

Club to bring clean water to Honduras

By Kathleen Loughran
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State students Michael Henry and Anthony Ricco are giving people in Honduras what many people in the United States take for granted: clean water.

Henry (sophomore-immunology and infectious disease) and Ricco (sophomore-premedicine) are the two founders of the Penn State branch of Global Water Brigades, an organization that travels to Honduras to help bring clean water to communities.

"Water Brigades is an organization that is part of a larger non-profit organization called Global Brigades," Ricco said. "They want to have a holistic approach to helping the Third Worlds with sustainability."

At Penn State, four of the eight total brigades exist — Water, Medical, Public Health and Business. But the duo hopes to see the other four brigades form within the next year, Ricco said.

During spring break, members of Penn State's Global Water Brigades — with the aid of students from the University of North Carolina — will make their first trip to help build a pipeline in a small rural community in Honduras, Henry said.

As students hoping to go into medicine, Henry and Ricco said they decided to become active members of Global Medical Brigades last year, where they learned about Global Water Brigades.

After going on Global Medical Brigades's trip last year, Henry said he realized how important potable water is to a community.

"A lot of people are sick because of parasites and where the parasites come from is having unclean water," he said.

Ricco said a pipeline was recently finished in one of the rural areas, and the high incidents of diseases related to parasites have already dropped down to nearly zero cases.

Fundraising chairman David Martino said he decided to get involved with the organization because he was passionate about helping people obtain clean water in high school.

"I have had a lot of education on Third World countries, but I've never been able to experience it," Martino (freshman-energy engineering and material sciences) said.

"There's only so much a textbook can teach you, so I'm excited and passionate to help people."

Some of the events Martino said he is looking forward to planning include selling water bottles with facts about potable water on the label and hosting a blood drive.

Though brigades only need about eight people to participate, he said, Penn State's Water Brigades is currently working on recruiting more people, since it is a newly formed organization.

Interested members can obtain more information by e-mailing psugwb@gmail.com, Ricco said.

Throughout the year, Henry and Ricco said they plan to organize fundraisers to aid members' trip expenses, in addition to spreading the word about the help that is needed in Third World countries.

"We're thinking about teaming up with a lot of similarly-minded focus groups — not just brigades ... maybe Engineers Without Borders — to spread the truth in the Third World and how other people should care," Ricco said. "I think it's something often overlooked in the developed world."

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PIE IN THE SKY



Joe Germano, manager of Sarina's II, hand tosses his homemade pizza dough in the air to make a pizza pie on Monday afternoon. Sarina's II is located at 220 W. College Ave.

Organization looks to raise HIV, AIDS awareness

By Julia Anselmo
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

New Penn State organization Keep a Child Alive is attempting to raise funds and spread awareness about the epidemic of HIV and AIDS in Africa and India.

The chapter at Penn State, started by a group of friends, is new to campus this semester, part of a greater world organization co-founded by singer Alicia Keys that has raised millions of dollars for children with HIV and AIDS.

The Penn State chapter has

already held fundraisers and hopes to continue raising money for children affected by AIDS.

KCA Public Relations Representative Joanna Reissman (junior-elementary education) said the club will continue to raise money throughout the year and send it directly to needy children.

"A big problem with HIV in Africa and India is that people's parents become infected and pass away — what happens is there are so many orphans as a result," Reissman said.

"Our money goes to orphanages

to keep kids off the street and to prevent them from becoming children soldiers, which is a reality for them."

Club president Erica Dreibeis (junior-community environment and development) said the organization has done "the typical" fundraising activities, but also plans on branching out and doing larger events to raise funds.

The big event planned for KCA is a mock "Black Ball," which will be held on Dec. 2 with Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

This fundraiser will replicate

the annual Black Ball held by KCA in New York City and London — an elaborate annual fundraiser that has raised more than \$10 million since 2004.

But for the founders of this new group at Penn State, raising awareness about the epidemic of HIV and AIDS at Penn State is as important as raising money for the cause.

KCA Vice President Anna Thomas (junior-supply chain and information systems and sociology) said she hopes the group will make Penn State students more

aware of problems in the world.

"I think more than raising money, we want to raise awareness about issues that are going on in the world every single day that we don't see," Thomas said. "Globally speaking, there is so much going on that the average Penn State student doesn't know that much about. We're trying to get the Penn State community to broaden their global awareness about poverty outside the United States."

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Exhibit to celebrate women in architecture, design

By Kristin Stoller
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

In a field primarily dominated by men, women are being recognized for their work and writing in architecture in the Architecture and Landscape Architecture Library at the Stuckeman Family Building on campus.

The "Write Women" exhibit, which runs until Dec. 31, features books by many women writers and architects who have influenced the design profession.

The exhibit focuses on the areas of feminist space, historical criticism, urban design and environment impact.

The exhibit is an original idea by the architecture and landscape architecture faculty, Arts and Architecture Librarian Henry Pisciotta said.

"I remember one staff member said to me, 'I'm assigning that students study a modern house, but I'm really concerned because all of them are designed by men,'" Pisciotta said. "People want to see

diversity in the way they are being taught as well."

While Pisciotta was away, Architecture and Landscape Architecture Building Library Assistant Tim Auman took over the project.

"It covers a broad spectrum of writers, some that the average student has already heard of, like Denise Scott Brown," Auman said. "There are also some that I've never heard of before."

Auman said Brown's firm designed the Executive Education

building on campus, originally designed as a faculty club.

Pisciotta agreed with Auman and said the exhibit has some people who are really well known, as well as people who are more obscure. Auman said the exhibit would also be educational to students not in architecture who needed to do research.

"A lot of it has to do with the planning of cities, towns, and homes, which is relevant to anybody who lives anywhere," Pisciotta said.

Lauren Wandel (freshman-architecture) said she passes the exhibit every day and is glad the library added it.

"I love that our library gets into the program, and we have such a dedicated faculty," Wandel said. "It gives an empowering environment to women in architecture."

Josh Seiler (freshman-architecture) said the exhibit shows off the diversity architects have in the field of design. "Write Women" is on display in the library at 111 Stuckeman Family Building.

Student project aims to prove global warming is occurring

By Christine Cooke
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

A recent project conducted by Penn State students proved that humans contribute to global warming, contrary to the belief some have that it's just a natural cycle of weather changes.

Amy Beatty (junior-supply chain and information) said the project originally started out as a judgment paper for her ENGR 408 (Engineering Leadership Principles) course, where students had to prove the credibility

of a number of peer-reviewed sources related to climate change.

David Leaf (junior-civil engineering) said the class polled a number of random students and 50 percent of them said they did not believe in global warming.

Their assignment gives students the facts about climate change, and the project affects students because of the university's large population, Beatty said.

"The class found more than enough evidence to prove global climate change is occurring and humans are causing it," Beatty

said, referencing her project.

Rick Schuhmann, director of engineering leadership development, gave the students several sources for researching, including United States Senator Jim Inhofe, who said in a speech that global warming is a "hoax" and was proven to be a hoax by the nation's top scientists.

Schuhmann wanted his students to make their judgments on facts, not beliefs.

"Science and engineering is not about beliefs — it's about empirical evidence and judgement based

upon facts," Schuhmann said.

He offered his students dinner at Cozy Thai, 232 S. Allen Street, if they could find more than 10 valid sources that disproved the existence of global warming. The students found none.

Leaf said any of the sources the class found against global warming were against a specific study.

"Global warming is happening. There is just confusion from unreliable sources and politics," Leaf said.

Beatty said students should know about global climate change

because they can "work toward sustainability and change and have a huge impact" in the Penn State community.

The students made a page on Facebook about their assignment and provided a link to the paper they wrote for the class and links to various sources about climate change.

Students interested in more information on the project and credible climate change sources can log onto Facebook and search the class's group, "Global Warming: Know your facts."

PNC Bank to stop financing mountaintop mining for coal

By Dylan Lovan
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — PNC Bank has announced it will stop financing projects that extract coal using a controversial form of surface mining known as mountaintop removal.

The Pittsburgh-based company is the latest of a group of major commercial lenders that have backed away from underwriting mountaintop removal projects after pressure from environmental activists.

PNC said in a statement it will not fund individual projects or "provide credit to coal producers whose primary extraction method is" mountaintop removal.

The surface mining practice

has for years attracted the ire of activists and Appalachian residents, who say it contributes to environmental degradation and water pollution.

In June, a group of 50 activists gathered at a downtown PNC bank branch in Lexington to protest the bank's alleged lending to mountaintop removal projects.

"We're definitely seeing this as a victory and looking at who's next," said Martin Mudd, a member of the group Kentucky Mountain Justice, which helped organized that protest.

But coal operators will simply find other ways to fund mountaintop removal projects, an industry supporter said.

"I think (activists) are successful in this instance, but I do not

think it will reduce the amount of mountaintop mining that occurs in Kentucky," said Bill Bissett, president of the Kentucky Coal Association.

PNC's statement said mountaintop removal "is the subject of increasing regulatory and legislative scrutiny." Wells Fargo Bank made a similar assertion in July, when the bank acknowledged "significant concerns associated with this (mining) practice."

The new PNC policy was part of a corporate responsibility document that was updated late last month. PNC spokesman Fred Solomon declined to comment on whether activist protests prompted the bank to change policies.

PNC had become the top financier in the U.S. of companies that

engage in mountaintop mining, according to Rainforest Action Network, a San Francisco-based environmental group.

The bank assumed the top spot after other big banks recently amended policies regarding lending to mountaintop removal companies, according to the group, which keeps a scorecard of banks and their environmental policies.

An analysis by the environmental group said PNC had an estimated \$80 million in investments tied to mountaintop removal in Appalachia.

Solomon declined to discuss PNC's investments. It was also not clear if the company was moving to dissolve its current investments in mountaintop removal companies or applying the policy

only to future projects.

Rainforest Action Network said other big lenders, such as Bank of America, Citi and JP Morgan Chase have recently amended their lending policies regarding mountaintop removal.

"Every time another one of the big banks says no to the biggest mountaintop removal companies, that makes it tougher — which in business terms equals more expensive — for the companies to get their financing," said Amanda Starbuck, director of the group's global finance campaign.

The group has organized protests and kept a report card of the nation's large banks and their business dealings with coal operators that use mountaintop removal.