

# 2011 Homecoming director announced

By Megan Rogers  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Leah Matusow can't wait for the stress.

The newly selected 2011 Homecoming director said she's already looking forward to the late nights of planning and the hectic moments of Homecoming week.

But she said Homecoming is a year-long process and one of her goals is to emphasize that to the community.

Matusow (senior-secondary education) learned of her new position after receiving a call from

2010 Homecoming Director Mike Peyton Wednesday afternoon.

"I just stopped on the middle of the mall and wanted to freak out and couldn't freak out because so many people were around," Matusow said. "I'm so excited — the smile really hasn't left my face all day."

Matusow was appointed as the 2011 Homecoming director by Peyton (senior-architectural engineering) and the Homecoming advisers after an application and interview process.

As director, Matusow is in charge of overseeing the execu-

tive committee and acts as a liaison between Homecoming and other student groups. Homecoming Public Relations Director Caitlin Rush said.

Matusow's first task is to select her executive committee. Rush (junior-public relations and marketing) said — those applications go out Nov. 5.

Matusow was the corporate relations director for 2010 Homecoming.

Rush said Matusow has the qualities needed to be a good director.

"She goes above and beyond

and out of her way to make Homecoming as exciting as she can," Rush said.

Peyton said the committee selected Matusow based on leadership qualities and visions for Homecoming.

"The combination of her personal traits plus her experience in Homecoming and other leadership roles and organizations that she's involved in all played a factor in picking her," Peyton said.

As the sole member of the 2011 Homecoming team, Matusow will have the chance to watch the event build to hundreds of people

and plenty of events, Peyton said.

The Homecoming theme will be announced at the Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, and the Homecoming logo will be revealed at the Blue and White game in the spring, Matusow said.

She said her goal is to inject more Homecoming spirit in the time between the two events — the executive committee "bleeds blue and white year-round" and wants the community to feel the same.

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# Panel discusses issues related to concussions

By Alaina Gallagher  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Members of the Penn State community brought the reality of concussions and brain injuries to life Wednesday night by sharing facts, figures and personal accounts about these injuries, their effects and their recovery processes.

The panel discussion was one in a series of programs aiming to bring awareness to disabilities throughout the month of October.

Penn State Professor Peter Arnett began the presentation with a clinical look at concussions including the range of their severity and the symptoms that people often experience with them.

As director of Penn State's Concussion Program, Arnett also explained the process that the program goes through in evaluating athletes who have suffered from a concussion and for determining their readiness to return to competition.

Graduate Student Emily Tarconish later shared her personal story of how suffering from a severe traumatic brain injury at age 15 has impacted her life, and the injury's effects that she still struggles with today.

After landing on her head in a car accident, Tarconish said she was in a coma for two and a half weeks and worked for months afterward with a variety of therapists, relearning how to do everything such as walk and talk.

"I was like an infant. I had to start all over and I didn't remember anything," she said.

Nine years later, Tarconish said she still has trouble forming memories, something that can be extremely challenging as a student, and can't

"I was like an infant, I had to start all over and didn't remember anything."

Emily Tarconish  
(graduate - counselor education)

really remember her childhood.

Several students in the rehabilitation and human services major attended the panel to learn more about brain injuries and the rehabilitation process that is necessary for recovery from these injuries.

"To see the medical aspects of it and to hear their personal stories for me really showed the seriousness of it and how it affects them," said Ashley Rinker (senior-rehabilitation and human services).

Rinker said one of the main reasons she attended was because traumatic brain injuries are a serious issue in military life and that she has an interest in one day becoming a military counselor.

Aubry Regan (senior-rehabilitation and human services) also attended the panel discussion.

"It sparked my interest because of the urgency of a traumatic brain injury and the personal stories and perspectives you don't hear too often," she said.

Regan said Tarconish's story was unique and her recovery "empowering."

"In our major you don't get as much clinical information unless you're in the master's program — it's nice to get that insight," she said.

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Sarah Finnegan, Collegian

Becky Perlow (senior-journalism and HREM) and Gabrielle Rosenblum (freshman-comparative literature and spanish) participate in the Paternoville Trashcan Football competition on Wednesday night.

# Paternoville hosts Gate A trashcan football game

By Mike H...  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

After the first round of the inaugural game of the Paternoville trashcan football tournament, the Paternoville student Tyler Santacrose said.

"We lost the first round but we're gonna lose," Santacrose, a sophomore professional golfer, said.

However, Santacrose said the cause outweighed his disappointment.

In what participants described as "glorified beer pong" for charity, Paternoville held its first trashcan football tournament outside Beaver Stadium on Wednesday night.

Members of Paternoville camp in front of Gate A at Beaver Stadium starting on Wednesday before the games to claim prime seats in the stadium for what Sports Illustrated called "The Greatest Show in Collegiate Sports."

Jake Borer said the Paternoville tournament was his first time playing trashcan football, but certainly not his last.

"It's giant beer pong for a great cause. It's great," student photographer advertising said.

The tournament games consisted of teams of two standing beside two large garbage cans, about 20 yards from the

opposing team. Teams that sunk footballs in both trashcans first were declared winners, said student event referee Emily Schultz.

20 teams participated, with proceeds benefiting Penn State Lift for Life, said Paternoville Vice President John Tecce.

Lift for Life is a philanthropic organization devoted to raising awareness and funds for rare diseases, Tecce said.

Schultz said she enjoyed watching the games, especially since it's for a good cause.

"It's cool to see people getting into this game that's been kind of made up," Schultz (sophomore kinesiology) said.

ComRadio, Penn State's student-run radio station, broadcast live from the event, featuring trivia and games for campers not playing in the tournament.

Tecce said the event spawned out of finding something exciting to do during the downtime before Saturday's home game against the University of Michigan.

"We're just playing to pass the time because there's not a lot to do out here," Tecce (junior marketing) laughed.

Teams in the tournament received free merchandise from Nike for competing.

Tecce called the event "a little disorganized" during its first year but said he remained optimistic for next year.

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# Expert speaks on politics surrounding immigration

By Megan Rogers  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The past six months have been a dark chapter in immigration politics, and Penn State immigration expert Shoba Wadhia said she's not hopeful the situation will change any time soon.

Wadhia, the Penn State Law's Center for Immigrants' Rights director, spoke to about 50 people Wednesday afternoon at this week's edition of the Research Unplugged lecture series.

Public frustration on the issue has been mounting, Wadhia said — recent hot topics about immigration include birthright citizenship, "all things Arizona" and detention.

Alyssa Wolfe said immigration issues are her passion and what she hopes to start a career in.

One of the few students in the audience, Wolfe (senior-international politics) said she thought Wadhia touched on all of the important issues in her presentation.

Enforcement alone is not the solution to the problem, Wadhia said.

Wadhia, who was the former deputy director for legal affairs at the National Immigration Forum, said possible solutions include removing obstacles that prevent genuine refugees from coming to the United States and the importance of restoring discretion in immigration courts.

"A reform package must include meaningful integration," she said.

She said pushing civic engagement or teaching immigrants how to speak English may be ways to help the integration process.

The Research Unplugged lecture series takes place every Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. at the Downtown Theater Center.

Research Unplugged intern Kelsey Bradbury said fewer students came out to the lecture than normal — but it's always worth it to see what the speakers have to say.

"It's always interesting to hear the speakers and what they have to say and the community's response," Bradbury (junior-advertising) said.

Wadhia told audience members she doesn't have much hope for reform in 2010.

But she urged the crowd to stay involved in the issue by voting in next week's midterm election and learning more about the issue.

Wadhia answered the audience's questions after a 20-minute speech.

She also encouraged attendees to come out to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Refugee Act on Nov. 12 from 10 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at the Lewis Katz Building.

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