4 | THURSDAY, AUG. 26, 2010

LOCAL

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Penn State drops in 'public good' ranking

By Micah Wintner COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Washington Monthly magazine ranked Penn State 35th out of 258 national universities based on their contribution to the public good — a drop from a No. 7 finish last year.

"Public good" was measured in three categories: social mobility, research and service.

percentage of students receiving Pell Grants — 13 percent at Penn State — and predicted versus actual graduation rate. Penn State ranked fourth overall in social mobility.

'We're very pleased with our

spokeswoman Annemarie Mountz said.

Research measures the number of dollars the school spends in research expenditures - Penn State ranked 15th overall — and the number of bachelor's recipients who go on to receive Ph.Ds relative to school size. In that regard, Penn State ranked 49th.

Service measured factors such Social mobility accounts for the as the number of alumni who serve in the Peace Corps, percentage of students in Reserved Officer Training Corps (ROTC) and the number of students participating in community service, among other factors.

Despite boasting

graduation rate," Penn State Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, the largest student-run philanthropy in the world, Penn State ranked 138th in the service category.

But Penn State officials said the rankings mean little.

whole are something that we don't take too seriously," Mountz said. "We don't look for ways to rise in the rankings.

that Penn State is vital to Pennsylvania's economy, contributing to the "public good" in that sense. "The economic impact that the university has on nity in many ways. the Pennsylvania is great," Michaels The WE ARE c

"I have to say that rankings as a whole are something that we don't take too seriously."

> **Annemarie Mountz** Penn State spokeswoman

'I have to say that rankings as a said. "It has not only a national but example of how Penn State helps a worldwide reputation."

According to a press release, Penn State is Pennsylvania's largest economic engine, generat-Tor Michaels, Rep. Scott ing more than \$17 billion a year in Conklin's chief of staff, pointed out overall economic impact and supporting more than 67,000 jobs.

Between THON and other student organizations, Mountz said Penn State supports the commu-

The WE ARE campaign is one

the community. "Our mission is to promote civility and respect throughout the campus," campaign director Chad Fisher said.

Fisher (junior-energy, business and finance) said the WE ARE campaign started to "help curb being rude to bus drivers." Since then, the campaign has evolved into a service organization.

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Grange provides history

By Nick Manella COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For the 136th consecutive year, the Centre County Grange Encampment and Fair kicked off on Wednesday night.

First introduced in 1874 by farmers, the fair has continued on an annual basis, growing in size and notoriety. During the 19th century, 'Grangers' were a collection of farmers who shared materials and methods.

In addition to many fair activities and events, some families stay overnight in tents and RVs. The first tents were introduced to the fair in 1887 — most of which were borrowed from the National Guard - who previously used them during the Civil War.

Since then, the fair has evolved into a multi-day event that receives approximately 195,000 visitors each year from as many as 23 different states.

Two days before the fair began, General Manager Darlene Confer said that 980 tents and 1,500 RVs were registered to stay at the campgrounds.

'[The fair] actually becomes the third largest city in Centre County overnight," said Confer.

"There really is something for everyone here. It's one of the most unique fairs in the nation."

This year the event will host 300 concession stands and a number of ride vendors for children. More than 7,000 agriculture and horti- Duell said. "There's such a large ty of the fair.



M Antonio Silas/Collegiar

Guitarist Jason Gold performs on Wednesday night at the Centre County Grange Encampment and Fair. Approximately 195,000 people attend the fair, which was first held in 1874, each year.

While many visitors attend for informational and entertainment attends. traveling over three benefits, some come to trace their hours from eastern Pennsylvania. roots back to the first Grange movement families that helped begin the fair.

Additionally, fairgoers can participate in what Confer called "Grange Fair Idol," and other talent contests.

Pat Duell, of Pittsburgh, attended the fair last year for the first time and is back for another round.

"It's something I think everyone should do at least once," and interesting collection of p

Jaclyn Osterstock regularly '[It's] kind of become a tradition in our family," Osterstock said. "We've gone every year since I can remember. There's always new things to do.

This year the fair will play host to country duo Steel Magnolias and Hotel California, an Eagles tribute band. The Centre County Grange Encampment and Fair runs until Sept. 2 in Centre Hall, Pennsylvania. Admission is \$6.00 for the day or \$15.00 for the entire-

Greeks4Kids strives to expand for THON

By Vera Greene COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Greeks4Kids leaders want to include the Multicultural Greek Council (MGC) and the National Panhellenic Council (NPHC) while they work to get university recognition to participate in THON.

NPHC Executive Vice President Raul

Mendez said the collaboration is a great idea.

"It's a great stepping stone for Greeks," said

Fraternity, Inc. member.

many times, but this is a great way for us to show that we like giving back to the community and together, with all four councils, we can create something great."

Though MGC and NPHC haven't been involved in the past, Mendez said being a part of Greeks4Kids is an opportunity to create something bigger than themselves.

And the coalition of four councils will yield a diverse group of opinions, he said.

"The diverse visions and ideas is not necessarily because of ethnicity," Mendez said. "But with additional people, it brings new ideas and all four councils have will ultimately bring more idealism.`

Though IFC President Max

"It's always positive to have a more diverse group of opinions."

Max Wendkos Interfraternity Council President

long it will be until the councils are a formal group, he said he is in full support of bringing the four together.

'It's always a positive to have a more diverse group of opinions at the table for discussion," Wendkos (senior-marketing and psychology) said. "It certainly can't hurt."

THON Public Relations Chairwoman Jony Rommel said it's a great idea to bring these four councils together in the spirit of THON.

"I would absolutely support this decision," Rommel (seniorphilosophy) said. "I think it would be great to get more people involved."

A united front among the four councils would help reach out to students who weren't previously involved before, Rommel said.

In addition to adding more people, Rommel said the inclusion of the four organizations will bring more diverse opinions and new ideas. In order to achieve university recognition and determine their role within the Interfraternity Council/Panhell-Marathon, enic Dance Greeks4Kids must create bylaws had different experiences which and a mission statement, acting exective director Ali Ingersoll said.

1



Mendez (seniorcrime, law, and justice), also a

Phi Beta Sigma

"We're seen in a social light

