



## Lisa Yerges named MTBPA Member of the Year



(Above) 2010 MTBPA Board of Directors, (Below) Lisa Yerges receives her Member of the Year Award. Photo courtesy of [http://www.mtbpa.org/index.php?menu=boardmenu&rnum=32062&submenu=display\\_board\\_pp](http://www.mtbpa.org/index.php?menu=boardmenu&rnum=32062&submenu=display_board_pp)

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Director of Business Lisa Yerges was recently nominated Member of the Year for her continued dedication and involvement as vice president in the Middletown Township Business and Professional Association (MTBPA). Yerges was elected vice president of the MTBPA in January 2009 and she is also a part of the Project Review Committee as chair person, in which she decides what projects are either accepted or rejected to the Board of Directors.

MTBPA President Helene Weathers remembers a project in particular in which Yerges' persistence and commitment really shone. "Many years ago we started a project of six 'Welcome to Middletown' signs," said Weathers. "Each year it seemed to get lost in everyone's busy lives. In January of this year I asked the board if we should drop the project or move forward. Everyone felt it was a worthwhile project and Lisa stepped up and got the ball rolling. It looks like it will be a reality in 2010 thanks to Lisa's persistence in working with Middletown Township and PennDOT. I look forward to working with Lisa as vice president next year."

Founded in 1968, the Middletown Township Business and Professional Association strives to unite those involved in business under one community. The members within the Association are able to evaluate problems affecting Middletown Township and its inhabitants to ultimately improve every aspect of the community. Thus, MTBPA work towards developing a strong relationship between the members and the Middletown locals, so that the desired goals and aspirations are met by all.

As MTBPA President Helene C. Weather's states, "Our mission is to work jointly with Middletown residents, civic and governmental leaders for the common betterment of your community and to make Middletown a desirable place to live, work and raise a family."

In addition to devoting herself to Middletown, Yerges exerts true dedication and effort to Penn State Brandywine, especially as the overseer of the Main Building renovation project. She also manages all of the campus facilities, Brandywine Human Resources, Office of Safety and Security, and fair and equal treatment of faculty and staff.



## SOCA and SGA Join Forces to Raise Funds for Haiti

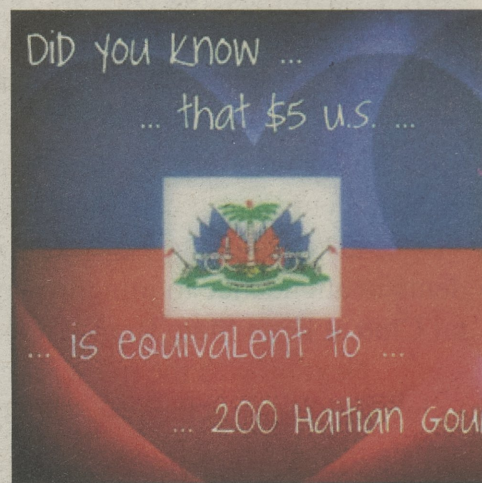
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Only cave dwellers would not know that on Tuesday January 12, Haiti was rocked by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake. By now, we are all familiar with the tragic statistics: 212,000 dead, 300,000 injured, 1.2 million left homeless. Unfortunately, these estimates will probably climb as the dust settles. There is never a good place for an earthquake to strike, but in a country where 4 out of 5 people live in poverty, the quake brought even more despair.

Humanitarian efforts have been in place for the past month, although fear of more tremors has slowed the relief work. Fifty-four aftershocks have toppled already-damaged buildings. People are afraid to set foot inside any concrete structure. This has led to hundreds of thousands of Haitians sleeping in tents and make shift camps. However, people will need shelter soon, for fast approaching is the rainy season of May and the hurricane season in June.

The pain and hardship of the Haitian people is felt by all, but here at Penn State Brandywine, there is a contingent of Caribbean Americans who want to help alleviate some of the suffering of the Haitian community. The Society of Caribbean Americans, or SOCA, is a new club on campus. Launched last semester, SOCA has nine committed members. SOCA, in conjunction with the Student Government Association, or SGA, is seeking donations for Haiti.

Money, clothing and nonperishable food items are desperately needed. Those wishing to contribute may do so by dropping items off at the Student Life Office in the Commons Building. Students and staff can donate from now until the end of March. When the fundraiser ends, all donations will be forwarded to UNICEF, and those donations will then be taken to Haiti for distribution. According to SOCA president Kelly Ann Woods, SOCA and SGA are "working together to get the campus involved." Woods adds "the purpose of this mission is not only to get the campus to donate, but also to bring awareness of the Caribbean culture." Brittney Walker, President of SGA, is also of Caribbean descent. She and Woods decided to enlist the help of their clubs to aid Haiti. "Community service is a big part of who I am. I was always taught to help in any way possible. Even though I am not from Haiti, I empathized with the people there, and the day after the quake hit, I decided to make an effort to help them the best way I could. We've been getting both monetary donations and donated items from the not only the campus community but from the outside community as well." Walker notes. "It's great to know that this small campus is doing something great for the people of Haiti."



Advertisement for Cinq, a campus organization created within days of the 7.0 earthquake that devastated the country. The word itself means "five" in Creole, the language used by most Haitians. Photo courtesy of <http://www.brandywine.psu.edu/30893.htm>