

Eye on Campus

Inclusive SGA vows 'democratic change'

By RENEE BLISARD
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There is something different about Penn State Delco's Student Government Association.

There was a different sort of election last semester and there are now more SGA members. They may seem like they are everywhere on campus and at every event.

Beginning last semester, SGA underwent enormous changes when the newly elected SGA president for Fall 2003, Muhammed Uzair

Qadeer, proposed and enacted a brand-new democratic election system and new offices for SGA.

"This is a great democratic change and will affect SGA for years to come," said Qadeer.

In the new electoral process, each presidential candidate must choose his executive board and senators and then submit personal statements from himself/herself and all proposed officers to the Student Life department. Later, each presidential candidate and his/her "cabinet" members run their campaign with speeches and flyers.

Students can vote for the president and cabinet of their choice in the election.

There are 20 members of the new SGA and many new offices.

The new offices include communications adviser, financial adviser, senator of intra-club relations, and senator of students with disabilities.

Freshman now have the opportunity to become involved with the SGA. At the first SGA meeting of this semester, Sept. 8, Qadeer gave in a welcoming speech his goals for the SGA, including the recruitment of freshmen as "aides" to officers.

"SGA has done so much for freshman students," said Qadeer. "Years ago, freshmen had no opportunity to enter SGA as new students, but now they can take an active part."

The new SGA officers have already made a difference on campus. They have been involved in some way with most of the activities on campus, including student convocation, the welcome back picnic, the ice cream and outdoor games and the 9/11 remembrance. In the works is a new media center to be located in the Lion's Den, from which a Penn State Delco television show will eventually be broadcast through Delaware County on the Comcast CN8 channel.

"The new studio will be used for the student newspaper, news, communications classes and career services for mock trials and interviews," said Qadeer enthusiastically.

A brand-new adult student orientation with a walk-through slide-show tour of the

9/11, two years later

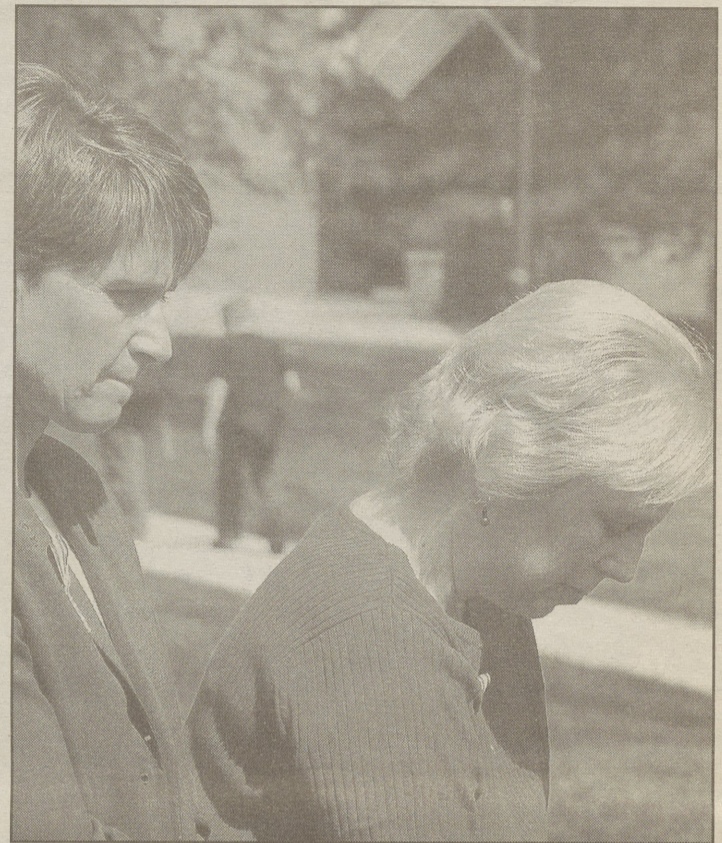


Photo by Jeff Huber
Beverly Grove, left and Denise Ripchinski, members of the Penn State Delco staff, bow their heads during a remembrance service on campus on the second anniversary of 9/11.

The new SGA

The officers and aides for the Fall 2003 SGA:

Title	Name	Aide(s)
President	Muhammad U. Qadeer	Kevin Krauss
Vice President	Brandon E. Goveas	Robin George
Secretary	Tina Nuthlaganti	Crystal Bowhall
Financial Adviser	Stacie Mann	Daria Pantaleone
		David Hwnh
Communications Adv.	Anteia Consorto	Ameer Chughtai
Senate Leader	Mark Cooke	James Williams
Asst. President	Kaan Zaimouglu	
Assistant V.P.	Jackie Clark	
Senator of Academics	Ardalan Fassih	Dony Joseph
		Graham Kirk
Senator Student Rel.	Taiyyabah Malik	Tavleen K. Gujral
Senator of Campus Service, Fund-raising	Ron Oz	David Cohen
Senator of Sports	Raul Amador	Frank Schweitzer
Senator Govt. Relations	Shawn Manderson	Alex Chappell
Senator Info. Tech.	Robert Heise	Chris Fenton
Senator Adult Students	Anya Takos	Tysheena Finney
		Matthew Ovelman
Senator, Students With Disabilities	Andrew Walters	Melissa Nejbauer
Senator of Athletics	Stacey M. Kelly	Bob Curran
Senator of Communications And Media Affairs	Renee Blisard	Heather Losey
		Rekha Raju
Senator of Intra-Club Relations	Kanika Awaal	Kena Raol
		Sami Haq

campus given by Sen of Adult Services Anya Takos and others took place with much success for evening students Sept. 5. The old SGA Web site has been upgraded with a fresh new design and content by Senator of Information Technology Bob Heise.

"SGA has done an exceptional job over the summer and all of their continued efforts are yielding great results," said Qadeer.

Indeed, at the first Commonwealth Campus Student Government meeting at Main Campus in University Park, Delco's SGA was highly praised for its achievements. One of the most highly praised facets was the new democratic

system of government.

"The president of University Park's SGA and other SGAs are getting together with us to learn our new system of government," Qadeer said. "Our small campus is setting trends for everyone else. No one else has our system."

Qadeer said the SGA will continue to pioneer ways to make Penn State Delco a better place for students.

You can check out the news about SGA on its Web site, www.clubs.psu.edu/de/delcosga/index.html.

Renee Blisard of senator of communications and media in the Penn State Delco SGA.

THON: 700 dancers, 48 hours, one cause

By KATHLEEN IACI and ED RICH
Special to the Daily Times

According to the National Cancer Institute, one in 300 children will be diagnosed with cancer by age 20, and more than 2,000 will die each year. Imagine.

Penn State is home to the largest student-run philanthropy in the world — THON, sort for MarATHON. More than 400 students work year-round for the cause, and more than 700 "dance" each February.

Every organization, sorority, fraternity and Commonwealth Campus throughout Penn State sends dancers to participate in the 48-hour, no-sitting, no-sleeping event. More than 25,000 come to join in on the festivities.

THON has become one of Penn State's greatest traditions.

THON benefits the Four Diamonds Fund at the Hershey Medical Center, an organization dedicated to conquering cancer through superior care, support and research. More than 80 percent of the money contributed to the

Four Diamonds Club comes from Penn State, which raised more than \$3.6 million last year.

The event is a must-see during your time at Penn State. It is a sight nothing short of amazing. Imagine hundreds of students crammed onto a gym floor offering up their weekend for other, less fortunate, kids. Perhaps the most inspiring time of the weekend is when the families and children come onto the stage to thank the dancers for their efforts during Family Hour. Not one dry eye can be found in the entire

building.

Penn State Delco THON needs dedicated students to come help out this year. Some of the upcoming events include the Halloween dance, the Evening of Giving, and club nights, an event new to Delco THON.

The first meeting will be held Oct. 14 in the large conference room in the Commons Building.

For more information, contact Kathleen Iaci (KAI104@psu.edu) or Ed Rich (EIR102@psu.edu) or check out the Web site at www.delcothon.org.