

# Students debut Penn State's first co-ed pre-law frat

By Vera Greene  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Phi Alpha Delta is set to become Penn State's first-ever co-ed pre-law fraternity Thursday.

Max Silverstein, Phi Alpha Delta's vice president, said the idea to start the fraternity happened two summers ago when he was interning at his father's law firm and one of his dad's colleagues asked him if he was involved in the law fraternity, Phi Alpha Delta.

Unless of what it was, Silverstein (senior-psychology) looked it up and decided Phi Alpha Delta was something he wanted to be a part of.

"When I saw there wasn't a chapter at Penn State, I networked as much possible to get this going," Silverstein said.

But he said he went abroad during the next year, so Ray Alvarez took over and worked at getting the fraternity off the ground.

Alvarez (senior-political science), the president of Phi Alpha Delta, said he's excited the pre-law fraternity is finally coming together.

Though there are other law societies at Penn State, he said Phi Alpha Delta will have a larger network. "Not only will we be able to use the Penn State network, but also the Phi Alpha Delta alumni, too, where you can focus your net-

working in the direction of the career you want to go in as a potential law student," Alvarez said.

Though Phi Alpha Delta is a fraternity, Alvarez said it is going to be strictly professional, keeping the focus on the development aspect in order to help students get into law school.

"While we do subscribe to fraternalism and its bond, it's not necessarily social," Alvarez said. "Less than 20 percent of all our activities can be socials ... we don't want it to turn into the typical greek organization."

Alvarez said he is not going to completely disassociate Phi Alpha Delta with the

Interfraternity Council, though. "We would be more than happy to work with them. I just don't know where we would fit in," Alvarez said.

Since the fraternity is just getting started this year, Silverstein said there wasn't any formal recruitment, but as time goes on, he thinks it will grow and become more structured.

Phi Alpha Delta has no restrictions on who can join — but Alvarez said people should be joining to develop professionally, not to "party every Friday night."

Gina Russoniello, the recruitment chairwoman for Phi Alpha Delta, said it's been great to see how the fraternity has taken

off in the past few weeks. "I've watched it go from a couple of us sitting in a classroom to the last couple days having four or five people email me about getting involved," Russoniello (junior-marketing) said.

Silverstein said he knows there are a lot of people out there who want to pursue a career in law, and he hopes this new fraternity will help them along.

"We want them to have something to lean on," he said. "And I think as we grow we'll be able to recruit a lot more members and be a really helpful organization at Penn State."

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Collegian file photo

Runners participate in the 2008 THON 5K. Until this year, the race began at the Intramural Building's fields.

## THON 5K moves from fields to BJC

By Megan Rogers  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

This year's THON 5K will be closer to the heart of THON weekend — the starting point has moved from the fields of the Intramural (IM) Building to the Bryce Jordan Center.

Though the race has started at the IM fields for the past nine years, a jump in participation caused a location change necessity Mary Dowd, Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon Special Events Overall Chairwoman, said. The THON 2011 5K will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Oct. 17.

About 3,000 people participated in the 2009 THON race and 5,147 people signed up for the 2010 THON race, Dowd (senior-journalism) said.

"That just says a lot about the THON involvement on our campus," she said.

The THON 5K is the largest 5K in Central Pennsylvania, Public Relations Overall Chairwoman Jony Rommel said.

"That's something we're really

proud of," Rommel (senior-philosophy) said. "Being at the BJC will allow us to grow in future years."

Dowd said the route will be the same as it has in the past — only the starting line will change.

The registration table, merchandise tent, activities and disc jockey Larry Moore will be near Gate A and the race will start on the road nearby.

The BJC offers a more open area, she said — participants will be able to move around and stretch more easily and spectators will have more room to view the entire start of the race.

Some students said they support the change and understand the reasoning behind the location switch.

Lauren Lahann said she plans to participate in this year's race and believes the change will be beneficial to the race.

"It's a positive change," she said. "Some freshmen who live in East don't know where the IM fields are."

Though she didn't participate in last year's 5K, Lahann (sophomore-supply change manage-

ment) said she heard others saying it was crowded at the start of the race.

This year, runners will also have the option of purchasing a professional timing chip to get the most precise race time, Dowd said. Rommel said the chip option will cost \$18 and those in the fun run will pay \$15.

For the second year in a row, organizations will be able to credit their race participation to their overall total, Dowd said — a change upheld because of the increase in organization participation in the past years. THON is hoping to see another increase in participation, Dowd said.

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### If you go

**What:** THON 5K  
**When:** 11:30 a.m. Oct. 17  
**Where:** Begins at the Bryce Jordan Center  
**Details:** To register, visit [www.thon.org](http://www.thon.org)

## Judicial Affairs officials brief freshmen on Code

By Brendan McNally  
and Emily Battaglia  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State freshmen gathered in the HUB-Robeson Center auditorium Monday night to learn about the Office of Judicial Affairs' Code of Conduct — and some said they were surprised by what they learned.

Assistant Director of the Office of Judicial Affairs (OJA) Gary Miller led an hour-long presentation covering some of the most common violations of the university's Code of Conduct — a set of rules that Miller said students are expected to follow both on and off-campus.

Miller, who spoke to a crowd of about 40, said that academic integrity problems, copyright violations, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual misconduct, and harassment are some of the most common violations his office deals with.

Although one of the meeting's attendees, Zach Dobson, said most of the rules are fairly self-explanatory, he was surprised that students could be held accountable for their actions off-campus. About half the violations that OJA deals with occur off-campus, Miller said.

"I mean, it's necessary," Dobson (freshman-chemistry) said. "But I'd rather it not be like that."

Miller said one of the most prevalent issues OJA handles is drug and alcohol violations. The average age of a patient at

Mount Nittany Medical Center on weekends is 19, and the average blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of patients brought in for alcohol-related incidents is 0.24 — statistics that Miller said indicate some students are participating in dangerous drinking.

This year, Penn State students that are caught drinking underage will have to participate in the Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS) program, which will cost students \$200 to complete, Miller said. Students will also have to pay any fines that the Pennsylvania Judicial System may impose, Miller said.

Miller said that many students do not know what the university considers academic integrity and plagiarism.

Kayla DeVore (freshman-pre-medecine) said she was surprised to find out that students can get in trouble for resubmitting a paper that has already been submitted for a grade in another class.

"I had no idea," DeVore said. "I've saved a lot of my papers — not that I've resubmitted them."

Miller said that learning the university's rules can help clarify what faculty expect from students and might make students think twice before violating the rules.

"The Code of Conduct helps to create the kind of community we're trying to build here," Miller said.

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