

Administrator steps up to new job

By LISA HAARLANDER
Collegian Staff Writer

A University official will be leaving March 29 to become president and chief executive officer of the Minnesota Medical Foundation.

Brad Choate, associate vice president of development and alumni relations, said the job was a step up from his current position.

"Having the opportunity to work with my own board of directors and having complete CEO responsibility is a great opportunity," Choate said.

Choate, who came to the University in 1990, also said he liked the Minnesota area.

"The Twin Cities are a wonderful area to live in," he said. "It's as close to State College as you can come with still having the advantages of a city."

A committee to find a replacement has not been formed yet, said Mike Bezilla, director of development, communications and special projects.

At the University, Choate organized several fund-raising efforts, including \$23 million in gifts for the Bryce Jordan Center, \$14 million for the Paterno Library and \$11 million for the Biomedical Research Building at the University's Hershey Medical Center.

In addition, between 1990 and 1995, the University's annual private gift income increased 33 percent to almost \$83 million. The number of alumni and friends making gifts increased 15 percent to 108,000, he said.

During the same time, the Office of University Development won eight national awards from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

G. David Gearhart, former senior vice president for development and University relations, left the University last fall but has continued to be friends with Choate and his wife.

He described Choate as an honest person of great integrity.

"He has helped build a solid program at the

University into one of the best programs in the country," he said. "Losing him is a great loss for Penn State. It's a great position for him and I'm very excited for him."

Bob Groves, executive director of development, said it is not unusual for people in Choate's profession to change jobs.

"People are always making offers to try to lure you to another opportunity," Groves said. "There are many institutions in major campaigns or about to start campaigns."

Groves said one of Choate's greatest accomplishments was keeping the staff together after the University's last fund-raising campaign, which ended in 1990 and raised more than \$352 million. The University's next campaign may raise close to \$1 billion.

"There's a tendency after big campaigns for people to go their own ways," he said. "With Brad's leadership, we kept the dollar totals growing and a great staff in place. He made things happen and was very well respected."

IRA

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cease-fire with Great Britain Feb. 9 when a bomb exploded in a London business district. Bombs were detonated in a phone booth and on a bus in the following weeks.

Ronald Hoover, assistant professor of English at the Altoona Campus, said the recent attacks are primarily because of the lack of movement in the peace talks.

British Prime Minister John Major has been hesitant with peace talks, Hoover said.

"I would suppose their idea is to get directly to the top to get things moving," he said.

Hoover said he sees no reason why the conflict cannot eventually be resolved.

"There's no real sense in continuing to slaughter innocent individuals," he said.

Stephen Cimballa, professor of political science at the Delaware County Campus, said terrorism is like an addiction — once some people get involved, it is hard to give up. The question is whether people

can stop their terrorist activities.

"I would say these bombings show there are some factions out there that don't want a peace agreement," he said.

"Winding down terrorism is harder than winding it up. It becomes like a fix," Cimballa said.

Cimballa said his sympathies do not lie with the British and their claims for a colonial power.

He said he supports a phase withdrawal from Northern Ireland with or without a peace agreement between the two parties.

"No one's given me a very persuasive argument that the British should stay," Cimballa said.

Though the students don't anticipate the conflict to be resolved while they are there, they do expect to learn some lessons in international politics.

Bradley said she wants to bring back experiences and share them with others.

"You can read about it in the papers but it's different to see it and experience (it), Bradley said.

Shuster

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How long it will take the justice department to decide whether or not to start an investigation is anyone's guess, Russell said.

And just what damage this investigation will cause is up in the air. Robert O'Connor, associate professor of political science, said Shuster will be able to survive all but the worst political scandals because he has known Eppard for years.

"If we had a hidden camera showing Shuster taking money in small bills, or large bills, then it would be easy to see it as wrong," he said.

Republicans are confident that Shuster's credibility will hold up.

Joe King, executive director of the Republican State Committee of Pennsylvania, said Shuster's constituents trust him.

"They know him to be honest and ethical," he said.

But King said the allegations may develop into a real problem for Shuster in the future because criminal charges are involved.

"At this point we're going to have to wait and see what comes from it," he said. "Nobody has made any type of judgment on the issue, so what we have here is just another guy with an opinion."

O'Connor said it is possible that the alleged ethical violations could cause Shuster to be voted out by his colleagues, but it is not likely.

"They're not going to say, 'Elmer, it's time,'" he said, referring to Shuster's given name.

One prominent Blair County Republican feels Shuster's effectiveness has been damaged.

Blair County Commissioner John Eichelberger said he is troubled by the allegations and feels Shuster will not be able to do as good a job in Congress while under investigation.

"Anytime you have a credibility problem it affects the way you do your work," he said. "It would affect the way I do my job as county commissioner."

But O'Connor said the credibility problems will not affect Shuster's job performance.

"The fact that he is under investigation is irrelevant," he said. "He is still the chairman."

Blair County Republicans will not be affected by Shuster's problems, Eichelberger said.

"He has not supported the local party for years," he said.

"He goes his way and we go ours."

One Blair County Democrat has mixed feelings about the possibility of an investigation into the situation.

Pat Stoner, chairman of the Blair County Democratic Committee, said that while an investigation will improve the Democrats' fortunes in the area, it might hurt local people.

Habitat

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Liz Ehrstein (senior-psychology) said her trip to South Dakota will also be a unique experience.

"We're going to an Indian reservation," she said. "I think that will be very interesting."

Ten students will be working with Native Americans on a Sioux reservation in Eagle Butte. Ehrstein said she looks forward to being treated as part of the community on the reservation.

The 20-person trip to Mississippi is also an attempt to make a community better. Muchi said the state has the lowest income per capita in

the United States. The city they will be visiting, Meridian, is the second largest city in Mississippi.

McSparran said creating relationships with the people in the community and other students is one of the best features of the charity trip.

"Just getting to know these people is a great time," he said. "It's exciting because of what we are all doing."

The people were also the main interest for Ehrstein.


"It's a good feeling when people who are going to live (in the house) work along side you," she said.

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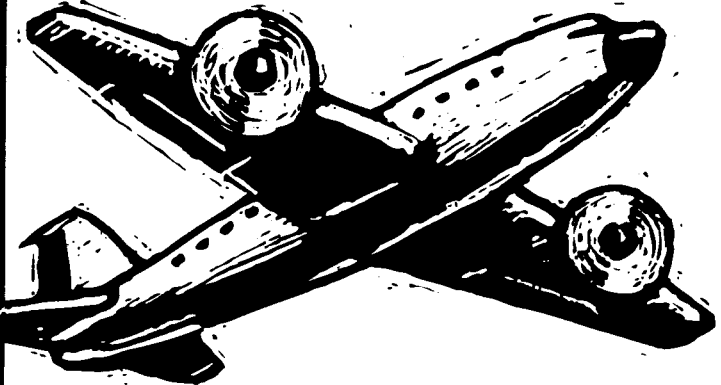
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