

Professors Do More than Teach

Many students view professors as people who provide them with information, test their knowledge and sometimes require them to write papers. Rarely do students realize the varied activities of a professor.

The role of a professor changes depending on if they are teaching, involved in service, or conducting research.

Occasionally, research and service activities allow professors to travel to exotic places. For instance, last spring Dr. Bohun, Assistant Professor of Math, was invited to attend a conference in Hong Kong followed by a special meeting in China concerning the role of industry in academia. Dr. Bohun's experience at industrial problem solving workshops made his input at the China meeting extremely valuable.

Recently Dr. Bohun was invited overseas to South Africa to participate in their annual industrial workshop. This is the third year that South Africa will be hosting an industrial problem solving workshop using the Oxford model guidelines. The role of these workshops is to create opportunities for industrial and academic representatives to collaborate on a variety of industrial problems.

The main focus at these events is to solve problems brought by industry in a limited time. Typically 5-6 problems are presented on the Monday morning and by the afternoon, the faculty and student participants break into groups of about 6-10 members for each problem. Work on the problem continues from Tuesday through Thursday and by Friday a solution or partial solution is presented to the entire group. Because of the time constraints each group is also assigned a faculty mentor to ensure that the academics are

making progress towards a solution and that the industrialists understand any progress that is being made. Following the presentations, each group must write a paper outlining their research and indicating any solutions. All the papers are then published as the proceedings for the event.

At the South African event, Dr Bohun will act as a mentor and also assist students with the research. He has also been asked to help edit the proceedings. What makes his input so valuable is that he has the unique perspective of first attending the meetings as a student, then becoming a participant with some expertise in a particular field, and finally becoming a mentor and involved with the organization of these events.

As students, we do not think about professors except as teachers when typically this is only a small part of their daily activities. This is just one example of how one of our professors is active in research and providing a service to his profession. He is also fortunate in that his research activities allow him to travel to many different parts of the world.



Southgate Apartments

Phone: 814-234-0333

Fax: 814-234-0474

southgateapartments
@hotmail.com

1 & 2 bedroom apartments

3 bedroom townhouses

On-site fitness center & laundry rooms

1 mile from PSU Main Campus

2 blocks to YMCA, shopping, banking, restaurants

Located on the CATA bus route

THON UPDATE : Dancing for a Good Cause

Beth Herbert

Hi all!

I am writing to tell everyone of a group I have been involved in at school, called THON. THON is the world's largest, student run philanthropy in the world, raising money for kids at Penn State Hershey that have cancer. Different clubs and organizations sponsor families, raising money throughout the year to help this family pay for medical bills, etc. The money is split among things like that, and the other half of it goes towards research at Hershey. Last year alone, PSU raised \$4.1million. My organization is sponsoring Krystian Bell, a

freshman in high school who has battled cancer her whole life. At THON, each organization has either two or four "dancers." These dancers stand for forty-eight hours (no sleep), to show their support for the kids. Family, friends, and the THON family all attend to support the dancers on. It is a very emotional weekend, hearing a lot of unfortunate stories. Anyway, I have been chosen as a dancer for Mont Alto. This letter is for a couple of purposes. First, so people can realize the good that I am doing. Second, if anyone would like to make a donation, please write.. Third, dancers are encouraged to have people

send them mail, packages, etc. to help motivate them on 48 hours of standing with no sleep.

The address to send mail to is:
Attn: Mail Call
Dancer # 166A
Beth Herbert
220 Hetzel-Union Building
University Park, PA
16802

Thank you for your support everyone! Also, the THON website is www.thon.org please check it out!

"For the Kids,"
Beth