

Eye on Campus

Celebrating in Harrisburg with the Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference

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From April 8th through the 11th, college students from all over the Northeast Region met in Harrisburg to discuss and debate their ideas regarding centers that would further enhance education and all aspects of learning. Students met in small groups to communicate and discuss new ideas, including "Incorporating Multicultural Literature in the K-12 Curriculum," "Using Language as a Bridge to Accepting Cultural Differences," "Reach Out: Enhancing Education in the Dominican Republic," and "Eutopoloy: Playing Your Way Through Social Responsibility." These wordy topics are just a few of the many issues that students could discuss in their attempts to create new ways to learn in the Northeast.

"It is important to note that none of these student presenters are seniors," Dr. Laura Guertin added. "Undergraduate research is typically thought of as an activity that is not approached until the senior year, when students complete a capstone project." Waiting until one's senior year is not necessary when completing successful undergraduate work. In fact, noting that you were a part of something so substantial as an underclassman is extremely helpful when applying for a job. With this inspiration students are able to greatly increase the deference for their resume when compared to other applicants who are also entering the job market.

This article can not clearly do justice to the vast scope of ideas and topics that these students were able to discuss at the Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference, but my hope is to show the significance that this meeting had on enhancing the greater community.



Left, students gather in the gazebo before the Environmental Club's April 21st "Walk in the Woods." Photo provided by Kelly Crawford.



Penn State Brandywine Recognizes Its Finest in Academic Achievement

By Christina Felizzi - Editor-in-Chief - clf5050@psu.edu

The Spring 2010 Academic Recognition Ceremony was held Thursday, April 15 at 6:30pm in the Common's Building gymnasium. The families and friends of Penn State Brandywine students watched their sons and daughters being honored for their academic accomplishments for the spring semester. After a welcoming statement from Chancellor, Sophia Wisniewska, Senior Instructor of English, Patricia Hillen, also the recipient of the 2009 Madlyn Hanes Faculty Award, gave a inspiring speech on sustainability, not only in our environment, but in our futures.

Following Professor Hillen's insightful words, the honorees for the International English Honors Society, Sigma Tau Delta, were recognized, including junior June Carfagno, senior Andrew Dombalagian, senior Christina Felizzi, and Danielle Gridley. Next, Phi Kappa Phi inductees were honored, including Dombalagian and Felizzi again, in addition to Benjamin Bean, Jill Gillin, Jacqueline Glace, Shake Jebejian, and Iris Thai. If students fall in the top 7.5% of the junior or 10% of the senior classes, they are eligible to be elected into Phi Kappa Phi in one of Penn State's academic colleges.

The President's Freshmen Award was presented to a group of seven students who have earned a 4.00 (A) cumulative grade-point average based on 12 graded Penn State credits by the end of fall semester. Those students included Christopher Gramlich, Jurgen Kasa, Jeremy Lim, Skylar Luxon, Patricia McGinnis, Allison Rodia, and Thomas Wagner.

Also, Sophomore Vickie Francis was this year's recipient of The President Sparks Award. Not to be confused with the previous award, The President Sparks Award is given annually to undergraduate students who have earned a 4.0 cumulative grade-point average based on at least 36 graded Penn State credits, while not exceeding 59 total credits earned.

Once the rest of the 166 honorees from the various Penn State colleges were recognized, then followed the last set of awards, both student and faculty centered. First, the Dr. Randall S. Stout Memorial Award was awarded to Rebecca Hart, who could not be present at the ceremony, but was honored for her superior academic performance and outstanding

participation in the Bachelor of Science in Business Program at Penn State Brandywine.

Then, the 2010 Distinguished Teacher Award was presented to Professor Katherine Meehan, instructor of Human Development and Family Studies courses at Penn State Brandywine. This award honors a full-time faculty member who provides distinguished teaching while providing encouragement and incentive for teaching excellence and contributions to the Penn State Brandywine campus community.

Finally, Dr. Phyllis Cole, Professor of English was honored with the Faculty Research Program Award, which honors and recognizes scholarly or creative excellence in any area of the arts, humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, engineering, business or communication and rewards a substantial series of contributions or a single exceptional contribution to any of these areas.

The Undergraduate Research Faculty and Student Research Awards were given to Professor of Chemistry Michael De Rosa, of Wallingford, and sophomore Sara Neville, of West Chester, respectively. In addition, Senior Instructor in Business Administration Richard Barrett was the recipient of the 2010 George W. Franz Advising and Mentoring Award, which recognizes a faculty or staff at Penn State Brandywine who over time have excelled in helping others achieve their full potential.

Finally, Professor of Human Development and Family Studies Cynthia Lightfoot received the Madlyn Hanes Faculty Award, which recognizes a full-time faculty member at the campus who has made outstanding contributions to the campus community through exceptional achievement in teaching, research, scholarship, creative activity or service.

Prior to the ceremony, EURECA (Exposition of Undergraduate Research Enterprise and Creative Accomplishment) was also held in the Common's gymnasium. From teaching elementary school children fractions with pizza and creating mechanical dancing robots, this program showcased the research conducted by students in poster, computer, and video presentation form, and served as the perfect introduction to the awards ceremony which was to follow.



Left, students depart from the gazebo to enjoy the Environmental Club's April 21st "Walk in the Woods." Photo provided by Kelly Crawford. Above, students dance and play drums with Dr. Madden in the gazebo as a part of the Environmental Club's April 22nd Earth Day celebration. Photo provided by Evan Kroboth.