

Kids explore parents' jobs

By Sarah Peters
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Getting a simulated MRI, learning how cows are milked and nursing state-of-the-art mannequins was all in a day's "work" for participants of Penn State's Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day event.

The annual event, hosted by the Office of Human Resources and Office of Educational Equity, gave students the opportunity to explore career opportunities with their parents at three locations throughout the day Thursday. Students could pick from a pool of 50 sites, ranging from the Breazeale Nuclear Reactor to the Dairy Barns. More than 500 people attended the event.

Associate Vice President for Human Resources Billie Willis said the event, organized by a committee led by Office of Human Resources administrative assis-

tant Carol Griffin, has a two-fold purpose. The event gives young people the opportunity to explore different careers while giving faculty and staff the opportunity to see a different side of Penn State.

For Information Technology Trainer Ken Lang's son, Stephen Lang, 11, the day was all about new discoveries. Though he hopes to be an architect, Stephen Lang said his favorite event of the day was seeing salt change color after being bombarded with radiation at the nuclear reactor. At the Dairy Barns, the smell of manure filled the air as Assistant Manager Nadine Houck explained how the cows are cared for.

As the participants toured the facility, they were careful to step around any cow manure that dotted their path. But they didn't hesitate to get up close and personal with the cows, petting their noses affectionately as they mooed.

"I've never had a cow stick out

its whole tongue and lick me," Kearston Andrus, 12, said. "That was pretty cool."

John Andrus, Jr., a plumber-pipe fitter for the university, said seeing one cow's "window" opened up was a highlight of the tour for him and Kearston, his daughter. The "window" is a surgically cut hole in one of the cow's stomachs — comparable to human's ear piercing, in that it will heal, Houck said. She also took out the plug, reached in the cow's stomach and pulled out food the cow consumed 12 to 24 hours earlier. In the Chandlee Laboratory, students and their parents toured the 3T MRI Facility, Human Electrophysiology Facility and the High Field MRI Facility and saw a frequency coil that transmits and receives radio waves.

Acting Director of Social Life and Engineering Sciences Imaging Center Rick Gilmore explained MRI procedures to



Andrew Dunheimer/Colegian

Participants watch as Nadine Houck demonstrates how Dairy Barn researchers care for cows through a surgically cut "window."

their parents, and Gilmore's daughter volunteered to demonstrate the MRI Simulator.

School of Nursing Simulation Lab Coordinator Mary Anne Ventura and Nursing Instructor Gwen Holderman gave participants a tour of the School of Nursing's simulation lab, which featured blinking, breathing mannequins capable of communi-

cating with their caregivers.

In the maternity lab, a high-tech mannequin yelled, "I'm having contractions," and "Please, give me an epidural," as attendees learned about the birthing process. As Holderman was speaking, the mannequin actually gave birth.

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Alumni hope to bring global voice organization to PSU

By Nick Manella
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

The College of Information Sciences and Technology (IST) Alumni Society announced plans earlier this week to bring a TEDx event to Penn State.

TEDx events are a product of the TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design) non-profit organization that aims to give a global voice to important and creative thinkers. Notable speakers at TED events in the past have included Al Gore and Jane Goodall.

If you go

What: TEDx planning meeting
When: 2 p.m. Sunday
Where: 206 IST Building
Details: Anyone can attend

Different from global TED conferences, TEDx events focus on recreating the feeling of the annual conferences in local communities and schools, according to the group's website. TEDx events usually are comprised of live

speakers, in addition to TEDTalks videos, which are recordings of previous talks given at other locations.

Steve Garguilo, the executive director of the steering committee spearheading the initiative, said he first pitched the idea to the IST Alumni Society six weeks ago.

"TEDx at Penn State is a massive undertaking, but it has the potential to be a defining moment in the history of the College of IST and the university at large," Garguilo said.

At 2 p.m. Sunday, in room 206 of the IST Building, the steering

committee will hold an open meeting to help kick off planning of the event.

Any student, alumni or community member is welcome to volunteer, Garguilo said.

Volunteers can opt to be a part of four separate committees: communications, operations, speakers and sponsorships.

"We'd love to have people from all over Penn State community get involved," Garguilo said. "That's really what TED is all about — new ideas, new perspectives, and trying to inspire people."

Students said they were excited

about the possibility of a TEDx event taking place on campus next fall.

"I've watched some of the speeches online, they're usually pretty cool," Tyler Laubach (freshman-chemical engineering) said. "If it happens I think I would probably go."

Taylor Balch (freshman-computer science) said he had never heard of the event before, but would consider attending.

"I would go if there was a cool speaker," Balch said. "Someone like Al Gore would be really interesting."

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Research participants are needed for a study testing the effects of exercise and eating habits on bone health, reproductive hormones, and metabolism. Financial compensation (\$1000) will be provided for your time.

Eligible Participants:
- Women between the ages of 18-35
- Absence of menstrual cycles for the past 3 months
- OR 6 or less cycles in the past year
- At least 2-3 hours or more of exercise/week
- Non-smoker
- Not using oral/hormonal contraceptives for the past 6 months
- Not pregnant or planning to become pregnant in next 7 months

Benefits will include:
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- nutritional assessment
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- metabolism testing
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NOTE: Loss of regular menstrual cycles is associated with poor bone health, poor nutrition, altered cholesterol levels, increased rates of injury, and temporary infertility.

IF INTERESTED PLEASE CALL US AT (814)863-4488 OR VISIT www.refuel.psu.edu

Approval for conducting this study in human subjects has been granted by the Penn State University Institutional Review Board. This study, under the direction of Dr. Mary Jane De Souza and Nancy I. Williams, Nell Laboratory and the Department of Kinesiology, will take place in The Women's Health and Exercise Laboratory and General Clinical Research Center on the campus of Penn State University, University Park, PA.

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