

# Greeks welcome students

Attendees learned what it means to be greek at Penn State at Thursday's greek involvement fair.

"We're in greek life because we enjoy it, and we really want to convey that enjoyment."

Melissa Graesser  
junior - advertising and public relations

By Alyssa Bender  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

While listening to music and snacking on popcorn, students interested in greek life had the opportunity to browse colorful displays, photos and T-shirts and to learn about an array of sororities and fraternities at Thursday's greek involvement fair.

Greeks occupy one of the string of student activities fairs held in the HUB-Robeson Center during the first week of classes each semester.

Melissa Graesser, vice president of membership for Phi Mu sorority, said the fair is important because it allows fraternities and sororities to market the idea of going greek to the student population.

Some people already knew they want to join, and the fair gives them the opportunity to ask ques-

tions and gather more information, Graesser (junior-advertising and public relations) said.

Craig Connelly and Cameron Mueskes (sophomore-engineering), co-rush chairmen for Triangle fraternity, said the involvement fair is an important part of spreading information about the fraternity — and about greek life in general.

"It's how we get our name out there," Connelly (junior-mechanical engineering) said.

Attendees Alyssa Wyvrat (freshman-engineering) and Alex Lamar (freshman-nutrition) said the fair was very helpful in their search for the perfect sorority.

"We wanted to see what it's all about," Lamar said. "We like the idea of sisterhood."

Connelly said many students come to the fair with a good idea of which organizations they are interested in joining.

Some come to the fair looking

for specific organizations.

That was the originally the case for Wyvrat and Lamar, though they said they found a few others that also looked appealing.

They said they are most interested in friendship and getting more involved in campus activities such as Homecoming.

For others, greek life is a good way to get involved in activities off-campus, too.

Many students join fraternities as a way to give back to the community through philanthropies, Mueskes said.

Greek life members agree that those who join fraternities and sororities have fun getting involved in both on- and off-campus activities.

"We're in greek life because we enjoy it, and we really want to convey that enjoyment," Graesser said.

To e-mail reporter: amb5874@psu.edu

## BULLDOGS



Katie Silvis/Collegian

Nikki LaFemina (graduate student-chemistry) throws laundry into baskets on the HUB lawn to win prizes from Target Thursday.

# Beer expo expected to brew up fun, raise charity dollars

By Zach Geiger  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Calling all beer enthusiasts: Saturday's State College Microbrewers Expo will provide people with the opportunity to taste a large variety of microbrews and learn more about the trade.

Beginning at 2 p.m., The Microbrewers Expo is a charity event that features local and out-of-state brewers who convene in State College to share their craft, first-year event coordinator Mike Martin said.

"This is the 12th time the Expo has been here in State College," Martin said.

"Last year did not work out — we revived it this year, made a few little changes to it and now it is a charity event."

The event runs until 6 p.m. at the Penn State Hotel and Conference Center.

Tickets start at \$50 and can be purchased at the Hotel State College, 100 W. College Ave.

A special \$75 VIP ticket will allow guests to enter at 1 p.m. and have the chance to sample rare and unique beers that some of the brewers will bring, Martin said.

The price of admission allows attendees to sample a variety of beers and enjoy a large selection of food, but the event also provides guests with an opportunity to give back.

Proceeds from the Microbrewers Expo benefit the American Cancer Society's Coaches vs. Cancer of Penn State program and the Bob Perks Cancer Assistance Fund, Martin said.

Martin, who is on the Coaches vs. Cancer committee, said the charity is close to his heart and he was pleased that it could be incorporated into the Expo.

Even though the Microbrewers Expo is for a good cause, the main attraction at the event is the beer.

An array of more than 20 brewers will be in attendance, Martin said, and will feature a mix of local

brewers — like Otto and Elk Creek Café — and brewers from as far as Canada and California.

Some of the brewers will be on hand at the event to pour their beers to the crowd and discuss microbrewing with those in attendance at different seminars throughout the evening, Martin said.

Attendees — who must be over the age of 21 — will likely include students, locals and beer enthusiasts, Zeno's general manager Dave Staab said.

"It's a knowledgeable, enthusiastic beer crowd," Staab said.

At the July 2008 Expo, more than 3,000 people were in attendance, but this year the venue is limited to just 1,200 people, Martin said.

"We don't know what it's going to be like this year," Martin said. "This is the first time ever that it's held when students are in town. This will be a whole new aspect for this year."

Zeno's, 100 W. College Ave., is one of the major sponsors of the

Microbrewers Expo. Staab said, and Zeno's has been stocking up on U.S. and Belgian exotic beers in preparation for the event.

"A lot of beer travelers will come in for this," he said. "They'll probably have lunch at a beer-centric place and then pick a place for an evening to go to. People are having fun but it's definitely geared towards tasting something new or exploring a style."

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## If you go

**What:** Microbrewers Expo  
**Where:** The Penn State Hotel and Conference Center, 100 W. College Ave.  
**When:** Friday, August 27 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
**Details:** Tickets start at \$50, VIP tickets \$75. Proceeds benefit the Penn State Coaches versus Cancer

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