

Corner Pocket to be renamed

By Danae Blasso
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Chelsie Ehasz (junior-microbiology) is ready for the Corner Pocket to change its name.

"I'm the president of the [Dance Dance Revolution (DDR)] club so some people confuse it for the Corner Room downtown," she said.

She'll get her wish. The Corner Pocket billiards lounge in the HUB-Robeson Center is changing its name, and lounge officials want Penn State students to play a part: The Corner Pocket is currently holding a contest for the best name. The contest will run until Oct. 15.

"The goal of the contest is to get a new name and logo that encompasses our image," Corner Pocket manager Keith Somers said.

"We want to convey the image of Penn State pride in a chill atmosphere."

Somers (junior-finance) said it's important for the campus to take part in changing the name.

"It's the first time we're making an effort to expand our reach on campus," he said.

"We're trying to transform it from an inclusive pool hall."

The Corner Pocket is currently going through renovations, but still has pool, DDR, some video games and television.

"I've worked here for two months," Rich Daly (freshman-division of undergraduate studies) said.

"We're going to get video games and I guarantee people will come."

Some Penn State students said they're unhappy with the idea of the Corner Pocket being renamed.

"I don't like it and it shouldn't get a new name," Weston Williams (sophomore-mechanical engineering) said. "I don't like change."

The individual whose name idea is chosen will receive gift cards from sponsoring businesses downtown.

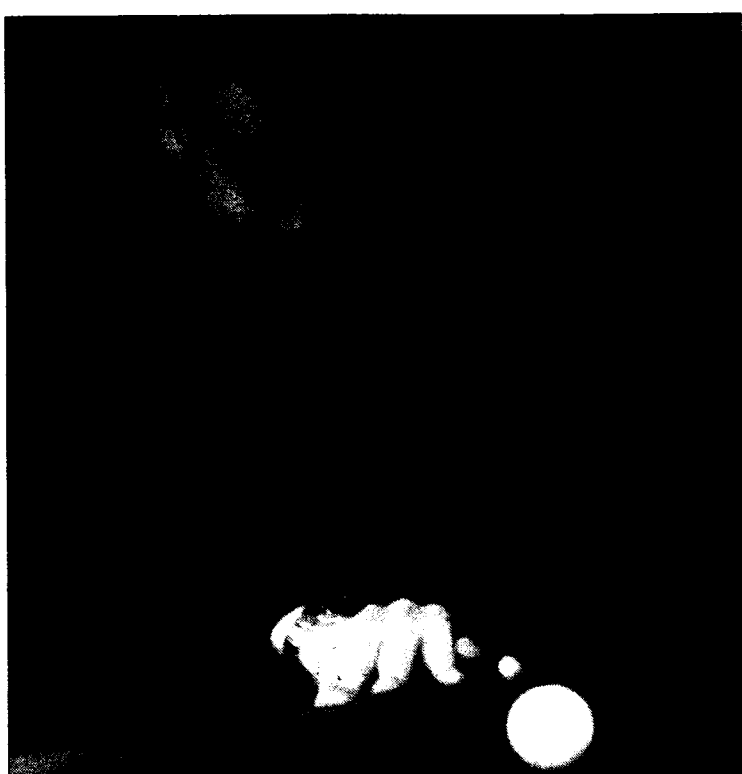
Sponsors include Quiznos, Fresh Harvest Café, the Family Clothes Line, Dragon Chasers Emporium and Grillers Café, Somers said.

The Corner Pocket is finding ways to expand its popularity to students who don't know what the room is used for — the large space can hold parties and also hosts pool tournaments for campus organizations, Somers said.

The change will create a new atmosphere for the business, Somers said.

"This is more about customer satisfaction and making it a more welcoming environment," he said.

To enter the competition, students must send their idea for the new name in to Keith Somers at kjs5234@psu.edu or drop it off in 230 HUB-Robeson Center.



Collegian file photo

A student plays in a pool tournament at the Corner Pocket in 2008.



Amalinda August/Collegian

Jill Holloway (sophomore-civil environmental engineering) and Kristen Salava (sophomore-bioengineering) talk to other students at Tuesday's Study Abroad Fair.

Fair brings interest to studying abroad

By Alaina Gallagher
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

With pamphlets, booklets and papers in hand, Daniel Franey was just one of about 1,500 students who filed through HUB-Alumni Hall Tuesday afternoon looking to find out more about study abroad opportunities.

"I've always been interested in going abroad; I've always wanted to travel and this is a very great opportunity," Franey (freshman-earth and mineral sciences) said. "I don't know much about it but this helped me get started."

He took Spanish throughout high school, so Franey said he is interested in studying in Spain because he wanted to improve his language skills — something that can be incredibly valuable, as Pete Terbovich, Class of 2007, knows.

Terbovich spoke to students about how his experiences studying abroad have helped him in the workforce in three main areas: language, culture and confidence.

Working for a family business that does a lot of sales in Italy, Terbovich has made language an important part of his job.

In fact, he said, the difference between his trips to Italy before studying abroad and after was like "night and day."

After two study abroad experiences in Todi and Siena, Italy, Terbovich said he learned valuable cultural customs, improved his language skills and gained confidence from being able to adapt to new surroundings and situations — all of which he was able to use while working in Italy and yielding new opportunities.

Despite the recession, fair organizers said they didn't see much difference in the number of students going abroad or those attending the fair.

Student coordinator Kristina Burris said there has been a rise in the number of participants. However, this rise is in short-term and summer programs because they tend to be less costly.

Leila Bradaschia, director of international programs for the College of Education, said students at the fair were excited to learn about the opportunity to travel abroad and do their student teaching there — something that allows them to learn more about other cultures and education systems.

"Having an international experience in your undergraduate education is such an important part of your college experience and it can really impact you for the rest of your life," Bradaschia said.

Student volunteer Felix Weigel (freshman-international politics), a native of Germany, said it is important for students to study abroad so other people can have the opportunity to recognize America for its people — not just its politics.

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Carnival highlights PSU traditions

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The quirky Penn State squirrels will be among the "Best of" Penn State subjects to be featured at today's Homecoming carnival on the Old Main lawn.

Attendees can participate in a "whack-a-mole" game with a blue and white twist that turns the carnival game into a Penn State-appropriate "whack-a-squirrel" module.

Like the squirrel station, some of the carnival's booths are creative, Homecoming Public Relations Director Caitlin Rush said. More "traditional" Penn State staples, like the football team or Beaver Stadium, will also be represented, she said.

But attendees shouldn't only expect to look at the booths — they can also indulge in university traditions like tailgating games, Homecoming public

relations captain Christen Morrelli said.

All of the booths — which are created by organizations participating in Homecoming competitions — are interactive, Homecoming Special Events Director Lisha Brown said.

Some booths have food or games, while others will offer arts and crafts activities, she said. Other booth themes include The Diner, Waring Commons, East Halls and fight songs.

"It's just a great way to meet more people, learn more about Penn State, particularly Homecoming, and hang out with friends," Brown (senior-architectural engineering) said.

To round out the carnival fun, a mechanical bull, jousting tournament and a velcro wall will also be open to the public, Rush (junior-public relations and marketing) said.

"The purpose of the event is to bring the community together,"

Morrelli (senior-public relations) said. "Bringing in the old Penn State with new games that students are playing."

The field day portion of the event is open to Homecoming competitors only, Rush said. Field day events include tug-of-war, a potato sack race and other types of relay races, she said.

The carnival portion of the event — open to the public — begins at 5 p.m., Rush said.

In 2009, the carnival's inaugural year, the event was held on the HUB lawn, but Rush said Old Main is the perfect backdrop to showcase so much Penn State tradition.

Rush said she is not aware of any back-up plans in case of rain, but said the carnival would be a difficult event to move inside.

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LGBTQA interviews for new position

By Leah Gillen
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Members of Penn State's LGBTQA community gathered Tuesday to interview the second of two candidates for the newly created program coordinator position.

About 15 students questioned Project Oz counselor Kristy DeWall. Based in Illinois, Project Oz is a program for at-risk teens ages ten to 17.

"I listen for a living," DeWall said. "I help people figure out solutions to what's going on in their lives. I've been able to work with a lot of different types of people, in areas that I think a lot of students deal with today,

in self-esteem, alcohol prevention and awareness, and identity."

DeWall, who grew up in Illinois' foster care system as an openly "out" individual, said she understands both the challenges that face children living in foster care and the hardships faced by members of the LGBTQA community who have felt marginalized or mistreated.

"I understand the feeling that there is something more than just one single identity," DeWall said.

Because of her life experience, DeWall said she aims to create an environment friendly to all, regardless of the seemingly contradictory facets of their identity — particularly

regarding the intersection of faith and sexuality.

"It's a big deal to me that people still are able to maintain their faith," DeWall said.

After the hour-long meeting, the students who interviewed DeWall had mostly positive remarks.

Julian Haas (junior-sociology) said DeWall has a lot of experience.

Nicholas Doyle (freshman-psychology) said he was impressed by DeWall's experience.

"I think she's a not only well-educated, but well-rounded individual," Doyle said.

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