

EMERGENCY DRILL SET FOR MARCH 5

Special to The Lion's Eye

On Thursday, March 5th, 2009, Penn State Brandywine will be conducting an emergency evacuation drill on campus in the hopes of preparing the campus community for the proper procedures to follow in the case of a random act of violence, a hostage situation, bomb threat or active shooter.

The time of drill will not be released to the campus community because Brandywine wants to preserve the authenticity and seriousness of the drill. It will last about one and half hours, so there is a possibility of classes being interrupted. Penn State Brandywine is trying to achieve their goal of improving the safety and security of the campus. Some students and the faculty may be worried about how safe the campus really is, so this is a way to demonstrate the campus' safety.

Staff, faculty, and students have volunteered to play roles in the exercise which could include acting as victims, hysterical/panicking witnesses, etc. Everyone else on campus will need to cooperate with the police and emergency personnel during the drill. According to Lisa Yerges, Director of Business Services, the goal of this exercise is to make it seem as authentic as possible.

"We hope to learn a great deal from this exercise with the goal being to make our campus a safer place to work and to learn," Yerges says.

Yerges added that the police may be very stern and direct with members of our campus community because they are treating this as an actual disaster and using it as a training exercise for themselves. "It's important



The Commons Building could be the scene of an emergency incident in the upcoming emergency drill on March 5. (photo by courtesy of Penn State Brandywine)

that people are aware of this anticipated occurrence and cooperate fully with emergency responders," she says. Yerges feels it is also critical for the campus community to be aware of the drill as a whole and the goals of the exercise.

"We want to ensure no one is caught by surprise that this drill is happening and to ensure that everyone knows it is only a drill," she says.

Classroom visits will also happen before and

after the event in the effort to raise awareness about the event and , and flyers will be placed around campus as well. In addition, emergency procedure quick facts will be distributed on the campus listserv shortly and placed in all rooms on campus.

Yerges also stressed that since this event is being planned to look as real as possible in an effort to assist campus personnel and officials in responding to an emergency on campus. As such, some may experience psychological trauma during or following this drill, and we have arranged for counseling services to be provided, as needed, by the Delaware County Critical Incident Stress Management Team on the day of the drill. More information about these services will be forthcoming. In addition, the University has an Employee Assistance Program in place that allows for employees and any member of their household to receive up to 5 free counseling visits (per concern) with a professional counselor

Yerges adds that this drill is not just focused on preparedness in the case of campus violence, but is also a way to train and prepare the students for any type of emergency that may happen at this campus such as a hurricane, tornado, mud slide, flood, earthquake, etc.

Brandywine is also excited that this training will help out local law enforcement and emergency personnel in their training as it will not only improve the campus readiness, but also the readiness of first responders during and after a crisis.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the drill, you can contact Lisa Yerges at lyerges@psu.edu or Matthew Shupp at mrs32@psu.edu.

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Shupp Jumps Into Role of Director of Student Affairs

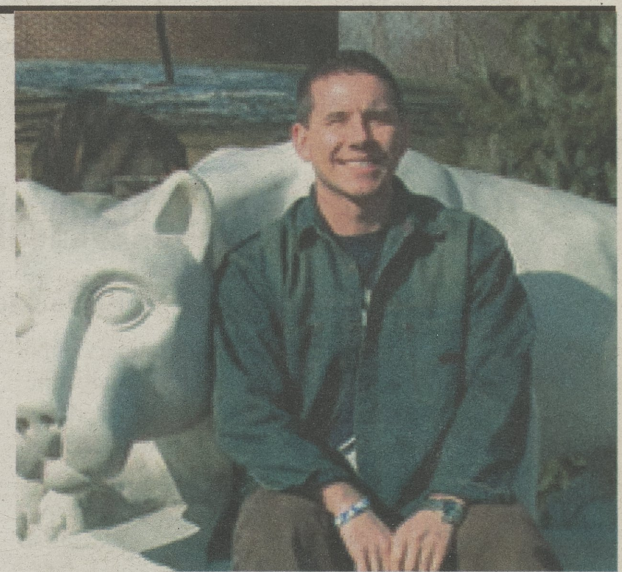
By Christina Felizzi Editor-in-Chief
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In addition to Ronika Money, Coordinator for Student Services and Involvement, becoming a part of our "family", another new face resides in Student Life as well – the new Director of Student Affairs, Matthew Shupp.

Replacing Chris Coia as of last semester, Shupp is ready and rearing to go and already has become a wonderful addition to the Brandywine community. Shupp has extensive experience in the fields of counseling, psychology and leadership, so his door is always open to students and faculty alike.

Growing up in the Pocono Mountains area, Shupp attended Bishop Hafey Catholic School for high school in Hazelton, Pennsylvania. He lived in a dual-religious household with a Methodist father and Catholic mother, but he was still encouraged to embrace free expression and thought. He ran cross-country in high school and still loves running to this day; Shupp is actually preparing for the 2009 Walt Disney World Marathon Weekend being held next year and he can't wait for warm weather to kick in.

After high school, Shupp attended Shippensburg University and received his BA in psychology in 2000, and then he attended Widener University and received both his Masters of Science degree in counseling in 2003 and his doctorate in education in 2007. Shupp then moved to Philadelphia and began working at the Community College of Philadelphia as an Acting Director of Student Life. He still felt like it wasn't the right place for him; 34,000 students attended CCP so the orientation program was extremely overwhelming. Shupp wanted to have a better sense of stability, something new, and that's



Matthew Shupp, Brandywine's new Director of Student Affairs (photo courtesy of Penn State Brandywine)

what led him to Penn State Brandywine.

As the new Director of Student Affairs, Shupp wants to showcase what Student Life is all about, rather than lecture and explain. He believes in collective leadership; "I want the student population to learn what we do, how we'll do it, and how we can do it better." He still feels it'll take some time before any major changes are made in Student Life, but he's already working more closely with students and faculty.

On a side note, Shupp loves the arts and Broadway shows, with some of his favorites being Avenue Q and Rent, and he also likes corny movies such as Happy Gilmore. He has a soft spot for Burger King and Saladworks, and he has a 6 month old black pug named Koda. Also, his favorite vacation spots are the Outer Banks, NC and Disney World, especially Epicot Center. Roller coasters and sky diving is something else he enjoys, and sky-diving he's tried twice.

If you would like to contact Dr. Shupp, his email is mrs32@psu.edu.