

New PHC position to oversee risk management

By Christina Gallagher
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Hoping to improve risk management policies, Panhellenic Council officials created two PHC Executive Board positions for the 2011 spring semester — vice president for risk management and vice president for member development.

The vice president for risk management will take a hands-on approach in dealing with issues like hazing, sexual assault and diversity, PHC Assistant Sara

Linkosky (senior-political science) said.

The vice president for risk management will work with the Interfraternity Council to make sure both councils are on the same page with social policies and will take steps to change social policies, including alcohol policies.

"We thought it would be more efficient to add this position," PHC Vice President Marina Matteo (senior-public relations) said.

The vice president for member development will create programs

to train recruiters, plan new member retreats and continue new member education, Linkosky said.

Both vice presidents will face a transition period after this week's elections and will be initiated Dec. 6.

PHC President-Elect Paige Rothaus said she's confident the new positions will have a positive effect on greek life.

"We all have a genuine concern for the issues at hand and we want to make a change," Rothaus (junior-advertising) said. The IFC recently added new

positions to its board in October.

The IFC vice president for membership split into two, becoming the vice president for membership and vice president for recruitment. The vice president for membership will focus on new member education and programs, while the vice president for recruitment will focus only on recruitment of new members.

Earlier this semester, PHC officials called a mandatory meeting with sorority presidents to discuss alcohol-related issues. PHC officials said at the time

that the meeting was called in relation to several alcohol-related incidents that had occurred.

"Because of the issue at hand with harmful drinking, we felt it would be best to create a new position," Rothaus said.

PHC discussed the prevalence of sexual assault and drinking and decided a vice president for risk management would alleviate some of the duties and responsibilities of other positions.

The new vice president will work directly with chapters, Linkosky said.



Peter Tesonero/Collegian

Kimi Yudt (sophomore-psychology) and Callie Eardly (sophomore-psychology) treat a CATA bus driver to high-fives and free candy to thank him for his hard work.

Club spreads cheer to drivers

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Clown Nose Club gathered Tuesday afternoon to show its support and thanks for Centre Area Transportation Authority bus drivers.

In the end, it wasn't just the club members who were thankful.

As bus drivers pulled away from the bus stop, sometimes giving a honk of the horn as they went, about 20 members of the Clown Nose Club waved them off with cheers and uplifting signs. Club member Maarten Levert said most of the bus drivers were surprised by the gesture, but each encounter ended with a smile.

"It means a lot just to say 'you matter' to somebody," Levert (sophomore-energy engineering) said.

For about a half-hour, the group cheered in anticipation as each bus came closer to the stop and members took turns climbing aboard to let the drivers know that they matter to the Penn State community.

Uplifting others was a great way to spend an afternoon, club member Desirae Scott said. Scott (freshman-division of undergraduate studies) said she thinks they may have made some of the drivers' days a little bit brighter.

"She thought we were going to walk right on by her like all of the other passengers," Scott said.

But instead, the driver was greeted with an "upward spiral" of happiness that began

last year. Clown Nose Club President Chad Littlefield said.

Littlefield (sophomore-rehabilitation and human services) was chatting with the driver on the bus ride back to East Halls. The driver told Littlefield how awful her day had been. Littlefield offered a hug, but as he exited the bus, he knew he wanted to do more.

He ran to his dorm, rounded up a group of friends, threw on a clown nose and quickly composed a sign. The group headed back to the East Halls bus stop to await the bus's return. As the Blue Loop pulled up to the stop, Littlefield waved their "I love Kathy" signs.

"I hopped on the bus and said, 'Thank you, you need to now have a better day,'" Littlefield said.

Littlefield said the bus driver later told him she had been considering quitting her job that day, but seeing the support of the students made a huge difference. Littlefield said he still chats with Kathy whenever he rides her bus. By cheering up the bus drivers, the Clown Nose Club hopes the bus drivers can then cheer up the thousands of students they come into contact with each day with a smile, Littlefield said.

"I'm a huge believer that positive behaviors start upward spirals and that a bus driver smiling at you can lift your mood," he said. "Hopefully we can start a wave of more positivity."

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BP reports profit despite spill

By Brian Skoloff
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILOXI, Miss. — BP PLC is once again reporting profits even with an estimated \$40 billion price tag for the response to its blown out well in the Gulf of Mexico.

In this waterfront city, where many lost their livelihoods to the summer of oil, a mixture of relief and melancholy greeted the news Tuesday. A financially healthy BP means jobs and compensation, but residents still reeling from the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history are waiting for some good news of their own.

BP said that costs related to the April 20 oil spill dragged down its third-quarter profit by more than 60 percent. The London-based company earned \$1.79 billion from July through September, compared with \$5.3 billion a year earlier.

But the fact that BP returned to profits at all, coming after a loss of \$17.2 billion in the second quarter, indicated the company's operations remain solid despite the spill.

"That's real good news they're making money because at least we know they have the ability to pay us over a long period of time because we've still got a lot of problems," said shrimp processor Rudy Lesso, whose Biloxi, Miss. business is down about 25 percent because much of the public is still afraid to eat Gulf seafood.

BP has set up a \$20 billion compensation fund to pay victims of the oil spill, cutting roughly \$1.7 billion in checks so far. But the process has been slow and cumbersome for struggling Gulf coast residents.

BP's third-quarter performance fell well short of the industry norm. All the other major oil companies, except Chevron, have reported stronger third quarter profits thanks to higher oil and gas prices.

The company's \$40 billion estimate for its overall spill response was \$7.7 billion higher than its previous estimate provided during its second-quarter results released this summer, largely due to unanticipated

additional expenses. The company had already spent \$11.2 billion responding to the spill by the end of September.

None of that, however, kept BP Chief Executive Bob Dudley from delivering a rosy prognosis.

"What I can report today is that BP is now in recovery mode," Dudley said Tuesday from London.

At one point he talked about how the situation looks without the spill — an unthinkable leap for Gulf residents.

"Putting aside the incident ... the BP group as a whole delivered a strong business performance throughout the quarter in terms of both financial and safety performance," he added.

Ewell Smith, head of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board, said people forget that oil and fishing have for decades "worked side by side" in the Gulf region.

"People lose sight that our fishing communities and our oil and gas communities are tied together at the hip. They both need to stay strong to keep our economy strong," he said.

"So it's good news that BP is recovering financially."

BP just Monday announced it would spend \$78 million to test and promote Louisiana seafood, and boost tourism in the state.

"They made a commitment to us to help us rebuild our brand," Smith said. "We want them to be around long enough to live up to that."

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has reopened most federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico to commercial fishing, leaving just about four percent still closed.

At the height of the spill, about 37 percent of federal waters in the Gulf were closed.

But fishermen, shrimpers, crabbers and oystermen are finding little demand from a wary public, despite the federal government's insistence that all seafood being caught in newly opened waters is safe to eat.

Blasts kill 76 in Baghdad

Rebecca Santana
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD — Rapid-fire bombings and mortar strikes killed 76 people and wounded more than 200 across Baghdad's myriad neighborhoods Tuesday, demonstrating the insurgents' ability to carry out coordinated strikes from one side of the capital to the other.

The attack — blasts in at least 13 separate neighborhoods — was clearly designed to hit civilians at restaurants and cafes where many Iraqis were gathered to enjoy the warm evening. The sophistication and the targets — Shiites — suggested that al-Qaida-linked Sunni militants were responsible for the deadliest day in Iraq since May. The strikes, two days after the bloody siege of a downtown church, were stunning in their scope — indicating a high degree of coordination and complexity from an insurgency that just a few months

ago U.S. and Iraqi officials were saying was all but defeated.

"They say the situation is under the control. Where is their control?" said Hussein al-Saiedi, a 26-year-old resident of Baghdad's sprawling Sadr City slum, where 21 people were killed when a parked car blew up near a market in Tuesday's deadliest bombing.

"We were just standing on the street when we heard a loud noise, and then saw smoke and pieces of cars, falling from the sky," al-Saiedi said. "People were fleeing the site in panic, frantically calling the names of their relatives and friends."

The bombings began at about 6:15 p.m. and lasted for hours. The assailants used booby-trapped cars and a motorcycle, roadside bombs and mortars.

Associated Press writers Robert Burs in Washington and Lara Jakes and Mazin Yahya in Baghdad contributed to this report.

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