



Tyler Sizemore/Collegian

Allison Ruth (junior-marketing) speaks to a recruiter at the Career Fair on Wednesday. Representatives said students impressed them.

PSU impresses fair's recruiters

By Matt Scorzafave
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State student Sidhanth Kapoor anxiously waited in line to search for a summer internship at the Bryce Jordan Center on Wednesday.

"As a sophomore, I feel like an internship is necessary for the summer," Kapoor (sophomore-engineering) said.

Kapoor was one of thousands of Penn State students seeking internships and co-op opportunities during the second day of the Fall Career Days — and despite the economy, employers took notice.

"Penn State is one of the best, if not the best, schools to recruit from," said Robert Clemente, a recruiter from Progressive.

Clemente said he has been very impressed with what he has seen at Penn State.

"On Monday, we saw a lot of folks, some really quality people. They're very well-prepared," he said.

A total of 181 employers attended the fair Wednesday, according to Penn State's Career Services website.

The fair, an annual weeklong event, provides Penn State students with the opportunity to meet and interview with job recruiters and employers looking to fill internship and co-op opportunities.

Students were excited to net-

work and see what potential employers have to offer.

Kapoor, like many students, said he is taking initiative to be proactive about his future.

"I'm looking for someone who is hiring and can provide me with good experience for after college," he said.

Employers at the event were optimistic about what Penn State students had to offer to their businesses.

"I have seen thousands of the best students in Pennsylvania," said Ryan Brodt, a certified public accountant at Isdaner & Company, LLC.

Brodt said Isdaner & Company, LLC is a small company based in Philadelphia that has been to career fairs at smaller schools such as Villanova University and Drexel University. Those other schools simply don't measure up to Penn State, he said.

"We know they put out a good product, but we want to come up here and get an exceptional Penn State student," Brodt said. "A 3.0 GPA at Penn State is equivalent to a 4.0 at other schools. The exposure to the quality student is what sets Penn State apart."

Last year, 8,271 students attended Fall Career Days, Robert Orndorff, associate director for recruiting and employer relations for Career Services, confirmed in an e-mail.

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UPUA improves town relations

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Student leaders and State College Borough Council members may disagree about the issue of a non-voting student council member, but they do agree on one thing: Increased town and gown communication is a necessity.

In an effort to increase communication, University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman TJ Bard is meeting individually with each borough council member to gain feedback on the proposal.

The individual meetings come after the Aug. 9 borough council meeting, when council members decided against taking action on UPUA President Christian Ragland's three-phase proposal to institute a non-voting member.

Though the proposal was rejected, both parties said it has fostered more dialogue. Bard (sophomore-political science and economics) and State College Mayor Elizabeth Goreham both said the communication on the issues has been positive and healthy for each entity.

Bard met with Goreham on Wednesday and member James Rosenberger on Tuesday. He said plans are in the works to meet with the remaining council members.

Bard said he wants to work with — not against — the State College Borough Council.

"I definitely don't want it to be something the student body comes up with on its own and brings it to borough council, saying, 'This is what we want — you have to do it,'" Bard said.

The borough council has been "very willing" to sit down and discuss the proposal, Bard said.

Rosenberger said while he is supportive of communication with student leaders, he is concerned that the language of the non-voting student council member doesn't mesh with how membership on the council is legally based.

Bard said he would be willing to compromise on the details and specifics of the student council member.



Bard

But Bard said he is not willing to compromise on the main purpose of the proposal: to give students — for the first time ever — an official voice in student matters.

"One thing I'm not going to budge on is the fact that this will be the voice of the students to the borough council," he said.

Goreham declined to comment on her personal opinion of the student council member issue because she will not be able to vote on the issue.

But she did say the meeting with Bard was productive.

"He's got the interest of town and gown at heart and he supports a good discussion," she said.

Goreham said she and State College Borough Council President Ron Filippelli were planning on attending Wednesday's UPUA meeting.

Ragland (senior-political science), who initially proposed the idea, said he thinks the idea is feasible, and wants to see action taken in the near future.

"I'm still positive. I think we're moving in the right direction," he said.

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Transportation could affect housing

A program calling for redevelopment could impact downtown living arrangements.

By Nick Manella
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State is seeking to improve transportation along West College Avenue, but it may come at the expense of some student housing.

University officials applied for a \$300,000 grant in conjunction with the Borough of State College and Ferguson Township officials to assist in redevelopment of the area between Atherton Street and Blue Course Drive.

Rich Kirkpatrick, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) press secretary, said \$24 million has been designated to the Pennsylvania Community

Transportation Initiative. The initiative will promote "Smart Transportation," a program to collaborate state transportation improvements with local land use plans.

The proposed plan calls for a redevelopment of the area, specifically discouraging traffic in favor of small-scale retail locations that can be accessed by pedestrians.

Additionally, borough officials are debating an ordinance that would limit "high-density" student occupancy in the area, a plan likely to ignite a strong response from the student community.

But State College Mayor Elizabeth Goreham said students should not fear that they will be ordered to vacate their current residences, as there are no plans to remove students currently living in the area.

"High-density simply means we don't want five people in two-

bedroom apartments," she said. "Our motto has been to build apartments, not dormitories."

Goreham said the borough doesn't want to create another Beaver Canyon, an area primarily inhabited by students.

Instead they'd like to foster a community of young professionals and families who coexist with students.

Still, Nathan Berry, who lives in a house downtown, isn't in favor of changes to the area.

"I don't think it would give everyone an opportunity to live downtown that wants to," Berry (senior-economics) said. "It would force some people to have to take a bus if they want to live in an apartment or downtown."

Goreham said there is a public hearing scheduled for Nov. 1 that will allow members of the public to voice their concerns on the ordinance.


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