

Eye On Campus

campus notes



Interested in volunteering for the Brain Tumor Society annual Race for Hope on Nov. 2, 2008? If so please visit the following webpage for more information

http://bts.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=08_PA_HomePage

Please contact Stacey Shapiro at slb38@psu.edu if you can help.



There is a really lovely exhibit of Botanical Illustration mounted in our library for 2 weeks- please try and stop by to see along with some beautiful live flowers from the garden of adult student Shake Jebejian.



Visit the Vairo Library to see the 4 photographs from Freshman Seminar ART 010 that were entered in the Media Icons photography competition - three of which were finalists in the exhibit last week. Congratulations to freshmen:

Magen Castronova
Costas Vlioras
Karl Skotleski
Ashley Eyster



Don't forget the Career Fair in the gym on October 22!



Plush Mills Senior living, a senior living community in Wallingford PA is looking for community volunteers to further enrich the lives of their residents. Students and adults who would like to spend some time with our residents in a small group setting, one on one and large groups can get involved in a variety of ways, including being singers, dancers, musicians, readers, card and game players, crafters, bakers, talkers, walkers... are all welcome! Great way to get community service hours in for all Brandywine students! Contact Denise May, Activities Assistant, Plush Mills Senior Living, 501 Plush Mill Road, Wallingford, PA. 19086 610-690-1630



The American Red Cross will be sponsoring a Blood Drive on Oct. 28 and 29 in the Tomezsko Lounge. Give the gift of life give blood.



Oct. 1 marked the beginning of THON fundraising. THON is the largest student-run philanthropy in the country, and last year Penn State raised more than \$6 million for pediatric cancer. Please be generous when you see a Penn State student canning for THON.

Have an upcoming event or want to send kudos to students, faculty and staff on a professional job well done? Email any information to kab44@psu.edu with the subject title "Campus Notes"

Obama is a Social Movement

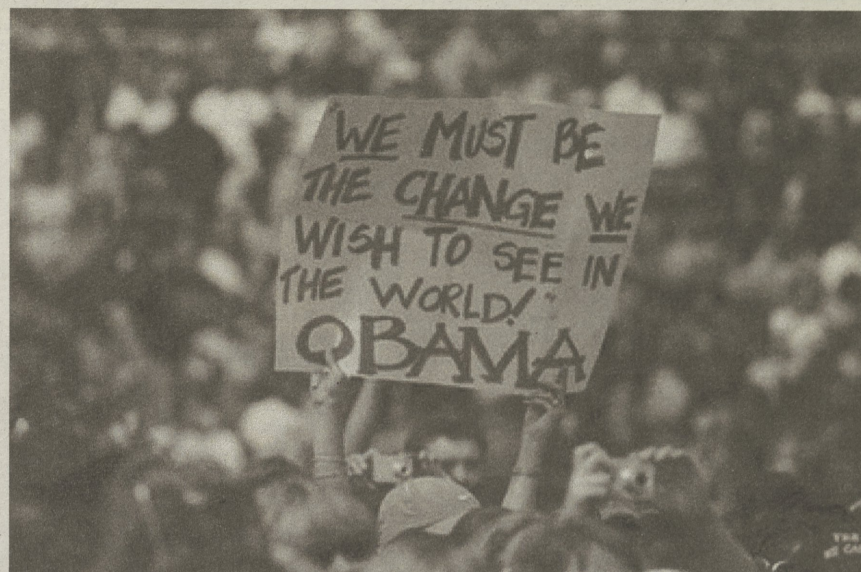
By: Bryan Silva
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What is it that makes Barack Obama so appealing to the hordes of people that follow his every word? What was it that made fellow democrats fight over Hillary and Obama when they both shared the same ideas for the presidency? This tiny aspect made many who supported Hillary feel isolated from their own party in a way. People who support Obama seem to be voting for him rather than the issues at hand. They don't see him as just a candidate but rather a social movement.

Karrie Bowen, Instructor of Communication at Brandywine, discussed the campaign building strategies of Obama on October 14 during this year's second Faculty Forum Lecture series. Bowen put all political agenda aside and stated she was not there to persuade anyone to vote in favor of Obama. What she was there to do, she said, was provide proof that Obama's Presidential campaign is clearly a social movement, and that many who support him are not just faithful to the political platform, but more so, fanatics.

Bowen defined the term social movement and the different types of people that join them. First, you have the poor. Not exactly just the people with no money, but rather the people who feel they have lost everything. Next, there are the outcasts who never seem to fit in with the mainstream of society. Then you have the youth ranging from the ages of 15 to 30. They are the most impressionable and some are at a point in their lives where they question everything they have been taught. Followed up by the overachievers who feel they have to save everything. Lastly you have minorities, who feel powerless compared to the majority.

To have a successful movement you need to have a very powerful leader who is a master rhetorician and who will become the driving force behind the movement. There has to be a common interest to bring together the people of a movement. These are called common bonds, or a common hatred..



A supporter holds a sign as Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) speaks at a recent rally in Tampa, Fla. (photo courtesy of Alex Brandon, Associated Press)

Bowen stated that Obama's campaign paints current platform issues and the all of his opponents as the common hatred. When it was still undecided who would be the Democratic candidate for the election, Obama made Hillary the common hatred. He drew parallels of her to the Republican Party, and compared her and her husband Bill to Bush and Bush Jr. Bowen argues that now Obama finds success because there is an assumption that everyone in our country is miserable. Bush is a terrible president, jobs are low and he asks aren't you sick of all this? Then look no further, Obama is your savior.

Bowen explained in her presentation how essential a God and a Devil are in a social movement and how Obama's campaign has very successfully made Obama into the God (hope and change) Because his campaign is a social movement, his followers feel that anything that isn't part of his ideology is the Devil, and that his followers to fight against the Devil in order to spread the word of the God.

Bowen finished her presentation by gave an example of a friend of hers who is an Obama True Believer. A recovering addict living on disability, her friend doesn't have much, but still finds the time to volunteer for Obama four days a week and gives about 300 dollars to his campaign a month.

Is this faith, or fanatic?

Campus Video Helps Brandywine Shine

By: Christina Furia
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There is now a Brandywine campus video located on our Penn State Brandywine website. All you have to do is go under "visitors & community," click on "about us," and then click on "multimedia publications." This will take you right to the video and it should load automatically.

The video starts off by describing what the campus used to be like and how there was only one building, which was the Main building. It also explains that we are no longer a county school; we are now a regional school. There are many interviews of both alumni and current students. They talk about why they made the choice to go to Brandywine. Some had big Penn State families, others chose Brandywine over Ivy League schools like Penn because of specific majors, some just wanted to stay local and save money. Some of our student body may only be here for a short time, and others, like myself, can get a four year degree with specific majors. Some of our students are adults that are returning to school to get their college degree and they talk about how welcoming our students are to them.

The video then explains one of the biggest elements of our school that distinguishes us from other schools: our faculty. They are open and easy to talk to, always eager to help in some way, and very knowledgeable about the subjects they teach. The

video then goes on to discuss some of the awards we have won, like the Rube Goldberg Award. Some students specifically named teachers that had an affect on them, like Dr. Dudkin of the Biology department, and Dr. Guertin who teaches Science and is also the Honors advisor.

Our clubs and events were publicized in this video and it really shows if you get involved on campus how much better your experience here at Brandywine can be. We even have opportunities for students to study abroad and learn different cultures first hand. Students talked about various clubs they were in like the SGA, IST, Honors programs, and various other clubs. Penn State is very well known for their education and their alumni association, and it is talked about many times throughout the video by explaining how many doors will open for you just by being a student at Penn State. It also talks about the various scholarships students can receive to help aid their years at Penn State, and how fortunate we are to have donors that provide that funding.

There are so many ways and words to describe what it means to be a Penn State student, but it is different for every person. This video just shows how being students at this campus links us in a bond forever and how lucky we are to be able to say "we are Penn State..." Brandywine, that is.

Economic Crisis on the Minds of Many

By: Tiffany Ragins-Morris
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On October 2nd the Lion's Den was filled with the worried faces of faculty, staff, community members, and a small number of students looking for much needed answers. John Terrell, Senior Instructor in Business Administration, held a forum that answered the hard questions about the hard hitting economic crises. Professor Terrell began with the background and foundation of our economy. The Great Depression of the 30's was due to the failing stock markets and the subsequent bank closings. The government responded by regulating banks thus creating FDIC, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which insures individuals banking accounts, currently up to 250,000 dollars. Professor Terrell goes on to say that the depression ended with the start of World War II.

He then explains the current situation by clearing up sub-prime mortgage scandal. Banks act as the middle man, giving out loans for big companies, giving loans to individuals with good credit and a substantial income to pay back the loans. Then company one sells off the mortgage agreements for a profit which leads to company two selling the agreements off to company three so on and so forth. According to Professor Terrell this is not illegal

Brandywine's Terrell addresses concerns over the current Wall Street downturn

and thus happened often. On the other end there are people that have poor credit history with no real income and the banks proceed to give them a mortgage. The result is that people default or can't pay back the loan. The professor explained that this is why banks and many businesses were hit and laid off crowds of workers. AIG was wrapped up in default mortgages and was bailed out by the government with over \$120 million.

The audience listened intently as Professor Terrell finished and opened the floor up to questions. Many wanted to know whether now is the time to save or spend and the Professor said saving your money in an FDIC insured bank is the best thing to do right now. The next question was whether to invest in today's stock market and Professor Terrell explained that if you need the money, save it and if you don't need the money now then buy a few stocks in reliable companies. Many were concerned about job loss, housing markets, loans, etc. In the end Professor Terrell answered many questions and the audience seemed a little more empowered and knowledgeable than they were at the start of the forum.