

Eco-program to aid freshmen

By David Bodin
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Starting soon, freshmen can earn \$500 per semester for going green.

The Penn State Campus Sustainability Office is accepting applications for the new Eco-Rep Program, which aims to increase environmentally friendly lifestyles.

"[The Eco-Rep Program] is for freshmen who want to encourage their peers to live responsible lifestyles," Campus Sustainability Office program coordinator Milea Perry said. "It is a life-building program."

Accepted students will be paid \$500 per semester and are expected to turn off electronics when not using them, wash laundry with cold water, take the stairs instead of the elevator and recycle, among other eco-friendly habits.

They'll also have to attend mandatory weekly meetings. Perry said the program was

How to Apply

What: Eco-Rep Program

Details: Deadline is July 29. Send a resume, cover letter and two letters of recommendations to Milea Perry at map40@psu.edu. Freshmen who get accepted into the program will receive \$500 per semester

modeled after Penn State psychology professor Janet Swim.

Swim and her graduate students challenged the student body to an energy challenge during the spring semester of last year.

Students were hired to promote energy conservation and to educate others on the importance of being environmentally aware.

"Eco-Rep programs are more popular at smaller universities," Perry said. "But it is important that Penn State becomes involved in this challenge to live responsibly, sparing lives on campus."

The program has the support of the student government.

University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) President Christian Ragland said he encourages first-year students to take the initiative and adopt green lifestyles in their residence halls.

"We at Penn State take the lead in many aspects of student life and charity," Ragland (senior-political science) said. "[The] Eco-Rep Program shows leadership and initiative opportunities for outstanding students who want to take the challenge and help educate their fellow students."

Some students said they support the program.

Jon Schoepf said the Eco-Rep program is a great way for students to learn the importance of living an eco-friendly lifestyle.

Schoepf added that the program can encourage students to also set a positive example for their peers.

"So much energy is being wasted and people in the residence halls don't seem to care whether they should recycle or not," Schoepf (freshman-professional golf management) said.

If you go

What: Eco-Rep information meeting

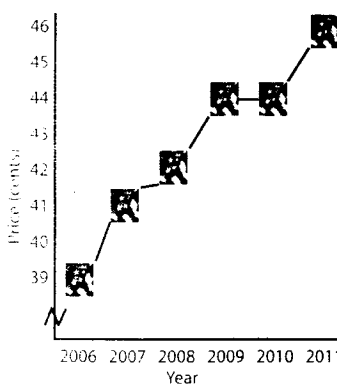
When: Tonight, 6:30

Where: Pollock Cultural Lounge

Details: Open to all first year students

Movin' on up

In January, the price of postage will increase to 46 cents.



Source: United States Postal Service
Heather Schmelzlen/Collegian

Stamp prices to rise

By Eddie Lau

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The cost to mail a letter is on the rise again — and Mike the Mailman says it's time to buy some Forever Stamps.

Due to a loss in revenue, the U.S. Postal Service is seeking permission to raise the price of first-class stamps by two cents — to 46 cents — starting in January, according to a press release issued last week by the postal service.

Prices for other mail, like periodicals, advertising and packages would also be increased, according to the press release.

The postal service anticipates a \$7 billion deficit in 2011, due in large part to the Internet and online bill services, according to the press release.

Calling the hike "a fair and balanced approach to insuring mail service," Postmaster General John E. Potter said there is no single solution to solve the financial situation that the postal service faces.

Mike Herr, also known as Mike the Mailman at Penn State, said he doesn't think the rate increase is a big deal to people in University Park and the surrounding area.

He said he has been serving in the University Park Post Office for 34 years. From what he sees and hears, people are used to the fact that the prices will go up every couple of years.

If people are concerned about future price hikes, Herr said, they should buy Forever Stamps, which can be postmarked forever — despite any future price changes.

"Forever stamps have softened the blow of price increase," Herr said. "You buy these today, they are 44 cents each. The price could go up to \$3 in how many years from now — but if you have these Forever Stamps, they are the current rate."

University officials also said that the proposed postal rate increase won't have a big impact because mailings from Penn State have declined steadily due to electronic means of delivery for a wide range of materials.

"Our total postage over the last five years is down around 20 percent," Penn State spokesman Geoff Rushton said. "We have managed to reduce postage costs by 10 percent or so, though there have been multiple postal rate increases during that time frame."

Last year, Penn State's total spending on postage was \$4.428,000, Rushton said.

The postal service is also considering not delivering mail on Saturdays — but that would require congressional approval to take effect — according to a report issued in March.

"In case of an emergency letter or bill, that extra day could help and we should not be getting rid of that," Bruno said.

To e-mail reporter: tol5105@psu.edu



Steph Witt/Collegian

Rachel Shechtman (freshman-human development and family studies) and Brittany Hardaway (freshman-undecided) enjoy eating their ice cream as they watch friends play volleyball in the sand courts in Pollock Halls on Tuesday night. The volleyball courts is one of several places Pollock Halls offers students that arrive in the summer to hang out and enjoy their nights.

Art gallery to make appearance at Smeal

By Kathleen Loughran
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State Smeal College of Business is not just about stocks and bonds.

And with the new Art in the Atrium gallery — set to open in late August or early September — the committee hopes to show people that "they do care about diversity," Smeal information technology manager Shuchi Nalepa said.

"The arts are such a unifying theme that brings a lot of people together, so if we can blend the diversity theme with that, it's a win-win situation," she said.

The idea for a gallery in Smeal's atrium initially began with an undergraduate project: "The Impact of Art on College Campuses" by Tatiana Bakaeva, Class of 2009.

Bakaeva began looking at other universities in the state to see how art influenced the campus environment. After talking to

curators, professors and administrators, she realized Smeal was missing its own gallery.

"Being an art history student myself, it was a norm for me to be around art," Bakaeva said. "But you'll be surprised by how many people don't go to galleries... [this one] will open up new opportunities because it will be in this building."

The proposal for a gallery was eventually implemented into the strategic plan under the Community of Distinction pillar.

A committee for Art in the Atrium was then formed, utilizing the diversity committee, staff assistant Terra Ingram said.

Originally the committee planned to work with the College of Art and Architecture, but because of complications, it decided to make the project "an in-house thing," Bakaeva said.

With the new gallery, the committee also hopes to "engage the general Smeal community," Nalepa said.

"Being an art history student myself, it was a norm for me to be around art."

Tatiana Bakaeva
Class of 2009

For the first exhibition, only Smeal students, faculty and staff can submit their artwork for display. Ingram said the committee has about 20 artists who have contacted them and will show "as many as we can display tastefully."

Though the initial exhibit will only feature Smeal students, faculty and staff artwork, the committee plans to open up the gallery to other contributors in the future.

Ultimately, the committee wants to have rotating exhibitions displaying multiple themes, with a portion of the gallery related to diversity.

One main difference between Art in the Atrium and other galleries on campus is that submit-

ted work will be juried for Art in the Atrium.

The committee wants to ensure that not only is the work well done, but that it is also appropriate for all audiences.

"The Smeal community is vast, so we will be making judgment calls," Nalepa said.

"We wouldn't want to offend anyone."

Once Art in the Atrium opens, the committee plans on having a small reception to introduce the gallery and spread the word.

"I know there's a lot of faculty that haven't come forth yet, but I'm hoping once they see the atrium with art, they'll come forward," Ingram said.

To e-mail reporter: kr15106@psu.edu

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