

NEWS IN BRIEF

College of Science looks for new name

The Eberly College of Science is looking for a creative name for the new undergraduate science student center that will be located in the Ritenour Building.

The college is sponsoring a contest for students to submit name suggestions. The winner will receive an iPod touch and a \$250 gift certificate to the Penn State Book Store.

The contest runs through Jan. 25, and the entry form is available at nameme.science.psu.edu.

Visiting nurse denies killing Pa. boy

LANCASTER, Pa. (AP) — A former visiting nurse says she did not kill an 11-year-old central Pennsylvania boy with a lethal dose of morphine.

Fifty-year-old Joy O'Shea Woomer took the stand Thursday at her homicide trial in Lancaster County Court.

She's charged in the September 2002 death of 11-year-old Brent Weaver, who had cerebral palsy. He died from a lethal dose of morphine.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

■ Appy Sluijs, of Utrecht University in the Netherlands, will speak on "Global Change During the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum" at noon in 541 Deike Building.

■ Soo-Jong Rey, of the Seoul National University and Institute for Advanced Study, will speak at 1:15 p.m. in Composite Fermion Laboratory about "Dyon Black Hole in Composite Fermion Metal."

■ David Rain, of George Washington University, will speak at 4 p.m. in 112 Walker Building about "Tro-tros, Waypoints, and Castle Milk Stout: The Making of a Neighborhood Map of Accra, Ghana."

■ Federico Rodriguez Hertz, of the Institute of Mathematics and Statistics (Uruguay), will be speaking Monday, Jan. 18 at 3:30 p.m. in 106 McAllister Building.

■ Cosmin Anitescu, of Syracuse University, will speak "On the Convergence Properties of the Generalized Finite Element Method," Monday, Jan. 18 at 3:35 p.m. in 216 McAllister Building.

LUNCH

Findlay, Pollock and Redifer: cream of potato soup, vegetarian bean chili, cheese lasagna, chili dog sauce, hot dog, hot dog bar, rice, sauerkraut, Thai chicken stir fry, french fries, harvest blend, vegetarian baked beans

Simmons: grilled chicken sandwich, BBQ chicken sandwich, bruschetta flatbread pizza, chicken and roasted vegetable pasta, rustica flatbread pizza, tofu skillet, broccoli florettes, chick pea bulghur, tomato pilaf, grilled eggplant, roasted garlic potatoes, roasted vegetables, sauteed cabbage, wild rice

Waring: cream of potato soup, lunch roll basket, soup of the day, chicken cosmo riot, harvest blend, quarter pound hamburger, shoestring fries, turkey wrap, vegetarian burger, chicken and broccoli stir fry, chees pizza, chicken fajita pizza, macaroni and cheese, marinara sauce, meat sauce, pepperoni pizza, zucchini ribbon penne, broccoli florettes, cheddar cheese sauce, hearty vegetarian chili, vegetable turnovers, vegetarian bean chili, velvet gravy

DINNER

Findlay, Pollock, Redifer and Warnock: Cream of potato soup, vegetarian bean chili, battered fried fish, cheese pizza, basmati tikka masala, grilled chicken breast, pepperoni pizza, chicken rice, Monaco blend, Old Bay steak fries, quinoa and vegetables

Simmons: ham, basil and low fat swiss panini, baked salmon with cashew pesto, grilled chicken breast, grilled chicken with mustard sauce, portabella fajita, broccoli florettes, chick pea bulghur, tomato pilaf, grilled eggplant, roasted garlic potatoes, roasted vegetables, sauteed cabbage, wild rice

Waring: assorted specialty breads, cream of potato soup, soup of the day, BBQ chicken sandwich, broccoli florettes

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Weather:

Today: High 43



Tonight: Low 30



Tomorrow: High 41



Extended forecast campusweatherservice.com Courtesy of Campus Weather Service

UPUA

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Eight relief organizations, some of which are based in Haiti, have been selected to receive funds, said Judy Albin, senior associate director for Union and Student Activities.

Donators can put cash into envelopes for the organization they wish to donate to, she said. Students who cannot make it to the HUB can donate to any of the organizations

through their Web sites. Albin stressed that it is important to incorporate Haitian organizations into the relief effort.

"It's best to give to organizations in Haiti," she said. "That way, we know the money will definitely make it there."

The fundraiser was first discussed Thursday morning at a meeting of the Council of LionHearts, a student volunteer group managed through Student Affairs. LionHearts Adviser and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Philip Burlingame proposed taking donations.

Jim Harvey, director of the

Council of LionHearts, said the current focus is cash donations, but groups hope to expand as more organizations get involved.

"We have the resources at the roundtable to reach all facets of campus," Harvey (senior-English) said. "We want people to research and get involved with this story."

Penn State students experiencing distress related to the disaster may seek counseling services from CAPS. Call 814-863-0395 for an appointment.

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Diversity

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decline in minority students that could potentially take place and currently focuses its fundraising efforts on increasing the amount of need-based financial aid available, said Penn State spokeswoman Jill Shockey.

"Public universities have a shortage of funds to support needy students," Shockey said. "Our appropriations haven't kept pace. As a result, the university is aware of the need of first generation and low-income students for financial assistance. I know at Penn State it is a matter of historically our appropria-

tions haven't kept pace over time with the student need."

Shockey also said that tuition at University Park is higher than the tuition at Commonwealth Campuses, where many lower income and minority students tend to go.

The study also reported that low-income students who attend flagship public universities have to carry the burden of an "unmet" financial need equal to about 70 percent of their family's income. Statistics like this are alarming to people like Kimberly Griffin, an assistant professor at Penn State who has researched the access and experiences of underrepresented communities in

regard to higher education.

"This is a trend we've been talking about for a while," Griffin said. "Tuition is increasing at faster rates, and it's becoming more and more of a challenge."

Griffin also said that as public universities increasingly become more highly sought-after and competitive to enter, minority and low-income students will have trouble competing for spots in the next year's freshman class.

Students in these categories often have limited access to advanced classes and SAT preparation courses, as well as attending school in sparser facilities.

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Greeks

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officials. The meeting came at the request of the Lion Fraternity Alumni Association (LFAA), a group for Penn State greek alumni, according to a press release.

IFC President Max Wendkos (senior-marketing and psychology) said the group came up with several good ideas and is ready to create an action plan.

Some of the initiatives discussed included creating an IFC community relations committee, establishing a new strategy for neighborhood policing and creating an Emergency Room unit at the University Health Services that requires completion of a detoxification education program.

One of those initiatives — the creation of a community relations committee — is especially significant to Wendkos. When he ran for IFC President last fall, creating a community relations committee to focus

on the Highlands district was one of his platforms.

Wendkos said he was also pleased that those in attendance recognized that the issues are not limited to the greek community and that future progress is likely to stem from the meeting.

"The problems we're facing are school-wide," he said. "I believe that all of the parties there were excited at the prospect of a possible solution."

State College Mayor Elizabeth Goreham said she also was pleased with both the attitude of those in attendance and the outcome of the meeting.

"I was hoping we could have an open and frank discussion of the issues," she said. "The outcome greatly exceeded my expectations."

The four core ideas addressed at the meeting were town and gown relations, accountability, community service and alumni relations and mentoring, Goreham said.

"One of the main ideas is to main-

tain communication and work on it from here," she said. "We didn't really focus on any one issue, just the problems that we all agree need to be addressed."

Damon Sims, Penn State vice president for Student Affairs, expressed similar sentiments in an e-mail Thursday, writing that he felt as though the meeting provided a starting point for change.

"I look forward to continuing these discussions with the various constituencies involved, most importantly our student," he wrote in the e-mail. "No single discussion will resolve the matter, but the sum of many conversations and actions over the span of months, if not years, may produce the outcomes we all seek."

Though no definitive date is set for the next meeting, the group is expected to meet again early next month, according to the press release.

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Loop

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especially toward on-campus students.

UPUA Student Life and Diversity Chairman Christian Ragland said students were initially skeptical of the flyers, but were more welcoming once they discovered the extended hours.

"People just think it's another thing we're handing out," he said. "But when they take it, they're like, 'yeah!'"

Ragland (junior-political science) said UPUA is working on other ways to spread the word, including a potential partnership with Residence Life for a door-to-door campaign.

The White Loop extension has been one of UPUA's major projects

and came into being after negotiations for a proposed "Highlands Loop" fell through. At Wednesday night's general assembly meeting, \$11,040 in funds for the initiative was released.

Many students in East Halls were enthusiastic about the new White Loop hours.

Morgan Delaware (freshman-journalism) said she had forgotten about the extension until the flyer was in her hands.

"He just reminded me, and I got really excited," she said, adding that she would definitely be using the extension.

Other students said they were surprised that initiative was successful and by the length of the extension.

"I was surprised by how late it was going to go," Michele Studer (freshman-marketing) said. "I'll def-

initely take advantage of it."

This weekend, UPUA was monitoring student usage of the extended hours as they look to the future of the initiative, as it is the first major UPUA activity of the semester. Members of assembly, or "ambassadors," as they are calling them, will be riding on the White Loop during the extended hours over the next several weeks.

Blake Bonnewell, an off-campus representative, said he was glad the White Loop extension was successful after the UPUA's long battle for late-night transportation.

"It's not like we're encouraging people to go out, we're just getting them home safely," Bonnewell (junior-mechanical engineering) said.

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Breach

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mits extensive discretion as to when, who and why the notice is required," Bagby wrote.

A school at risk

Steve Sharer, president of Penn State's Security and Risk Analysis Club, said while it could be possible that someone or something was specifically targeting the infected computers, the probability of that being a reality is "pretty low."

Sharer (junior-security and risk analysis) said security breaches can happen to any computer. There's no specific cause that leads to a breach — there are many avenues to attain information, he said.

While the university requires students to share their Social Security numbers, it is never good practice for someone to share their information online, he said.

"People shouldn't be putting their Social Security numbers into a Web site unless it's something like a banking Web site — it's better to [give out that information] in person," Sharer said.

Penn State recently changed students' identification numbers from their Social Security number to a nine-digit number, and Davidson said he understands there could have been some issue with a transfer. But, he said, this should not be something that continues.

"You think they would have fixed that problem when it first came up," Davidson said.

Penn State investigates

Penn State spokeswoman Annemarie Mountz said a forensic investigation determined that the

malware discovered in December infected computers holding archived files containing identifying numbers like Social Security numbers.

It could not be determined how the virus got onto computers, but she said it may have come from "clicking on any number of things."

Indeed, when the computers were upgraded, files could have been taken from the old machines and no one would even have known they were there, Mountz said.

There is no way to tell if the records on the infected computers were accessed, Mountz said. But Penn State made sure to notify by letter all of the individuals whose identification numbers were stored in the archived files.

But the records are years old, she said, and it is unlikely that any current student would have been included in the breach.

"If they didn't get a letter, their information wasn't on the computers," Mountz said.

Using protection

Sharer said while he does not know Penn State's policies on retaining former students' information, the best practice when moving files is to review all data that is being moved and used, especially when it is in large batches like at Penn State.

Computers can be protected against malware and other types of viruses by running up-to-date anti-virus programs, Sharer said.

"They're only as good as how fast they're updated," he said. "A program some hacker made three months ago could still be in the system."

Malware often spreads by copying itself from one computer to the next

within a certain network — which is how Penn State computers could have been infected.

"There is probably the same piece of malware on these systems that is on 10,000 others all over the world," Sharer said.

The university responds

Penn State has said it abided by privacy regulations. Mountz said the university's response to security breaches has been carried out according to the Pennsylvania Breach of Personal Information Notification Act.

State law mandates that "notice shall be made without unreasonable delay" in the event of a security breach, though there is no specified time requirement.

In addition to the breaches in November and December, Bagby wrote that there have been many more records put at risk in the past.

In January 2008, information from 677 students' laptops was stolen, he said.

In January 2009, the Office of Physical Plant notified about 1,000 individuals that their records may have been put at risk, and in April, 10,868 individuals at Penn State Behrend received notification letters.

Meanwhile, Davidson said although he can't say for certain if the security breach at Penn State compromised his personal information, he would have liked to see the university rectify the issue as soon as it surfaced.

"I would hope that when I give my personal information to such a large organization like that, they can prevent these issues," he said.

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