

# Eye on Campus

## Club Presidents Meet for Monthly Discussion

By Daniel J. Taylor – *Lion's Eye Editor* – djt5036@psu.edu

The Council of Club Presidents (CCP) is a monthly gathering of all the Brandywine campus' leaders. The leaders assemble in the club room on the second floor of the commons building to discuss the state of their respective groups, their intentions for the upcoming semester, and to maintain a tightly-knit relationship between the campus' organizations. All campus leaders are expected to attend.

The September 7th meeting of the CCP, scheduled for an 11:15 start, had spotty attendance, at best. The leaders in attendance—twelve presidents and five vice presidents—did not let the absences affect the meeting overall.

The meeting started a few minutes late, which was not a problem for the non-president streaming "Aqua Teen Hunger Force" until 11:17 or the three girls discussing Labor Day cottage slumber parties until 11:18. Most of the presidents did not arrive until about 11:20, however the meeting started promptly at that time.

The council meeting, chaired by former Student Government Association (SGA) president Brittney Walker and current Coordinator of Student Affairs Ronika Money, seemingly broke down into five sections: old business, new business, SGA news, club news, and (of course) Facebook safety.

The most important issues were reinforced multiple times by both Money and current SGA president, Jerry Fokas. The need for clubs and organizations to register was one of the primary "old business" topics, unregistered groups are unofficial and are unable to request funds at the campus' Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee (SAFAC) meetings. Last year, the Brandywine campus had exactly 30 clubs and organizations, including SGA, the cheerleading team, and THON, Penn State's university-wide philanthropic effort to benefit children with cancer. As of the most recent CCP meeting, however, the total number of registered clubs and organizations totaled a bleak seven. In order to be fair and transparent, it is worth noting that this organization- Penn State Brandywine The Lion's Eye- is not, at the time this article is being written, among those seven registered groups.

Additional old business discussed the success of August 25th's Club Rush, which drew in new recruits for many of the campus' official and unofficial clubs.

The matters of "new business" were exciting to many of the leaders. In particular, discussion of the annual PSU Day was stirring as club leaders got animated over opening up the campus to the community. PSU Day enables clubs to make themselves known to residents of the local area and interact with both children and adults and will also be celebrated with a 5K run/walk. Additional benefits discussed were the possibilities of attracting club sponsors, which can be extremely beneficial to clubs when funding gets tight.

Mentioning of funds was a clear transition to the funding portion of the meeting, where both Money and Fokas emphasized the importance of fundraising to self-sponsor club events. Because the SAFAC depleted 100% of the available funds by early Spring last year, there will be increased diligence in determining which organizations get money and how much. Fokas stated that the committee will not be content to simply write checks, but will be asking tough questions, and those organizations who cannot hold up to the heat, may be left in the cold as far as funding is concerned.

Fokas continued to speak as the meeting proceeded into a discussion of SGA news. Fokas was able to tell the other group leaders about an upcoming pep rally on campus, which is expected to have a homecoming theme. In addition to the pep rally, SGA is planning a campus dance, similar to last year's Blue and White Ball.



The 2010-2011 Student Government Association is just one of the many clubs and organizations here on the Brandywine Campus. Clubs and organizations are a great way to get involved, make friends and build your resume. Front row (l to r): Vinny Gallo, Treasurer; Bobbi Caprice, Vice President; Steph Tracy, Treasurer; Melissa Creely, Community Service Coordinator; Shari Mitchell, Diversity Affairs Chair; Brian Loch, Public Relations Officer. Back row (l to r): Matthew Shupp, Adviser; Chris Brown, Academic Affairs Chair; Kristy Crystle, Events Coordinator; Jerry Fokas, President; Danice Reid, Information Technology Officer; Jomela Dutt, Student Affairs Chair. Not pictured, Stephen Iatesta, Governmental Affairs Chair (photo courtesy of PSU Brandywine Student Affairs)

Following Fokas' cue, the other club leaders then proceeded to inform their peers of the scheduled meetings and activities of their respective programs. The groups intend to provide an exciting and interesting semester for the club members, scheduling conferences, speakers, parties, and fundraisers to advance their causes and increase a sense of community. All twelve clubs and organizations that were represented had at least one individual who spoke on behalf of their groups.

The last, and likely unscheduled, portion of the meeting was a 20-minute discussion about Facebook safety and etiquette. Money made clear to the leaders in attendance that internet information is not held in utter secrecy, and that with the use of internet search engines, especially Google, employers, university staff, or run-of-the-mill creeps could find private information about Facebook users.

All in all, the meeting was a productive use of the students' time, and served as a reminder to the club presidents of the significance of timeliness in registration and funding requests. Those groups represented at the meeting included the SGA, the Business Club, THON, the Black Student League, Penn in Hand, the Environmental Club, the Education Club, the Cheerleading team, the PSU Medical Society, The Lion's Eye, the IST Club, and the Lion Ambassadors. The next CCP meeting will be held in the Club Room of the Commons building at 11:15 AM on October 5th, 2010.

## SGA Plans For The Future

By Martina Delgado

*Lion's Eye Staff Writer* - mdd5136@psu.edu

The SGA starts off the fall semester with high spirits that their list of goals for Brandywine will be carried out successfully. After a long awaited meeting with President Jerry Fokas, he laid out some of the projects the student government will be putting in place. The SGA hopes to increase student activity on campus by promoting more Brandywine Pride. Promising the student body, during his campaign, to instill more pride on our campus, this task is a must for the new SGA. One plan is to develop a campus logo specifically for Brandywine. "We are Penn State Brandywine" will be transformed into a symbol that other campuses will notice and identify. The SGA also hopes to put an end to the search for more funding for campus clubs. Fokas quotes, "One way is for clubs to do community service. If the club goes out and performs service, SGA says 'here's one hundred dollars.'"

The lounge areas are another issue Fokas believes needs attention from the SGA. He states that they

are like hotel lounges. As a result, SGA plans to create more activities and liveliness in the lounges. Eventually, our walkways will have street names. Fokas emphasizes that adding names to the walkways will make it easier for students to locate buildings and friends.

SGA's plans for the year also include a task that Fokas explains is not impossible. The student government plans to move the school store to the Commons Building, since its primary location is "hidden." Fokas also hopes to provide the school store with carts so they can set up shop and sell apparel at campus sports games. In addition, the SGA plans to broadcast advertisements for upcoming campus events on all televisions. In attempt to make the campus more eco friendly, SGA wants to install blue lights near the parking lots and add recycling bins along the walkways. With more planning along the way, SGA begins the semester with a full agenda.

## Mac Attack Success!

By Sarah Sharp- *Lion's Eye Staff Writer* - ses5467@psu.edu

While students enjoyed their last weeks of summer and prepared for the stresses of the upcoming school year, ten returning students from the Jane E. Cooper Honors Program were already in the midst of planning a food drive for the first two weeks of classes. This food drive entitled "Mac Attack: Imagine the Possibilities" featured the delectable dish, Mac n' Cheese. Many may have noticed the numerous posters and the drop off locations throughout the campus from August 23 to September 3. In addition to the many posters and the drop off boxes around campus, the organizers of this program referred to as the "Mac and Cheese Crusaders," wore bright orange t-shirts to advertise.

In past years the Jane E. Cooper Honors Program has raised money and supplies for numerous organizations in the area and around the world. Past projects included collecting sneakers to recycle and turn into playground mats, raising funds for Haiti and organizing a ¼ mile of quarters for a school in Ghana. They also have organized a Vision Awareness day, educating students about service dogs and programs for reading to the blind. The honors program is now planning their next project.

At least once a semester the honors students decide on a different service project. Dr. Laura Guertin, one of the Honors Coordinator's and Associate Professor of Earth Science, explained that "this

community involvement enables honors students to be leaders and get involved in their community fulfilling the program's goal of leadership and civic engagement. This involvement also fulfills Penn State's land grant mission of serving the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."



The Honors Program works directly with Philabundance, the region's largest hunger relief organization. Philabundance requested a fund raiser for Macaroni and Cheese, not for its nutritional value, but because they want children to be able to experience a "normal" meal different from the soup and canned goods usually offered. In addition to needing donations, Philabundance always

needs volunteers to work in their warehouse sorting donations or in their grocery store where people can "shop" for what they need. Due to the poor economy, donations have been significantly lower than previous years thus, making it hard to meet the growing needs of the community. The Philadelphia area is the second hungriest Congressional district in the nation; therefore Philabundance needs all the help they can get.

Mac Attack was extremely successful surpassing their goal of 250 boxes by 102 boxes. With the donated boxes, the ten students involved in the food drive built a "canstruction" structure in the lobby of the Tomezsko Classroom Building.