

Pete Tesonero/Collegian

Young Americans for Freedom chairman Samuel Settle (junior-political science and history) holds a sign outside the HUB-Robeson Center during Vice-President Joe Biden's visit.

Local group receives national recognition

By Alexa Agugliaro
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Penn State Chapter of Young Americans for Freedom was selected as Chapter of the Year for the first time at the organization's 19th Biannual National Convention in Orange County, Calif. on Oct. 16.

Samuel Settle, chairman of YAF said the organization is one of the oldest and most prestigious youth groups in the country, and he thinks it is a great honor to be recognized as the best in the country.

"I'm incredibly proud of the everything our chapter has done," Settle (junior-political science and history) said. "It speaks to the hard work and dedication that every member has shown."

YAF National Chairman Erik Johnson said an exclusive committee of top alumni leaders selected the 2010 Chapter of the Year. Chapters were judged on the criteria of how the chapter interacts with its university, the state and the country as a whole.

Whether playing an active role in the community, meeting with elected officials or organizing leadership conferences, the YAF Penn State Chapter is consistently delivering powerful messages, Johnson said. He said this honor typically goes to the chapter that epitomizes the values of YAF or has significantly advanced the cause.

"Essentially we felt that Penn State has done a fantastic job," Johnson said. "They demonstrated what we would like to see every chapter do."

Johnson said this year's National Convention marked the 50th Anniversary of YAF, and to be honored at such an event is something Penn State should be very pleased with.

Penn State YAF Vice Chairman David Carr said the honor came as no shock to him because of all the hard work and dedication the group members have been putting in. He said the protests over the "Climategate" controversy in February gained the organization national attention and definitely contributed to the honor.

"The award is well-deserved," Carr (junior-economics) said. "We're really getting our name as well as our views out there to the public."

YAF has also been heavily active with debates and protests, including Vice President Joe Biden's recent visit to campus, Carr said. He said another contributing factor for the honor was the memorial organized to commemorate the tragedy of 9/11.

Settle said the chapter is "collectively keeping the movement going forward" and has every intention of receiving the award again in the future.

To e-mail reporter: ama5453@psu.edu

Program provides jobs to disabled

By Mary Schultz
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Karen Kline, manager for student health insurance at Penn State, speaks highly of Colleen McKay, a staff assistant who has been working in her department for four years.

"She's a great asset," Kline said of McKay, who is responsible for answering phones and speaking with students about insurance claims, along with other clerical tasks.

But McKay isn't the average staff assistant.

McKay is nearly blind. She has to use special equipment and software to magnify documents on a computer screen, Kline said.

"At first I was apprehensive about someone with low visual acuity working in the office," she said. "But how could I not hire the person who best suits the job?"

McKay was hired through the Opportunity Network for Employment, a program that helps qualified people with disabilities to find a job at Penn State.

Since 2001, the program has helped match hundreds of qualified individuals with disabilities with jobs in Human Resources,

"Everyone who comes to work here through the ONE program is a great applicant and a great employee."

Rob Harris

Human resources manager at University Libraries

Housing and Food Services, Office of Physical Plant, Hospitality Services, University Libraries and other locations on campus, ONE Program Coordinator Marianne Karwacki said.

"There's plenty of work to be done on campus," she said. "ONE provides vacancies with disabled persons who are interested and capable."

ONE evaluates the skills and abilities of its participants, then assists them with the application and interview process for jobs they are qualified to do. ONE reaches out to managers of departments with unmet staffing needs, Karwacki said.

ONE is sometimes able to provide employers with partial salary support for employees hired through the program, she said.

"It's a win-win partnership," she added.

ONE participants are able to map out their on-the-job needs

and list techniques and services that will be helpful to them in the workplace, Karwacki said. They are also provided with additional support and training such as job coaching, if it is needed.

"Everyone who comes to work here through the ONE program is a great applicant and a great employee," said Rob Harris, manager of human resources at University Libraries.

Harris said most ONE employees at the library work part-time organizing books on shelves and checking books in and out.

Though ONE helps people with disabilities to explore job opportunities and placement, its participants still are held to performance standards and expectations, said Karwacki.

"It's not a charity," she said. "There are people working that wouldn't be if it wasn't for the ONE program. Someone is advocating for them so that they are able to live independently."

Students transition to main campus

By Emily Battaglia
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

For Matt Bercaw, attending Penn State Abington felt like attending 13th grade.

Bercaw (junior-telecommunications) said some of his classrooms were the same size as his high school classes, with as few as 15 desks. The Abington campus only has four buildings, he said.

Now halfway through the semester, Bercaw said he's finally adjusting to life at University Park, despite receiving little help from the university during his transition, he said.

For some students, the transition to University Park can be difficult and overwhelming, with University Park having more than 37,000 undergraduate students. All Commonwealth Campuses combined have less than 28,000 students, according to the Penn State Fact Book.

Council of Commonwealth Student Government President Mohamed Raouda (senior-history and international politics) said he understands the difficulty of transitioning from a commonwealth campus.

Originally starting at Penn State Altoona, Raouda said he



Courtesy of stateuniversity.com

Students from commonwealth campuses are finding it hard to transition to University Park.

had to come to University Park for his major. When he came to University Park, Raouda had a 3.93 grade-point average, but saw a major dip after his first semester, he said.

Raouda said that on average, a student who graduates from University Park after starting at a Commonwealth Campus graduates with a GPA difference of 0.04 when compared to students who started at University Park.

Raouda said he thinks so many students struggle with the transition because of how academics are assessed.

"In a 20 person class, professors can give an essay exam,"

Raouda said. "Essays give you more detail and insight into what the student understands."

Dave Marselles (junior-neurobiology) started at Penn State Lehigh Valley. He said at Lehigh Valley the exams provided more opportunities for earning good grades, which he said is not available through multiple choice exams at University Park.

For Marselles, the first round of exams was the most difficult part of the transition. After adjusting to the format of classes, things have been getting easier, he said.

Raouda said his personal experience with a difficult transition is why he wants to help others going through similar situations.

Currently, Commonwealth Campus students can participate in Link UP, a program that gives potential change-of-campus students the opportunity to tour University Park and meet with academic representatives of their college, Raouda said.

Link UP said last year only 300 students participated in the program.

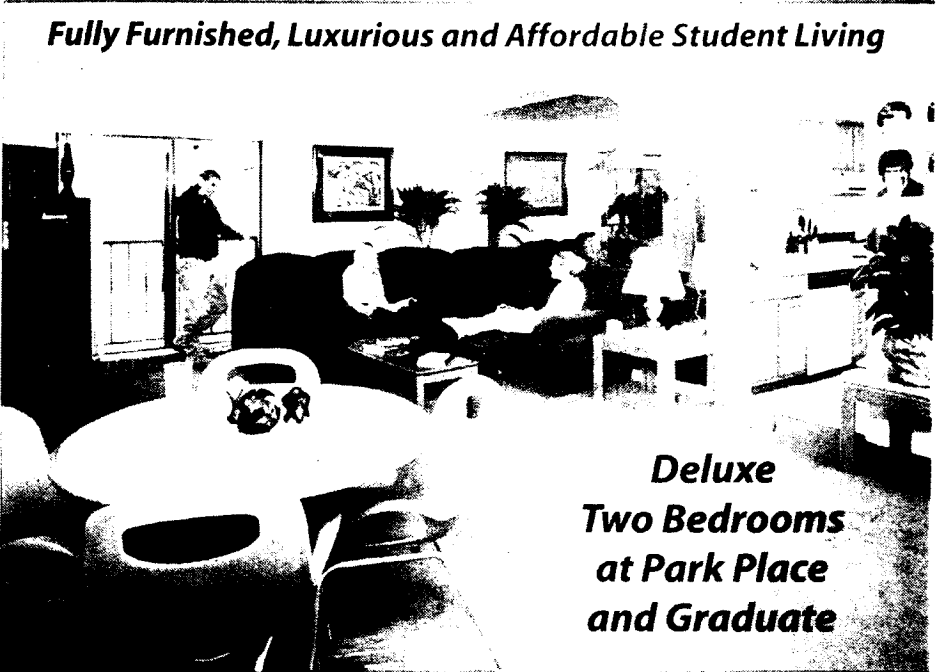
Since the program is not reaching all students, CCSG is in the process of creating a mentoring program for change-of-campus students, he said.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET
All You Care To Enjoy!
9am-2pm
\$9.95
NOW ACCEPTING LONG CASH PLUS
THE CORNER ROOM since 1926
Corner of College & Allen

Stop in any **Simply Tan**
Location and register to win 1 of 25 prizes
The Grand Prize is **ONE FREE YEAR** OF UNLIMITED TANNING
No purchase necessary
See store for details

Late Night at the **Grill**
Join Bill Filer at the Piano Bar
Thursday-Saturday
Kitchen Open Late
ALLEN STREET
Grill

RENTAL SEASON HAS BEGUN
THE GRADUATE PARK PLACE TOWN SQUARE GN CENTRE BURROWES CO THE LION EASTSIDE
Submit your application & Reserve an apartment today!
Fully Furnished, Luxurious and Affordable Student Living



Deluxe
Two Bedrooms
at Park Place
and Graduate

Feed Your Next PSU Football Party!
Little Caesars
HOT-N-READY PIZZA
LARGE PIZZA ALL DAY, EVERY DAY!
CARRY OUT PLUS TAX NO LIMIT! **\$5.00** With Pepperoni or Original
1712 S. Atherton • 814-272-5100

Follow **Stay up to date on deadlines and promotions!**
www.twitter.com/mycollegianad 814 865 2531

GN Associates
Office Hours:
Mon-Fri 8:30-5
Sat 11-4
gnrealty.com - 119 S. Burrowes St., University Park - (814)238-1878