



Alexis Simchak/Collegian

Members of the chemistry fraternity, Alpha Chi Sigma, listen to Lt. Jesse Humphries talk about opportunities in the military on Tuesday night. The fraternity is collecting gifts to send to overseas troops.

Frat collects gifts for troops

By Somer Wiggins
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

United States Marine Corps Major Erik Orient knows first hand what it's like to receive care packages from friends, family and strangers back home.

While stationed overseas, Orient received so many care packages he couldn't even open the door to his room.

"I cannot thank you enough for what you are doing," Orient said to the students in Alpha Chi Sigma fraternity Tuesday night as he read from a thank you letter he wrote after receiving all of the care packages.

The co-ed chemistry fraternity is currently collecting goods to put in gift bags that it will send to the unit it supports, which is stationed in Afghanistan. The care packages will include decks of playing cards, hand sanitizer and magazines among other things.

To begin the collection, which will continue through the end of the semester, United States Navy Lieutenant Jesse Humphries and

Orient spoke to the fraternity about science and technology in the military. Humphries spoke to the students about working on a submarine and the new technologies within the Navy.

"I love submarines," Humphries said. "Best job in the navy, bar none."

He told the students about the latest in weapon technology, including stealth weaponry that can barely be detected and ships that can travel up to top classified speeds. He also showed videos of what the Navy is doing to help the general public, such as creating a new prosthetic arm that operates like one's own arm.

"That's absolutely crazy," Humphries said. "Like something out of scientific fiction."

Orient spoke to the students about improvised explosive devices (IED) and how dangerous they are because of how easily hidden they can be.

He showed a picture of a typical street in Iraq, and students pointed out where on the street an IED could be hidden —

there were five different spots.

He spoke of various ways the soldiers are trying to protect themselves against these weapons and how difficult it can be. Aviance Carter, who is pledging Alpha Chi Sigma fraternity, said she thought it was a good idea to have the military members come speak to them and found it interesting, particularly the part about the prosthetic arm.

"That was weird," Carter (sophomore-premedicine) said. During the program, Melissa Harkavy passed out bright index cards for students to write 'thank you's' to the troops that will be sent along with their care packages.

"It's the one way we can give back," Harkavy (sophomore-geology) said. She added that she has a very close friend in the Marines and she knows these packages mean a lot to them.

"I finally found something I can do to help and it's very empowering," Harkavy said.

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Web site offers new book venue

By Valerie Tkach
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

One business hasn't been affected by the poor economy: a textbook-renting Web site that does a little bit for the environment after each transaction.

Chegg.com is an online bookstore that lets students rent textbooks for a semester and then ship them back once the term is over — a Netflix for textbooks, according to the Web site. For every textbook rented or purchased, company owners plant one tree.

"Textbook rentals have been around for a few years, but I think with college tuitions continuing to climb and higher unemployment rates, parents and students are looking for any and all ways to cut costs," company spokeswoman Tina Couch said.

But local stores are not worried about the eco-friendly textbook site.

Ben Lambert, manager of Got Used Student Bookstore, 206 E. College Ave., said the customer service quality is not the same when you shop online as compared to when students come into the store.

"We get all our information directly from the university," he said. "We know what the students need."

Started by two friends, Aayush Phumbhra and Osman Rashid, Chegg.com has been used by students at more than 6,400 universities — Penn State among them — and has planted more than 3,000 acres of trees in 21 countries.

Phumbhra, who graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in marketing and accounting, wanted to help college students save money on textbooks.

"Moving here from India, the exchange rate made textbooks really expensive for me," Phumbhra said. "It's why I wanted to start a company like Chegg.com to help students like

me save money on something that is a painful thing to do." And many bookstores won't even buy

books back at the end of the semester, he said. This is what he said makes Chegg.com so different.

"We take back your books no matter what, free of cost," he said. "Even if there is a new edition coming out, we still take the old one."

Phumbhra added if students happen to have old textbooks lying around they couldn't sell back to the bookstore, Chegg.com will buy it.

"We'll buy your textbook back from you even if you bought it from another store and give you top dollar for it," he said.

Christopher Agostini, Class of 2009, started using Chegg.com when he was at Penn State after his grandmother stumbled upon the site.

"I thought it was too good to be true, but they did everything perfect," he said.

"The books always showed up when they said they would and they always had the books I needed for my classes."

"We'll buy your textbooks back from you ... and give you top dollar for it."

Aayush Phumbhra
Founder of Chegg.com

S.C. representatives move to impeach governor

By Jim Davenport
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

COLUMBIA, S.C.— South Carolina lawmakers took positions on either side of the first formal move to impeach Gov. Mark Sanford on Tuesday, a day before the release of a pivotal decision into the embattled Republican's travel practices.

Four Republican legislators sponsored a measure calling for Sanford's impeachment solely based on his five-day trip to see his Argentine mistress in June.

They said his absence, failure to appoint someone to run the state while he was away, and leading staff to believe he was hiking the Appalachian Trail resulted in dereliction of duty and brought "extreme dishonor and

shame" on the state. A top state Republican said heftier allegations would be needed for an impeachment move against the two-term governor, but proponents said they believed Sanford's summertime trip alone amounted to serious misconduct.

"I don't need any more than that," said state Rep. Greg Dellaney, the Chester Republican who authored the measure and who for months has called for the governor to step down.

Ben Fox, the governor's spokesman, declined to comment on the measure, which was filed on the first day bills could be introduced for consideration when the Legislature reconvenes in January.

The political maneuvering comes more than four months after Sanford returned from Argentina, admitted to an extramarital affair

with a woman he called his soul mate and watched his rising political star fade.

In the ensuing weeks, Jenny Sanford and their four sons moved out of the governor's mansion in Columbia. She is now writing a book about the experience and says the two are separated. The ethics probe began after a series of Associated Press investigations found Sanford improperly used state aircraft for personal and political trips, flew in pricey seats on commercial flights despite rules requiring low-cost travel and failed to report trips he'd taken on private planes.

A onetime prospect for the 2012 GOP presidential nomination whose term expires in January 2011, Sanford has brushed off numerous calls for his resignation from state Republicans.

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