

A Penn State Mont Alto Student Publication

HIGHLIGHTS:

- (2) Muslim Protests in the Middle East
- (3) Marijuana Legalization
- (4) Handicap Accessibility
- (6-7) MA Athletics: Volleyball & Basketball
- (8) Global Warming



Professor of English Dr. Kevin Boon mans the camera for the Mont Alto Film Project.



Faculty Senate Passes Resolution

John Shaffer

The Mont Alto Faculty Senate (MAFS) passed an important resolution on Friday, November 16 2012. The resolution was made in response to the Mont Alto Campus's intention to end its four year English major. It came out of the MAFS Curricular Affairs Committee, which is chaired by English Professor Kevin Boon. The resolution proposed that the MAFS reject the recommendation of the University's Core Council, the body that makes curriculum recommendations for University Park and Commonwealth Campuses. The resolution passed unanimously, with zero abstentions.

It reads "Be it resolved: that the members of the Penn State Mont Alto Curricular Affairs Committee request that the Mont Alto Faculty Senate reject the immediate closure of the English Program on the Mont Alto campus." What does this mean for the future of Mont Alto's four year English degree?

Although the resolution passed by the Faculty Senate is hugely symbolic, it remains just that: symbolic. It's important to take a closer look at Penn State's decision making process to better understand this issue. The Academic Program and Administrative Ser-

vices Review Core Council (Core Council), was a thirteen member council which was chaired by then-provost Rodney Erickson. There was no student representation on this body. The council was tasked with finding ten million dollars in savings by reducing or eliminating academic programs. The council made the decision that 20 students or more were necessary to keep an academic program running. Programs that failed to meet that criteria were either placed on a watch list, or received a recommendation to be phased out.

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Mont Alto Film Project: Take Two

Fabulous Flores

Last year's award winning film *Two Days Back* left big shoes to the fill, but this year's Mont Alto students seem up to the challenge. The first time around the goal was simple; make an independent film good enough to be viewed by audiences, all at the hands of Mont Alto college students with little to no experience. This resulted in *Two Days Back*, an award-winning independent film which had a short run in theaters in Pennsylvania and Maryland, and film festival screenings. So what now? What new accomplishments await the MAFP? Now the goal is to make a "full-length independent film better than *Two Days Back*" says Kevin Boon, the instructor for the

MAFP. The film project is a two year long commitment, it is an actual class that students attend regularly and obtain credits for. As of now the project is in stage one—the preliminary planning stages. The current students are in the very first stages of making a film. They are working together to determine, will it be a documentary or feature? What genre? But most importantly, what will the movie be about? As of now there is not even a story, just a room of creative minds and ideas floating about. Gillian Colley, a student in the class, says she joined because "I'm very creative. I love to write and this is a perfect outlet." She is already very invested in the project and is

most looking forward "to seeing everything come together. Actually seeing it come alive and knowing you participated." Gillian goes on to explain that this class and experience is totally different from any other class, "it's going to be hard work, fun, and not like any other run of the mill class."

Being a part of this film means that your name will be forever linked with an actual film. How often will you be given a chance to look up your name on IMBD in association with a film you've cultivated yourself? Part of the challenge in making an independent film, or any film for that matter, is the budget. So how much does Penn State have to play with for this up and coming film? "About \$15,000. I think." Ac-

cording to Kevin Boon, instructor, last time around he ended up having to spend several thousand of his own money, "around \$ 7,000 and I expect I may have to again this time." For now though Boon wants PSUMA to know that it's not too late to join the class, they need people, and

now is the time to join and give your input (particularly being in the beginning stage).

No experience is need to join, all you need is an interest in films, "see your own ideas realized and manifest," says Boon.



Mont Alto Film Project Students Produce an Independent Film