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UPUA encourages students to know issues

By Paul Osolnick

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

A meeting Thursday between the student government president and the Penn State Grassroots Network featured discussion of the importance of students getting involved with issues that affect the university.

University Park Undergraduate contact their local Association (UPUA) President representatives Christian Ragland said he met about issues like with Grassroots Network Director Penn Alan Janesch to determine ways in which the two organizations could work to increase student involvement in groups that promote interest in university-related issues in the state government.





dents to talk to Janesch

[representatives] and let them wanted to make the university bet- desserts around 1:30 p.m. and know how important the funding is for Penn State," Ragland said.

Ragland said the organizations will continue to rally student interest with events like Capitol Day — an event organized by the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG) ---while developing new events that in the afternoon and will target focus on the Grassroots initiatives

Janesch said he believes it is important to work with student leadership organizations to build interest among students.

"One of the reasons I first sought out student leaders was because I wanted to find students committed to Penn State that provide families with some

ter," Janesch said.

Janesch said the Grassroots Network is planning an event during the Parents and Family Weekend in the fall to highlight their major initiatives.

Janesch said the event will be held on Saturday, Oct. 2 sometime students and their families to hopefully encourage them to get involved.

"I wanted to have an event that particular weekend," Janesch said, "that combined two things: dessert and an academic, educational component."

Janesch said the event would

inform the students and parents about topics like the importance of state appropriations and its affect on tuition and the quality of the education.

The event would include a panel discussion and speeches from faculty members and legislators, Janesch said.

Ragland said they talked about the possibility of having state Sen. Jake Corman, R-Centre, speak at the event.

"Grassroots is a good organization to be apart of," Ragland said. 'We want to see more students involved."

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GBTA leader leaves mark on PSU community

By Megan Rogers COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Claire Gonyo has only been working in the LGBTA Resource Center for a little more than two years — but some of the students she's worked with say she made a big impact in that time.

Although her time was short Gonyo said her job has been full of small moments of successes.

As the assistant director of the Penn State LGBTA Resource Center, Gonyo worked to plan the center's activities, like Pride Week and National Coming Out Week.

Gonvo said leaving Penn State will be bittersweet.

But she's excited to start the next challenge of her life - earning her Ph.D. in higher adult and lifelong education at Michigan State

Gonyo was the welcoming face she said.

"Watching a person get comfortable in their own skin and being proud of who they are is just so powerful for me."

Allison

Claire Gonvo Assistant Director of the LGBTA Resource Center

of the LGBTA Center, Penn State "She's really made her mark on graduate Steve Lucas said.

the university. Lucas, Class of 2010, interned Gonyo said that's all part of the with Gonyo for a year and was also iob. Each time the center hosts a president of Rainbow panel or activity, it's raising awareness for someone in the Roundtable, the club for which LGBTA community, Gonvo said — "What Claire was good at was and that's the overall mission of building bridges across the uniher work. Gonyo said awareness versity that lead to the center," he and attendence was up at the Spring 2010 Pride Week, making said. "Claire is an incredibly the event a huge success.

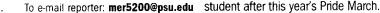
The respect between Gonyo and the students she works with is al as well as being an LGBTA mutual. Gonyo said she has been honored to work with so many students. '**phenom**enal''

Mentoring and advising students are the best parts of her job, she said. She said she especially enjoys helping struggling students come to terms with their identity.

"Everyone's story is so unique," she said. "Watching a person get comfortable in their own skin and being proud of who they are is just so powerful for me.'

Gonyo was not only an advocate for the LGBTA community but for all students, Lucas said. Gonyo was involved in several university initiatives like LeaderShape and the commission for LGBT equity.

"One thing that Claire's really brought to Centre County and the university is someone who's committed to student affairs in generadvocate," he said.





Claire Gonyo, right, speaks with a



Ragland

"We want stu-

the

the

Gonyo was an adviser.

approachable person.'

Gonyo's colleague

Subasic agreed that Gonyo has

been a friend and mentor to many.

"We're going to miss Claire,"

Steve Caouette

Hendrickson

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY



STUDENT PROGRAMMING ASSOCIATION

Saturday, July 24 - 10:00 pm **Heritage Hall HUB-Robeson Center FREE with your PSU Student Photo ID**

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