

# Researchers discuss Marcellus

By Nathan Pipenberg  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

State College community members concerned about the effects the Marcellus Shale could have on the area had a chance to express their concerns Wednesday afternoon.

One day after the 2010 Marcellus Summit wrapped up at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, 215 Innovation Blvd., the co-directors of the university's Marcellus Center for Outreach and Research (M-COR) headed downtown to discuss the impact the gas industry will have on the state.

The audience at the Penn State Downtown Theatre Center, mostly older community members, listened to co-directors Michael

Arthur and Tom Murphy and asked pointed questions about safety concerns and industry violations.

The tough questions may have surfaced because of the co-directors' perceived loyalties to the gas industry. While M-COR's research is internally funded by the university, Arthur said his own research as a professor is often funded by pro-drilling groups.

His goal is to give students the best training possible and eventually help them find jobs in the industry, he said, and he doesn't think the funding affects his objectivity. But the main point that Arthur and Murphy made Wednesday was that delving into the Marcellus Shale is a calculated risk.

"Equipment is going to break,

hoses are going to fail," Murphy said. "There is no question there."

The event was well-timed, coming at the heels of increased construction regulations passed on Tuesday by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which Murphy said will also bring about more drilling inspections by DEP officials. All of this will enhance the safety of gas extraction from the Marcellus Shale, a resource former Penn State professor Robert Watson said could power the country for 100 years.

That energy would be accompanied by an estimated 150,000 wells scattered across the country, Arthur said. So far, no one knows how that will affect Pennsylvania's landscape or economy.

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Courtesy of Kevin Stecko

Kevin Stecko, Class of 1999, has found large success with his online T-shirt business, 80sTees.com.

# Alumnus thrives with T-shirt site

By Nathan Pipenberg  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Not many people can boast that they make more money pursuing a side project than their career, but Penn State alumnus Kevin Stecko has managed to do just that.

Stecko, Class of 1999, started to sell T-shirts online in his time off work, but after finding success he quit his full-time engineering job and focused on the T-shirt business full-time instead. "I was making more money selling T-shirts than I was at my full-time job," Stecko said.

Thus, 80sTees.com came to fruition in 2002. Originally, the website featured what its name implies — shirts bearing references to classic '80s pop culture like Pac-Man and A-Team.

Today, the store has expanded to sell modern gear, too — as Stecko said, "nothing new is coming out from the '80s" — but the majority is still influenced by "it" trends. References to television shows, movies and music groups dominate the homepage.

The business has become a multi-million dollar venture, employing 15 full-time and 10 part-time workers, and selling 25,000 to 30,000 items per month.

Stecko partly credits his success to an influence he came across in State College — the

House of Kashmir store, 130 Calder Way, which is famed for selling a similar style of T-shirt.

One day at the Kennywood amusement park, Stecko said he received an alarming number of comments on a He-Man shirt he bought from House of Kashmir. If people liked his shirt, he said, he figured they would buy similar ones online.

Before he graduated, Stecko returned to the House of Kashmir one last time to buy a bulk order. His first foray into online sales was reselling those T-shirts on eBay.com.

Tulay Girard, a Penn State professor and expert on buying behavior, said a disadvantage of shopping online is dealing with the inconvenience of mailing back a product the consumer wants to return. But Stecko has avoided that pitfall by making the store feel like a brick and mortar shop instead. He tries to take the risk factor out of online shopping. He set up a generous return policy and has a size chart for every shirt style that is available. Plus, he said he's lucky because most of his sales are in men's T-shirts. Apparel is something that's really hard to describe online, but most men aren't too picky as long as the shirt fits all right, he said.

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# Athletes bond through tennis clinic

By Alyssa Bender  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Bright yellow tennis balls soared across three of the Sarni Tennis Center courts on a crisp fall Wednesday night as 15 Special Olympics Centre County athletes participated in a tennis clinic with the Penn State men's team.

Special Olympics Centre County tennis coach Mike Wolff said participation has increased every year since the clinic started.

He said the event started over 15 years ago with the women's team.

Over the years, the event had fizzled out, but the men's team brought it back four years ago, he said.

Penn State team members led various drills for the first part of the evening, joking with the Special Olympics athletes and sharing words of encouragement.

Special Olympics athletes lined up in groups to practice their forehand, backhand and other basic skills while team members served balls from across the court.

"We really learn to appreciate it," men's tennis player Jason Lee (junior-economics) said, who has helped with the clinic every year he has been on the team.

He said they've started to view tennis as a job because of the amount of pressure they have to do well.

"It's a good way to give back to the community," he said.



Alexis Simchak/Collegian

Penn State tennis player Harry Seaborn (freshman-marketing) watches Heather Thomas, 34, of Altoona, during the annual tennis clinic for Special Olympics of Pennsylvania on Wednesday evening.

Penn State men's tennis head coach Todd Doebler told participants that he hoped they all had a lot of fun and learned something new.

"If you can hit our players with a ball, that's even better. You'll definitely get a high five from me," he said.

After an hour and a half of tennis drills, participants had one final challenge—to hit just one ball over the net. Then each participant high-fived their team members and received a Penn State rally towel. Athletes from both teams concluded the night with a pizza party. Wolff said that this event is really about getting ath-

letes together, and the connection Special Olympics has with Penn State is just a bonus.

He said he thinks it's important for his team members to get the chance to play with elite athletes.

Doebler said he thinks his team enjoys it just as much.

"The athletes that come just light up. They think it's the coolest thing anytime a Penn State varsity athlete takes time out of their day to spend time with them," he said. "It's an honor to have those athletes come."

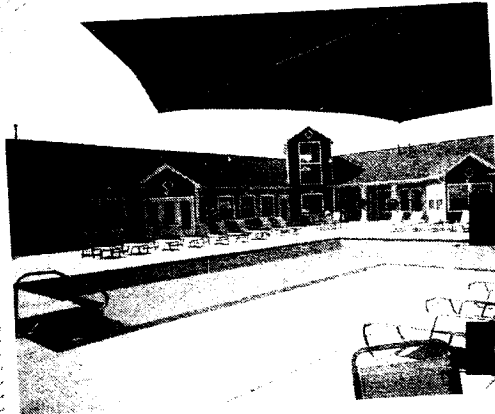
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... PA Announcer?

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... National Anthem Singer?  
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