



Catherine Coren, of State College, browses the dealer's gallery at the 2010 Setsucon Anime Convention, held Saturday and Sunday at the Days Inn.

## PSAO anime event draws large crowds

By Chris Bickel  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

With people dressed as Ness from Super Smash Brothers to Spock from "Star Trek" — along with the guest appearance of anime's "Justin Timberlake" equivalent — the Setsucon anime convention reached record attendance this weekend.

Visitors dressed in costumes ranging from video game to anime characters were the norm this weekend at the Days Inn, 240 S. Pugh St. This weekend marked the fourth annual Penn State Anime Organization's (PSAO) Setsucon anime convention.

Anthony Ellison, 27, said he is a "Risenbool Ranger" — a member of anime voice actor Vic Mignogna's fan club — and attended the convention for the first time because of Mignogna's appearance.

"He is like the Justin Timberlake of anime," Ellison said. "Vic is one of the voice actors, and he's one of my inspirations."

Ellison said he loved Mignogna's vocal performance, which he said was a rarity at anime conventions. "I was this close to crying," he said. "It was totally that epic."

Though PSAO President Dan Cicconi (senior-new media) estimated a crowd of about 600 attendees, his approximation was blown away. The convention reached its maximum occupancy limit — about 900 attendees and staff members — before noon Saturday. Setsucon Vice President Maggie Dumagin said this was partly due to Mignogna's popularity. "We had more people come this year than expected," she said. "It's heart-breaking to have to turn people away."

Having been around since the first convention as an emcee, Frank Criscione said he's seen a "weird network" form between convention-goers, who tell their friends about conventions they haven't been to.

"It's a sad and scary thing," said Criscione. Class of 2007. "Everyone who goes to conventions all know each other."

While some convention-goers were enjoying the events, others were enjoying the "cosplayers" — people who dress up as their favorite anime characters.

Ben Weldy, vice-president of PSAO, said he saw several costumes that impressed him, citing "Lyn" from the Fire Emblem series as an example.

"When people ask to take their picture with you, that's really the biggest compliment you can give to a cosplayer," Weldy (senior Japanese and Eastern Asian studies) said.

And Paula Godshall (freshman visual arts) did just that — putting several weeks into creating the Lyn costume that left Weldy awestruck.

But not only anime fans can be found at these conventions. Val O'Donnell (senior-electrical engineering) showed up dressed as Spock, a character from "Star Trek." Though she didn't dress up as an anime character this year, O'Donnell said people were still excited about her costume and asked to take pictures.

"I bust out my phaser and strike a pose — set phasers to fabulous," she said.

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To watch a video of interviews with visitors to the convention who dressed up as characters from TV shows and films: [psucollegian.com](http://psucollegian.com)

# Group calls for Mann's external investigation

By Colleen Boyle  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

A conservative research organization has called on state lawmakers to conduct an outside investigation of embattled researcher Michael Mann, saying Penn State's inquiry is tainted by a conflict of interest.



Mann

In the past month, the Commonwealth Foundation released a 10-page policy statement urging the Pennsylvania General Assembly to commission an external and independent investigation of the Penn State meteorology professor.

Penn State's inquiry was prompted when hundreds of illegally obtained e-mails were leaked last November from a private server in the climate research unit at the University of East Anglia in England. Critics say the e-mails suggest that data released by Mann and his colleagues may have misrepresented climate change.

A spokesman from the foundation said the inquiry Penn State has been conducting into Mann's ethics is inappropriate, considering the university's "glaring conflict of interest."

"If the school conducts the investigation, there is likely to be a white-wash given that a negative finding

## Policy RA-10

The policy Penn State uses to handle inquiries and investigations on research misconduct. One facet of the policy defines misconduct as "fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or other practices that seriously deviate from accepted practices within the academic community for proposing, conducting, or reporting research or other scholarly activities."

Source: <http://guru.psu.edu/policies/RA10.html>

would harm the school's reputation," said Joe Sterns, communications director for the Commonwealth Foundation.

As of press time, no Pennsylvania lawmakers had responded to the foundation's policy letter.

But Penn State spokeswoman Lisa Powers expressed her confidence in Penn State's ability to carry out a fair inquiry.

"From what I have heard and read, [the Commonwealth Foundation] already believes Professor Mann is guilty and that Penn State is unable to conduct a fair and impartial inquiry," she said. "We take issue with that, and I encourage the Commonwealth Foundation to wait until Penn State's review of the case is concluded before they condemn it."

Penn State began the inquiry Nov. 29 and will conclude on Jan. 29.

The inquiry is being conducted according to Penn State policy, said Henry Foley, vice president for

research at Penn State. Foley and fellow Penn State faculty members William Brune, head of the meteorology department, and Candice Yekel, director of the Office of Research Protections, are conducting the inquiry.

Based on their findings, the panel will decide whether to proceed with a deeper investigation of Mann.

Powers also said Penn State has a good track record for handling these types of inquiries.

"Any notion that we are not prepared to be objective in evaluating our own or are incapable of invoking appropriate sanctions in the event of misconduct is incorrect," Powers said. "We would not jeopardize the integrity of the entire institution and its researchers for a single individual."

Mann did not comment on the inquiry, saying that a response would be inappropriate.

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# Grad student faces felony charges

By Greg Galiffa  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

A Penn State graduate student faces felony charges after police said she sent several threatening text messages to her ex-boyfriend and his girlfriend during Thanksgiving break.

Kathleen Lengel (graduate-biochemistry, microbiology and molecular biology) was taken into custody Friday after being charged with two counts of felony intimidation of witnesses or victims and two counts of felony retaliation against witness, victim or party, according to court documents.

She was also charged with two counts of misdemeanor stalking and six counts of misdemeanor harassment, police said.

Lengel's ex-boyfriend and his girlfriend recently contacted authorities after they began receiving text messages from Lengel saying she is going to come after them, Penn State Police said.

The girlfriend told police she was afraid to leave her home, and the ex-boyfriend reported it has affected the couple's everyday life.

The threats have even caused the girlfriend's employer to heighten security at her work, police said.

The girlfriend told officers on Nov. 19 that Lengel started sending her texts at the beginning of the month, police said.

They were "annoying" at first, she told police, but over time, they had her "concerned about her life," police said.

In several of the texts reported to police, Lengel called her ex-boyfriend a "fag," asked about the couple's sex life and threatened the girlfriend by saying she was going to "blow her brains out," police said.

At the end of November, Lengel was arrested on charges of terroristic threats, stalking and harassment of victims and was released on a \$25,000 bail, police said.

Her charges were waived on Nov. 25, just prior to her preliminary hearing, police said.

During Thanksgiving break, police said the girlfriend received several telephone calls from a withheld number at her family's Thanksgiving dinner.

The girlfriend said she did not answer the calls because she was afraid it might be Lengel, police said.

Lengel's ex-boyfriend, along with several of the girlfriend's family members, answered a few of the calls, but the caller did not speak, police said.

The couple reported they received 20 calls total.

The ex-boyfriend tried calling Lengel on her phone, but she did not pick up, police said.

She did, however, make two phone calls to authorities that were then terminated when the dispatch answered, police said.

Lengel's ex-boyfriend reported he received several more text messages at about 8 p.m. the same day.

The messages referred to the girlfriend as a "whore" and claimed the couple was destroying the sender's life.

The sender also wrote "I still love u, please dont destroy my future or my death will b on your hands," police said.

At about 10 p.m., police said they unsuccessfully tried contacting Lengel at her home in Patton Township.

The ex-boyfriend stopped receiving the texts at about 10:20 p.m., police said.

On Jan. 14, police were able to connect the Thanksgiving calls to Lengel. Lengel posted bail of \$35,000 Saturday. Her preliminary hearing is set for 8:30 a.m. Wednesday.

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# CAREER

# INTERVIEW

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**GetConnected + StayConnected**

Who: First Year Students

What: An opportunity to learn:

- About various career options and what to major in
- How to get experience and make the most of your time at Penn State
- What employers want
- And More

When: January 21 from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Career Services Center (On the corner of Bigler and Eisenhower Roads)

How: Stop by and GetConnected to the staff and career information all in one location, all in one visit!

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Watch for more information about these and other programs in *The Daily Collegian* every Tuesday. Go online at [www.studentaffairs.psu.edu/career/](http://www.studentaffairs.psu.edu/career/) for a quick look at all upcoming workshops and events!

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