

Locals welcome students to area

By Anita Modi
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State student and rugby player Rebecca Koons never expected to find another lady rugger when she welcomed a group of State College locals to her front porch on Atherton Street on Sunday afternoon.

Instead of asking for directions, as Koons expected, the group presented her with two bags of chocolate chip cookies for her and her five roommates, introducing themselves as her neighbors.

"It was fantastic to meet all of them," Koons (senior-kinesiology) said. "We know there are both students and families living in the houses around us, but we never know which is which."

Through casual conversation, Koons found that the leader of the group, Becky Misangyi, used to play rugby in college and was interested in attending a few Penn State games.

This common interest was discovered as Misangyi, a State College resident for two years, participated in an independent Neighborhood Walk — separate from the Living in One Neighborhood (LION) Walk scheduled for later this week. The walk was organized by Misangyi and aimed to foster a relationship

between student residents and State College locals by welcoming newcomers and returning students to the neighborhood.

Misangyi said she wanted to improve relations between locals and students after she found a Penn State student taking a shower in her home after a night of heavy drinking in May 2009.

"It was a traumatic experience for our family," Misangyi said. "I started telling our neighbors about it and everybody had a story." Misangyi said the majority of problems between permanent residents and student residents stem from students' excessive drinking, which causes disruption between 2 and 3 a.m. on a regular basis.

While her family doesn't interact much with the students during the daytime, Misangyi said at night students create a threatening environment for her three daughters: ages nine, 12 and 14.

Austin Antolik and Justin Polosky, who have lived both on- and off-campus in the past, said they felt like they were part of a community for the first time after a group came to visit their home.

"It was great of them to come here, take the initiative and interact with students," Antolik (senior-chemical engineering) said.

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Lynn McGowan/Collegian

Jason Frost (junior-accounting) volunteered with her classmates to pull weeds at the Arboretum on Friday morning. More than 100 Masters of Accounting students participated in the community service project, which was designed to help students get to know one another and to meet representatives from auditing firms.

Students bond, volunteer

By Micah Wintner
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

About 130 Masters of Accounting (MAcc) students showed up at the Arboretum to pluck weeds Friday — a much larger turnout than MAcc Program Student Association President Paul Lerew expected.

The community service was part of the MAcc Program Student Association's plan to "kick off the fall semester," Lerew said.

The event was also designed to help students in the MAcc program get to know each other.

Due to the large turnout, some students worked at the recycling center instead.

Representatives from auditing firms Ernst & Young, Grant Thornton, KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers also attended. Three of those are part

of the "big four" auditing firms — the largest in the world.

"[Friday] was an opportunity for the seniors and juniors to get to know the accounting firms that will be back and recruiting over the upcoming weeks and at the career fair," Jon Cochrane (senior-accounting) said.

Cochrane, a senior in the MAcc program, said he enjoyed the community service.

"I'm just coming back to do what others have done for me," he said.

Cochrane recently accepted a full-time job with Ernst & Young and will start working for them in fall 2011, he said.

Mike Denove, a representative from Ernst & Young, said recruiting season for firms began Thursday.

Denove said Penn State produces "high-caliber business students" and is the fifth-largest

contributor to Ernst & Young in the nation.

The community service was a good opportunity to start getting to know the students and look for possible interns, Denove said.

The firms will be back on campus for interviews in October, and will attend various career fairs at Penn State throughout the year, Lerew said.

Seniors in the MAcc program had the opportunity Thursday night to network with the firms and ask questions of a panel made up of the four firms' human resources personnel.

An etiquette dinner also took place Thursday night.

"It was really great to hear the atmosphere at the etiquette dinner," Lerew said. "It seemed like people were really enjoying themselves."

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Penn State research combats Salmonella

By Micah Wintner
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

While Congress continues to deal with a massive egg recall, Pennsylvania's eggs remain safer to eat than those in the rest of the country, in part because of Penn State scientists.

When the northeastern United States experienced a sixfold increase of Salmonella enteritidis in its eggs between 1976 and 1986, Penn State scientists — including Penn State experts — knew action had to be taken early.

"We got very aggressive about controlling [Salmonella enteritidis] and reducing it in our hens in Pennsylvania," Penn State poultry science professor Paul Patterson said.

The Pennsylvania Egg Quality Assurance Program (PEQAP) was formed to reduce Salmonella from poultry farms. Representatives from Penn State, the University of Pennsylvania and the state departments of Health and Agriculture take part in PEQAP.

To reduce Salmonella enteritidis, scientists used a process known as Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP), Patterson said.

HACCP is a program that was developed in the 1960s by Pillsbury to help assure NASA that astronauts were going into space with safe food, Patterson said. PEQAP started applying the HACCP system to pre-harvested Pennsylvania eggs in the 1990s, Patterson said.

And since then, the number of eggs with Salmonella per every 10,000 eggs has been reduced

Fast Facts:

- Salmonella increased sixfold in Northeast USA between 1976 and 1986
- PSU started conducting tests in the 90s to combat Salmonella

from 2.6 to 1.2, he said.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) adopted PEQAP's principles on July 9.

Patterson said he has received phone calls from the FDA regarding the PEQAP program, and FDA officials have come to PEQAP for training.

The Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory conducts tests for the PEQAP program. There are multiple labs in Pennsylvania, including at Penn State.

"A lot of the research done at our lab was the precursor that is now the PEQAP program," said Patricia Dunn, senior research associate at the Penn State Animal Diagnostic Laboratory.

That research, done almost 20 years ago, "pointed to the most strategic way to combat Salmonella in chickens," Dunn said. Today, the lab tests different environments — manure samples and chick papers, among others — for Salmonella.

Dunn said large institutions like restaurants or prisons are vulnerable to Salmonella enteritidis, where one egg with only a few bacteria could be mixed with other eggs.

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Thompson to speak on security

By Katrina Wehr
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

With state elections right around the corner, Penn State students have the opportunity to see incumbent congressional candidate Glenn "GT" Thompson speak tonight about national security.



Thompson

"National Security in the Wake of 9/11" will be held at 8 p.m. in 110 Wartik Building. The topic was chosen as a lead-in to the nine-year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, said Samuel Settle, chairman of Penn State Young Americans for Freedom (YAF), the group sponsoring the talk.

Typically YAF plans a 9/11 memorial every year, Settle said, but due to the congressman's busy schedule, the group decided to have him come early.

Thompson, R-Pa., a Penn State alumnus, represents the fifth con-

gressional district, which includes State College.

But the chance to see a significant political figure is not the only reason students and State College residents should come out to hear Thompson speak, Settle (junior-political science and history) said.

"The subject is important," Settle said. "National security is basic, and if you don't have that, then you really don't have anything."

This particular talk is important for another reason too, YAF Vice Chairman David Carr, said. With the state elections coming up, the speech provides a chance for students to get acquainted with the candidate before casting their vote in the November elections.

A question-and-answer session will follow the talk, Carr (junior-economics) said, giving students the opportunity to ask Thompson about issues that are important to them.

There is mutual benefit for both students and politicians who come to these types of presenta-

If you go

What: National Security in Wake of 9/11 featuring Congressman Glenn Thompson
When: 8 tonight
Where: 110 Wartik Building

tions, aside from deciding whom to vote for, Carr said.

"It's a good way for students to get new perspectives from people who work in these fields," Carr said. "It's also a good way for politicians to get perspectives from an audience they're not around as much."

Anthony Christina, vice chairman of the Penn State College Republicans, said the speech will be interesting for everyone — Democrat or Republican — as long as they keep an open mind.

He said Thompson's speech would be a unique opportunity for students to hear about an issue from someone who has firsthand experience.

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