

“A Night With The Pride” Is A Night of Success

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On February 24, 2012, Penn State Brandywine held its fourth annual “A Night With The Pride” fund raising event at the Ballrooms at Boothwyn in Boothwyn, Pennsylvania. The annual event is the brain child of Theresa Walls, IT coordinator for PSU Brandywines IT Department. Co-Chairs that made this event the success it was are staff assistant Gail Wray and Dr. Susan Fredricks. The event has grown over the four years with last years' proceeds totaling six thousand dollars. Ms. Walls' goal for this year's event was to reach \$10,000.00, which would benefit both the Tiz Griffith Athletic Fund and the PSU Brandywine Global Programs Scholarship Fund.

There were over 180 people in attendance and the campus was well represented. The IT Department, Library Staff, Office of Student Affairs, Career Counseling, Administrators, Alumni and fellow students all attended in enthusiastic support for this effort. All this effort and support is to assist PSU Brandywine Athletics and the Global Programs the campus offers. On average it takes about \$250,000 annually to support the Athletic Department and provide student-athletes to be competitive in Division III athletics. One such Global program that benefits from this event is the current Barcelona trip that is taking place over Spring Break.

This events Master of Ceremonies was Dr. Matthew Shupp, Director of Student Affairs. After brief opening remarks Dr. Shupp handed the microphone over to Tiz Griffith, former Penn State Brandywine Athletic Director, who officially started the gala with brief remarks about the importance of the event and then the festivities began.

Dinner was catered by Lia's Catering, delicious food and deserts were thoughtfully prepared and eagerly devoured by those who savored the delectable morsels.

Fifty baskets were up for raffle in the money raising efforts, and contained everything from an X-box lover's basket to picnic baskets. Additionally, PSU memorabilia of all sorts were up for grabs. Raffle tickets for these items sold for \$1 for one and for a great deal you could purchase thirty chances for twenty dollars.

There were five special items available for a premium raffle of five dollars per ticket. Those in attendance were thrilled to take a chance on items such as tickets to Penn State Football, Phillies, Sixers, Flyers games, handyman services and the two most coveted prizes of the yearly event, beach houses: one in Avalon, New Jersey for a long weekend getaway., and a week getaway to Ocean City, Maryland in high style.

James A. Morgan, Director of Information Technology Services, happily won the week stay in Maryland. (So, beware, if you need computer assistance, better get it soon, the IT Department may be closed for a week!) The other big winner of



One of almost two hundred attendees at the 4th Annual “A Night With The Pride” examines the premium prizes up for chance. The yearly event has become a staple fundraiser at Penn State Brandywine, raising thousands of dollars to benefit the Tiz Griffith Athletic Fund and, new this year, the PSU Brandywine Global Programs Scholarship Fund. (photo by Robert Ripson)

the long weekend stay in Avalon was recent Brandywine graduate, Brittney Walker, who was flabbergasted, elated, and excited when her winning ticket was pulled and her name announced.

Special thanks must be given to the sponsors of the event. The list is long but kudos go out to the Penn State Alumni Society sponsoring the 50/50 raffle in which Shawn Manderson, President of the Society, relentlessly assured that he and the members of his board meticulously scoured the room so all could participate in the fun. Over \$500 was raised, and the portion that was to go to the Society was graciously donated back to the Pride Fund.

Manderson graduated from PSU in 2003 and was honored to be selected to reestablish the Alumni Society. The Society is also charged with securing funds for the Victor Spirizzi ACE Award, a gift awarded to a student who shows academic excellence and exceptional community service for the campus. Recently the Alumni Society is also in the midst of raising money for a University Trustee Scholarship program. They are well on their way to achieving this goal.

Moore Construction a main sponsor of the event was also present. Mr. and Mrs. Moore graciously raffled their Maryland vacation home for the event. This was their first year of involvement with the fund raiser and plan on returning again next year.

Senator William Hacket also made a planned visit to attend the gala. When asked how he came to learn of the event, Senator Hacket replied, “My son attends PSU Brandywine and it is honor to be a part of such a worthwhile event.” We are blessed to have such great support for our PSU community.

Impeachment of SGA Chairs Falls Through

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An emergency hearing was held Tuesday, 21 February 2012 in the Student Affairs conference room to discuss and vote on the impeachment of two Committee Chair persons. Charges were levied against Ana Elmasllari and Ryan Ashby, Student Diversity and Academic Affairs chairs respectively.

The proceedings were monitored by Dr. Matthew Shupp, Student Government Advisor and Director of Student Affairs. Dr. Shupp outlined how the hearing was to proceed as outlined in the Constitution of the Student Government.

The charges that were levied were dereliction of duty by both of the Chairperson. These charges were brought by Steve Iatesta, President of the Student Government Association (SGA). In attendance were nine members of the SGA council who were to vote on whether to impeach or not.

There was a call for questions prior to the start of the debate and none were offered.

Iatesta began the proceedings, offering his reason for the case of the impeachment. Iatesta summed up his reasoning stating, “Ryan and Anna did not perform to their tasks as meeting the criteria that were discussed in previous meetings.” Tasks that were allegedly not performed were the organizing and set up of ten diversity activities and negligent fulfillment of follow up reports regarding these events. Also allegedly not performed were repeated requests from email inquiries of the progress of Academic Affairs and Diversity activities which none were presented. Other allegations presented, time management, recruiting efforts,

Ryan Ashby was given the first opportunity to respond the allegations that were presented against him. Ashby's first defense to the allegations stemmed from the email inquiries that were allegedly not responded to. Ashby defiantly stated that indeed there were responses but any recommendations or suggestions that were put forth were unilaterally rejected and therefore, no further response were necessary, as thought by Ashby. Ashby also defended that it was not the responsibility of the SGA to recruit high school students or other members of the community in attending PSU Brandywine.

Ashby did admit that he may have not given his full attention to the activities that SGA had put out for him to consider, but that Ashby has cut back on his employment schedule to divert more energy and time to his SGA responsibilities.

Ashby also commented that when Iatesta initiates a task, there is almost no call for assistance from the body of the SGA and that Iatesta does not ask or want any assistance regarding them.

Next to defend against the allegations was Ana Elmasllari. Elmasllari had a prepared statement and read from it and addressed them. She stated that she was shocked by the allegations that were presented. Elmasllari also acknowledged that the possibility of the need to put forth more efforts towards the fulfillment of her duties. But that she indeed did fulfill some of the requirements that were requested of her, but for personal reasons, others could not because those reasons interfered within the time constraints.

SGA President Steve Iatesta charges two of his committee chairs with dereliction of duty but was unsuccessful in his efforts to have them removed from office.

Elmasllari, also commented that the proceedings were counterproductive and taking away from the creation of a positive attitude to framework for positive change. Continuing from her statement Elmasllari outlined future plans for the Campus Diversity Chair and the setting of realistic goals was her primary concern.

In summary Elmasllari is concerned about the way communication or lack thereof is a one way affair from the Presidency and through the chain of command. The SGA is a group project and all need to participate and no idea should be owned.

After her rebuttle and comments Dr. Shupp concluded this aspect of the proceeding and called for a vote on the impeachment. He asked that Iatesta, Ashby and Elmasllari leave the room as their votes were noted and that discussion could be deliberated and vote taken.

The executive board did want to make clear during this deliberation that in contrast to Iatesta's assertion that there was a unanimous call for impeachment, that indeed there were two abstentions out of five members to go forward.

After deliberation and votes taken and counted. As the required 2/3 majority needed for impeachment was not met for either defendant, keeping Elmasllari and Ashby as Chairpersons of the respective duties was the final outcome.



Ryan Ashby (top) and Ana Elmasllari (middle) were accused by SGA President Steve Iatesta (bottom) for failing to perform tasks assigned to them by SGA. The SGA did not hit the required 2/3 vote to proceed with impeaching Ashby and Elmasllari. (photos retrieved from facebook.com)