

# Community clears faith misconceptions

Local Muslim, Jewish and Christian followers joined to talk interfaith issues.

By Matt Morgan  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

State College resident Della Chuderewicz said there aren't enough interfaith social gatherings in the borough.

But Sunday afternoon's interfaith picnic at Tussey View Park on East Marylyn Avenue provided her and more than 100 other peo-

ple with the opportunity to enjoy a day of food and interaction with a diverse group of people.

The event gave Muslim, Jewish and Christian community members the chance to interact in a relaxed, social atmosphere and clear up misconceptions about their faiths.

"My goal was simple: to show that all Muslims don't support Al-Qaeda," Alamgir Rahman (graduate-plant pathology) said.

Another goal of the picnic was to show people a different side of the Muslim community rather than all the controversial information in

the news, like the proposed construction of a mosque near Ground Zero and the proposed Qur'an burnings.

Penn State plant pathology professor Wakar Uddin said he is very concerned with the message foreign Muslim students might take back to their home countries upon experiencing ignorance.

"The Islamic community is not sure how their faith is perceived," Uddin said. "They may be stereotyping Americans as people who want to burn Qur'ans, but those people don't represent the United States."

"What I've seen in my 14 years in State College that is unique is the level of tolerance."

Wakar Uddin  
Penn State plant pathology professor

But when Koray Sekeroglu (graduate-engineering science and mechanics) moved to the United States from Turkey, he said he had a positive experience incorporating his religion into American society.

"When I came to this country I was uncomfortable praying, but I felt accepted right away," he said.

"When you pray in public places people don't bother you."

Uddin said State College offers something special for all religions.

"What I've seen in my 14 years in State College that is unique is the level of tolerance," Uddin said.

"This is a multicultural town and people have been exposed to multicultural values for a long time."



Daniel Bott/Collegian

Participants of the Centre County Heart Walk begin their three-mile walk from Medlar Field to raise awareness for heart disease.

## 518 participate in Heart Walk

By Danae Blasso  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Danae Bartram having a stomach ache was nothing she had felt before. Little did she know the pain she felt one day in 2005 was actually a major heart attack.

At the time, Bartram was 33 years old and she didn't even have the typical symptoms of a heart attack. Bartram said she thought her pain was just a stomach flu. "The pain was in the left arm and the chest. That's one of those."

Bartram was one of 518 participants who walked the three-mile route from Medlar Field at Tussey View Park through campus Saturday afternoon as part of the Centre County Heart Walk -- an event to support heart disease survivors and a tribute to those who died from it.

Each year the American Heart Association elects two Heart Heroes to represent the many victims of heart disease, the No. 1 cause of death in America, Bartram said.

Jody Friling, a Heart Hero along with Bartram, suffered from a heart attack in 2006 at the age of 13.

"People know their bodies," Friling said. "If something's not right they shouldn't hesitate to seek medical attention and Diane and I both waited."

Elizabeth Palumbo, an Alpha Phi sorority member, attended the event to support her sorori-

ty's philanthropy.

"It is important that we spread awareness for it and devote our time," Palumbo (sophomore-secondary education and mathematics) said.

Sophia Medairy, the current Miss Teen PA International, participated in the walk to support her team, "Staying on Beat."

Medairy has traveled throughout the East Coast participating in pageants and educating children about heart disease, which took the life of her grandmother in 2005.

"I talk to kids about being healthy," Medairy said. "Heart disease can be found at any age, any gender and any ethnicity. It all starts at a young age."

The 518 walkers finished in an hour and spent their time talking and sharing heartfelt memories while eating healthy snacks.

Rachel Zacharie, the division director of the Central Susquehanna division of the American Heart Association, said the organization hopes to raise \$50,000 by 45 days after the walk.

Friling said the Heart Heroes are responsible for sharing their stories and showing that life is still worth living even after a heart attack.

She said family and friends are major influences in how people deal with heart disease.

"There's no reason why I shouldn't live a normal life from this point forward," Friling said.

## Students rock to MP3 adventure

By Erika Spicer  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

After being signaled to "push play" by a foghorn, Clown Nose Club members danced, made snowless snow angels and played air guitars on Saturday in the East Halls quad.

Using personal music players, participants listened to a high-energy 16-minute instructional MP3, which they downloaded from the Clown Nose Club's website for the Audio Adventure 2010.

At the first command, students "celebrated their existence" by screaming and cheering loudly, and after a few more instructions they silently blew up balloons, formed a mosh pit and waltzed.

"All of this is really just about a bunch of outgoing people taking themselves a little less seriously," Clown Nose Club Vice President Maarten Levert (sophomore-energy engineering) said.

Students smiled and laughed as they listened to the MP3, and after the event some said they really enjoyed it.

"I thought it was really cool, especially because I saw the video of the same thing that was done in New York City. I loved the randomness," Brian McCormick (senior-electrical engineering) said.

The club got the attention of students through Facebook event invitations and advertising around campus. About 50 people attended the event.



Tom Ruane/Collegian

Clown Nose Club members perform a dance at the Audio Adventure 2010 in the East Halls quad on Saturday afternoon.

"Obviously, the 500 we wanted didn't show up, but I still thought it was a lot of fun," Clown Nose Club President Chad Littlefield (sophomore-rehabilitation and human services) said. "Everyone that participated was really, really high energy."

Some students said they had requests for future Audio Adventures. "I thought it was fun, but I think it would be better if there was even more person-to-person interaction in the event. I really liked the interactive stuff like the high-fiving and dancing," Drew Golterman (freshman-mechanical engineering) said.

The Clown Nose Club prepared for Audio Adventure by compiling the MP3 and making the signs that read "Ready, Set, Play," "You Rock" and "You Da Bomb" that were used during the event. About 20 members of the club also rehearsed the instructional MP3 to ensure that everything ran smoothly.

"I loved it," Clown Nose Club member Alli Collins (junior-secondary math education) said. "We've been planning for a while now, and finally doing it felt awesome. I thought it went better than I expected, and everyone seemed really into it."

## Guide introduces disability services

By Cassie Wiggins  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Having a disability can sometimes make life challenging.

Factor in college responsibilities like tests and homework, and it can make life even more difficult.

But a new Penn State student disability guide hopes to help ease students' frustrations.

The new 16-page pamphlet, "Guide to University Park Services for Persons with Disabilities," is now available to current and prospective University Park students.

Stephanie Sarnese (freshman-forensic science), who is hearing impaired, said the new guide is a great idea.

"It's very confusing surfing the Web trying to find services," Sarnese said. "The guide makes it easy to find services because it's all in one place."

Jacqueline Zakon (freshman-broadcast journalism) said it's frustrating not knowing what services are offered to her.

"Since I have ADHD, I sometimes need to use some extra services or accommodations. But I didn't really know all the other resources available to me," she said. "It was very overwhelming."

The new guide gives a comprehensive outline of all the services for students with disabilities offered to students on campus and in State College. The guide lists important information such as frequently asked questions, phone numbers, addresses, internships, clubs, hardware and software available to students with disabilities.

University Libraries and Susan Hayya, coordinator of library services for persons with disabilities, produced the guide. Hayya's group's efforts were sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity, the University Access Committee and the University Libraries.

Last year, the Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity brought together community members to form a disability advisory group, Hayya said.

"We wanted to develop a Web page where all of the services were all in one place. [The website] is still a work in progress," she said. "However, I also wanted to develop something other than the Web page, something someone could actually hold on to, like a pamphlet."

Hayya said she received grants from the Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity and the University Access Committee to help fund her efforts for the pamphlet. Eventually Hayya said she'd like to create a similar pamphlet for each of Penn State's campuses.

The pamphlet will be helpful to both new and current students and their parents, Hayya said.

"We get calls where our students need different services and they don't know where to go. It can be a very confusing process for them," she said.

The guide can be seen online at [www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/disabilities/news.html](http://www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/disabilities/news.html). To receive print copies of the guide, contact Hayya at [shh2@psu.edu](mailto:shh2@psu.edu).

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Wednesday, October 20  
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HUB Alumni Hall

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**October 21**  
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October 19 @ 5:15pm  
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October 20 @ 4:00pm  
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