

PSU differs from national gender stats

By Laurie Stern
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Gender equality is often associated with increasing opportunities for women, but a goal reversal has taken place at some colleges as admissions officers attempt to increase the number of male students.

A recent report by the American Council on Education, an organization that "seeks to provide leadership and a unifying voice on key higher education issues," found there has been a push to stabilize the gender gap in higher education and admit more men. Most colleges host more women than men, the report found.

But this is not the case at Penn State.

Men made up almost 55 percent of Penn State enrollment in the fall 2009 semester, though women have held the title of student majority nationally since 2000. Women have consistently made up 57 percent of the total number of enrolled undergraduates and bachelor's degree earners across the nation over the past 10 years.

But Penn State's Executive Director of Undergraduate Admissions Anne Rohrbach wrote in an e-mail that gender is not considered when evaluating potential students.

"Admissions is reaching out to a diverse population of students, but not based on gender," Rohrbach wrote.

Jacqueline King, the author of the report, attributes Penn State's deviation from the national statis-

tics to its strong programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. Programs typically more popular with male students.

"We do see that public research universities have the highest male percentage but still a female majority, so Penn State is rare, but I'm sure it's not alone," King said. "Curriculum makes a big difference."

Penn State's Commission for Women, a group that advises Penn State President Graham Spanier on matters concerning the status of women, is working to draft a proposal that asks for grant funding to aid in the continued recruitment of women looking to enter one of the STEM fields.

Penn State has seen a 14.86 percent increase in the number of

female students in the sciences from 2004 to 2009, said Rose Baker, co-chairwoman of the assessment committee for the Commission for Women. Women now represent the majority of students in agricultural sciences.

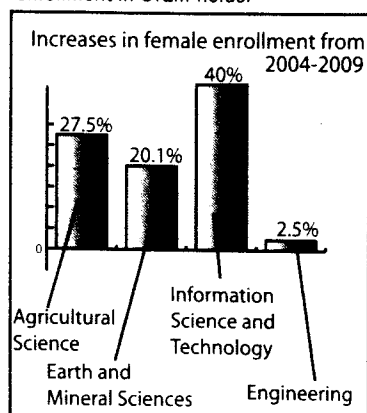
As a woman who attended a small college with a higher population of males than females, Baker said the continued increase in the number of women in the sciences is necessary to create a future where women will be encouraged to break into the field.

"Women are golden," Baker said.

"Having a role model like that is so valuable. Students can see that and say, 'Hey, if she can do it, then I can do it too.'"

Gender breakdown

Penn State is trying to increase female enrollment in STEM fields.



Source: Rose Baker, co-chair of assessment committee for Commission for Women
Natalie Episcopo/Colegian

To e-mail reporter: lqs5076@psu.edu



The Oscar Mayer Wienermobile sits outside Rec Hall during its last tour of Penn State. The Wienermobile and its "Hotdoggers" are back to recruit more representatives.

Wienermobile roams campus

By Alyssa Bender
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Students may be able to catch a glimpse of the famous 27-foot-long hot dog on wheels on campus this week — the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile is in town.

Oscar Mayer dispatched two representatives on the annual trip to Penn State as part of a job recruitment campaign. Until Feb. 11, students can find the Wienermobile at the HUB-Robeson Center, Shields Building, stadiums and various other places around campus.

Each year, Oscar Mayer representatives travel to various colleges and universities to find a new class of "Hotdoggers," the official representatives of the company. The company is looking for 12 new Hotdoggers this year.

Hotdoggers are responsible for driving around the country doing public relations, marketing and

retail events, as well as participating in parades, said current Oscar Mayer Hotdogger John Dobson.

Fall 2009 and spring 2010 graduates can apply for one of these positions. While most Hotdoggers have communications backgrounds, all majors are encouraged to apply, he said.

"We want people with outgoing personalities who are looking for adventure," he said.

According to the Oscar Mayer Web site, "It takes a special person to be an Oscar Mayer Hotdogger: Someone with real dedication, a big smile, great people skills, an extra-large sense of humor and a college degree."

Bob Martin, Penn State College of Communications assistant dean for internships and career placement, said Oscar Mayer has been coming to Penn State every year consistently to recruit students for the Hotdogger position.

"We have a long-standing track

If you go

What: Oscar Mayer "Hotdogger" information session

When: 6:30 p.m. Feb. 11

Where: 112 Thomas buildings

Details: Students should bring a resume and cover letter

record of getting students into this," he said.

In the past few years, 10 Penn State alumni have become Hotdoggers the year following their graduations.

Although the position only lasts for one year, it is a good stepping-stone for graduates interested in public relations, he said.

"Students who've done it have absolutely loved it," he said.

To e-mail reporter: amb5874@psu.edu

United Way funds exceed expectations

The Centre County United Way raised \$2,150,226 in 2009.

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Despite the recession, the Centre County United Way raised more money than expected in its 2009 fundraising campaign.

The total amount raised — \$2,150,226 — was announced Tuesday night at the United Way's Campaign Finale Celebration at the Penn State Conference Center Hotel.

Pam Long, communications director for the Centre County United Way, said the group reached its fundraising total "by the skin of [its] teeth." But while many chapters across the nation had to lower their fundraising goals, the Centre County chapter took a risk and raised theirs by \$50,000.

Money is raised from corporate donations and payroll deductions, as well as individual donations, Long said.

Volunteer loan executives work with companies to set up payroll deductions, where employees can set aside a certain amount of money to donate to the organization, she said.

Payroll deduction to benefit the United Way is available for Penn State employees, university spokesman Geoff Rushton said.

Penn State Student United Way President Sara Kizer said she was not surprised to see the Centre County organization hit its goal.

The community was responsive and eager to help,

If you go

What: Penn State Student United Way Trash to Treasure Sale

When: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 6

Where: 106 Fisher Hall

Details: Students donated items at the end of the fall semester and Treasure Sale profits will go to the Centre County United Way

even in the current economic climate, Kizer (junior-health policy and administration) said.

Though the Penn State chapter mostly works hands-on with agencies that benefit from the United Way's monetary support — like the State College Area Food Bank and local YMCAs — the group does some fundraising, she said.

Penn State Student United Way will hold its biggest fundraiser this weekend. Trash to Treasure will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Feb. 6 in 106 Fisher Hall. Long said the student event is modeled off the larger event held in Beaver Stadium by the Centre County chapter.

Donated items — including 12 iPods, TVs, clothes and furniture — were collected from students at the end of the fall semester and will be sold to raise money for the Centre County United Way, Kizer said.

Last year, the group was able to raise more than \$5,300, and it expects to exceed that amount this year, she said.

To e-mail reporter: mer5200@psu.edu

Penn State researchers receive money for new prison study

By Laura Nichols
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State researchers making end-of-life care for prison inmates are the focus of a \$1.27 million grant.

Researchers are using the National Institute of Nursing Research grant to develop a comprehensive toolkit of tailored resources for end-of-life care in prisons, assistant professor of nursing Susan Loeb wrote in an e-mail.

Leaders of the program plan to

apply study findings at six different prisons state-wide in an attempt to improve care for inmates reaching the end of their lives, wrote Loeb, the principal investigator for the study.

"Since prisons are among the most restrictive, most complex organizations — prisons are the best context for this study," Loeb wrote.

"Our hope is that findings will benefit not only dying inmates but also others who spend their final days in a complex organization."

Though the study is still in the early stages, researchers are quickly learning, said Christopher Hollenbeak, associate professor of surgery and health evaluation sciences and an investigator on the study.

"The real goal of it is to come up with a tool in prisons to improve the quality-of-life care," Hollenbeak said.

"We want to provide a toolkit that would be cost-effective as well."

Current end-of-life prison programs only offer limited low-cost

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Christopher Hollenbeak

associate professor of surgery and health evaluation sciences

medications. One proposed change is the "buddy system," where healthy inmates are paired with a terminally ill inmate to help look out for them, Hollenbeak said.

So far, researchers have visited the Philadelphia prison system for a chance to experience what it is

like to be in a prison as an inmate, Hollenbeak said. Researchers are also spending time with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections in order to understand the prison landscape at all levels, Hollenbeak said.

To e-mail reporter: lcn5019@psu.edu



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