

Campus News

SNOW EMERGENCY, POWER OUTAGE, FLOOD SITUATION BE PREPARED WITH PSU TEXT

By Nicholas Alejandro - Lion's Eye Staff Writer- nat5029@psu.edu

PSUTEXT is a service designed to alert the Penn State community via text messages when situations arise on campus that affect the school's ability to function normally. Students, faculty, and staff will be alerted of emergency situations while on campus, as well as when the campus is closed due to weather conditions or power outages.

All news feeds are optional. You will only receive messages from feeds that you specifically select.

Any cell phone number registered with the service is protected by encryption. It will be used exclusively for the Penn State PSUTXT alert system and is free for all subscribers. Moreover, it takes just minutes to register. Subscribers can elect to have alerts sent to an email address or mobile phone.

To register, visit <http://live.psu.edu/psutxt>. For information, contact Annemarie Mountz at AMountz@psu.edu.



Penn State Top Recruiter, Says WSJ

Special to the Lion's Eye - Jennifer Meritt, WSJ

U.S. companies largely favor graduates of big state universities over Ivy League and other elite liberal-arts schools when hiring to fill entry-level jobs, a Wall Street Journal study found.

Jennifer Merritt discusses a new Wall Street Journal survey, which reveals recruiters are shifting their attention away from elite private schools to focus instead on state universities.

In the study—which surveyed 479 of the largest public and private companies, nonprofits and government agencies—Pennsylvania State University, Texas A&M University and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign ranked as top picks for graduates best prepared and most able to succeed.

Of the top 25 schools as rated by these employers, 19 were public, one was Ivy League (Cornell University) and the rest were private, including Carnegie Mellon and University of Notre Dame.

The Journal research represents a systematic effort to assess colleges by surveying employers' recruiters—who decide where to seek out new hires—instead of relying primarily on measures such as student test scores, college admission rates or graduates' starting salaries. As a group, the survey participants hired more than 43,000 new graduates in the past year.

The recruiters' perceptions matter all the more given that employers today are visiting fewer schools, partly due to the weak economy. Instead of casting a wide net, the Journal found, big employers are focusing more intently on nearby or strategically located research institutions with whom they can forge deeper partnerships with faculty.

The Journal study didn't examine smaller companies because they generally don't interact with as many colleges. In addition, the survey focused on hiring students with bachelor's as opposed to graduate degrees.

The research highlighted a split in perception about state and private schools. Recruiters who named an Ivy League or elite liberal-arts school as a top pick say they prize their graduates' intellect and cachet among clients, as well as "soft skills" like critical thinking and communication. But many companies said they need people with practical skills to serve as operations managers, product developers, business analysts and engineers. For those employees—the bulk of their work force—they turn to state institutions or other private schools offering that.

Extreme Makeover, Vario Edition

By Kallie McLaughlin - Lion's Eye Staff Writer- kmm6327@psu.edu

One of the classrooms at the Vairo Library on campus has had an extreme makeover! Over the winter break, room 111 in the Vairo building was completely redone, including floors, furniture and a new paint job. The most important renovation to the classroom was a new, state of the art technology that was installed. Room 111 received a Video Learning Network system. The Video Learning Network (VLN) program helps to connect our campus to fifteen other Penn State campuses that also have the new upgraded network. Other Penn State campuses that have the VLN program include Berks, DuBois, Behrend, Fayette, Great Valley, Greater Allegheny, Harrisburg, Hazleton, the Learning Center in Lewistown, Lehigh Valley, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Schuylkill, University Park, the WilliamSPORT Center, and York.

The VLN program comes with a high tech video conferencing capability, which will enable us to talk face to face with others. The updated classroom comes equipped with viewing screens and cameras so the class will be able to have live interactions among other faculty and students from other campuses. Students will be able to talk to other students at other sites at a push of a button.

According to psu.edu, there are specific courses that can be taken for the VLN program, which are offered in a seven-week format combining face-to face chats, online instructions by the teachers and video conferences with a class. The teacher can have students from any of the other campus sites in the same room at the same time, via VLN, teaching them all the same subject.

Most classes take place in the evenings and on weekends to make it easier for the students participating in the program. The program is hoping to appeal to more students and help make school more convenient. People will be able to earn a degree, from the comfort of their own homes!

These days, it's harder for adults to earn their degrees because of other commitments such as jobs or families. The VLN program will help people who have those difficulties earn their degrees. By fall 2012, the VLN program is hoping to offer business and nursing degrees.

People have already gotten their degrees in various majors by participating in the VLN program. If you want to learn more about the VLN program, you can go online to our home website, or you could stop by the Vairo building and have a look for yourself!

Brandywine Campus Counselor Comes Aboard

By Robert Ripson - Lion's Eye Staff Writer- rlr283@psu.edu

The newest member of the Office of Student Affairs Counseling team is Ahyana King. Ms. King joined the team on January 3rd of this year and is eager to assist the student body in recognizing their potential as students, citizens, and healthy productive members in both their academic and personal lives.

Ms. King has an impressive array of credentials and extensive experience to assist students in supporting those questions that come up during college life. Ms. King has been a part of great organizations that helped those in transition through exacting times in their lives. One such organization was Women Organized Against Rape. In this capacity King spent two years counseling survivors of sexual abuse and assault. Another worthy endeavor she diligently gave her attention to was as Resident Director at A Better Chance, a national program which supports mentally gifted low income students, located in Swarthmore. In this capacity the institution would host teenage girls from all over the country, to help facilitate the students' goal of attending college. King also worked with Action Aids of Philadelphia, this organization helped with counseling those who were infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

King achieved her Masters in Mental Health, from Walden University, Minneapolis; after attaining her BA in Human Development and Family Sci-

ence, Messiah College, Grantham, Pa.

While King is working diligently within the realm of Students Affairs, her goals are to focus on wellness and prevention. Promoting mental health and assisting with developing coping skills. King stated, "In promoting these skills, it will help the student(s) to achieve their goals and have a rewarding experience before, during and after their time at Penn State Brandywine."

When asked why she chose counseling as an avocation, King responded, "to help someone realize that they are not crazy..." (who hasn't felt that way at some point during a semester) "...and to assist in the realization that the student is capable of achieving what they want out of life."

King, along with other counselors, will be holding on campus events to promote wellness seminars and that is something we all could utilize in our busy lives. One might ask, why would I need counseling? Why would I come to counseling? Some of the concerns you may have that can be addressed confidentially are: Anxiety, Depression, Life Transitions (i.e. adjusting to college, preparing to transfer to a different campus, graduating, becoming a parent, receiving a medical diagnosis, etc.), Relationships and Anger Management, just to name a few.

If you feel the need to talk to Ms. King, the phone number to make an appointment is 610-892-1270.

An Open Letter from Robert Ripson, Candidate for President of Student Government 2012-2013

As we are moving away from the school year of 2011 - 2012 the events that have transpired over the last six months have sullied our institutions reputation. The black eye always heals as will our beloved institution we know as Penn State.

I am running for the Presidency of the Student Government Association to restore and perpetuate the continued excellence that the Pennsylvania State University has worked for since it was established in 1855.

The business, academic, and social industries of the Philadelphia area and across the United States continue to value the extremely gifted graduates that the University

facilitates. Using the many resources that this campus offers, interacting with the clubs, faculty and staff we can and will continue the excellence of the Penn State tradition.

I am looking for like-minded students who know that Penn State is concerned with how our reputation will be preserved and how we as a student body can establish new precedents of excellence within our community. The offices of Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Head of Senate are open for your consideration. If you think you fit this profile, please contact me at rlr283@psu.edu. Intent to run registration deadline is Thursday, 17 February, 2012.