years, University Park and PSH worked together to form this program over the summer. Students at PSH involved in the program were able to move in early and took part in service learning seminars as well as partook in community service in Inner

City Harrisburg, and then had a reflection period, which allowed the students to focus on what they gained from their community service.

For more information contact the President of Cause and Effect, Sara Marie Williams at smw5098@psu.edu or Vice President Christopher Leidy at cjl214@psu.edu. Meetings are on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. in the library.



Photo courtesy of Cause and Effect

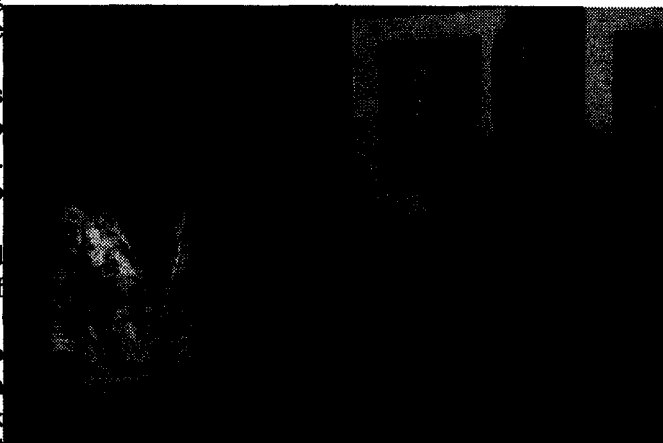


Photo by Warren Gaughen / The Capital Times

From left to right: President Sara Marie Williams and Vice President Christopher Leidy.