

# IFC officials to be elected

By Vera Greene  
and Megan Rogers  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITERS

Tonight the Interfraternity Council will elect a new president for the 2011-2012 term in a race with only one candidate.

Current IFC Executive Vice President Dan Florencio is running unopposed for president.

Florencio (senior-philosophy) said that as he's been talking to greek community members throughout his campaign he's heard a lot of positive feedback on changes implemented by the current board.

But he said he wants to work on some grass roots initiatives among IFC fraternities.

"I want to change and improve communication and education within the IFC community," Florencio said.

In addition to president, other top leaders for the 2011-2012 executive board will be elected.

Each of the nominees will be

able to give a speech up to five minutes in length depending on the position they are running for. Candidates will also field questions from council members and may have other people speak on their behalf, Vice President of Communications Dan Cartwright said.

Nominations for the positions of president, executive vice president, vice president for finance and UPUA representative occurred at the Nov. 9 IFC Presidents' Council.

Nick Grasseti, who serves as the current University Park Undergraduate Association representative, is running to maintain his position.

The other two positions have four nominees going into today, Cartwright said — but he said that technically anyone can be nominated for a position the day of an election and run.

After the four positions are elected tonight, interested fraternity members can apply for

the remaining executive board positions, Cartwright (senior-energy, business and finance) said.

The newly elected president, executive vice president and vice president of finance will interview the candidates in about two weeks and make the final selections for the board, he said. The current executive board will transition with the new board until the 2011-2012 executive board takes over officially on Jan. 1, Cartwright said.

IFC President Max Wendkos said he is proud of the work his executive board has done over the past semester. Wendkos (senior-marketing and psychology) said he plans to leave a "detailed transition report" for his successor that will talk about the challenges he will face, and Wendkos's own suggestions for the future.

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Heather Schmelzen/Collegian

Monica Rudolph (senior-public relations) answers questions at a mock press conference at Innovation Park on Monday.

## Mock-conference puts students in 'hot seat'

By Megan Rogers  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Public Relations student Lisa Mei stared crisis in the face Monday — but she managed to remain calm in the hot seat as she fielded questions about a sexual assault case as part of a class assignment.

Mei (senior-public relations) and her peers in Steve Manuel's section of COMM 471 (Public Relations Media and Methods) were given details about a fictional scenario in which three U.S. Marines raped a 12-year-old female. Mei undertook the role of press officer for the Marine Corps at a mock press conference.

To make the scenario as realistic as possible, students from other communications classes acted as journalists and photographers for the conference and fired question after question and snapped photos.

The conference was a culmination of what students learned in their public relations classes at Penn State, student Michael Young said. Students had time to prepare and brief for possible questions, he said — they received the case details about a month ago. After finishing his presentation, Young (senior-public relations) said the experi-

ence was worthwhile.

"You just really have to take a deep breath, go in and run with it," Young said.

He said he someday hopes to be in the hot seat at a media relations job.

Each 10-minute conference began with an opening statement by the public relations students, and then students from other communications classes asked questions.

Some students said they had no idea what they were getting themselves into when they signed up for Manuel's class.

"It's nerve-wracking," Monica Rudolph (senior-public relations) said before she went to stand behind the lectern in front of her peers.

But in the end, students agreed that the event — while stressful — was a fun experience.

"This is really something you want to do in college before you go out and have to do that in real life," Mei said.

Some of the faux-journalists said they were happy not to be the ones under the spotlight.

"They all did a good job. I would get nervous personally," stand-in journalist Olivia Boucher (junior-broadcast journalism) said.

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## Hazleton math instructor dies

By Mike Hricik  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For Marlene Guers, the classroom was not a place where students could hide from a professor's gaze.

Co-workers and family members remember Guers's reputation for the individual attention she gave in her math classes, going over difficult concepts up to 15 times until students mastered them.

Penn State Hazleton Interim Director of Academic Affairs Marlene Guers of Hometown, Pa., died at home after a short illness on Nov. 19. She was 61.

Guers, a senior instructor in mathematics at Penn State Hazleton, took over as interim director of academic affairs on Aug. 1 during the medical leave of Director of Academic Affairs Monica Gregory, who died on Sept. 27, university spokesman Geoff Rushton said.

Penn State Hazleton hired Guers as a part-time math instructor in 1981.

She was promoted to full-time in 1982 and became a senior

instructor in 2001, Rushton said.

Her husband, David, said his wife will be best remembered for her compassion.

"She cared for just about anybody she came in contact with," David Guers said.

Guers also coordinated the Penn State Hazleton Honors Program, which provides academically talented students with challenging learning experiences, Rushton said.

Guers earned the Penn State Hazleton Council Outstanding Teaching Award in 1999 and 2007 for distinction in teaching, Rushton said.

Penn State Hazleton Chancellor Gary Lawler said Guers's accolades were deserved.

"Teaching math for her was an incredible passion. She was always looking to go the extra mile," he said.

Lawler said both Guers' sense of humor and professionalism made her an invaluable part of Penn State Hazleton.

Guers served as a part-time faculty coordinator in her spare time, training and orienting part-

"Teaching math for her was an incredible passion."

Gary Lawler

Penn State Hazleton chancellor

time faculty members, Rushton said.

Guers is survived by her husband, David, of Hometown, and her son, Matthew, of State College, Rushton said.

Visitation hours for Guers will be held today from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., and on Wednesday from 9 to 9:30 a.m. at Joseph S. Blazosky Funeral Home, 81 E. Catawissa St., Nesquehoning.

A funeral mass will begin at 10 a.m. at St. John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church in Nesquehoning.

In lieu of flowers, contributions for the Penn State Hazleton Honors Program can be sent to Penn State Hazleton, 76 University Drive, Hazleton, PA 18202.

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## Organizations discuss racism, media at Diversity Roundtable

By Alyssa Sweeney  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Delicate issues were confronted head-on by student leaders at the Diversity Roundtable in the HUB-Robeson Center on Monday night.

Connections between racism, student groups and the media at Penn State were topics of discussion between members of groups like the Penn State NAACP University Park Undergraduate Association, College Democrats

and College Republicans at the conference.

Questions of minority media coverage, as well as reader perceptions — including the Homecoming Week stabbings within the black community and the racial taunts at the Michigan game — were discussed.

UPUA President Christian Ragland (senior-political science) said interaction between minority and other groups and contact between all groups and the media was important to avoid controversy.

"A solution is just more engagement," Ragland said. "If we bring cultures together, that's real diversity. Some people say there's negativity or a lack of presence of minorities in the media. We should all just do a better job of collaborating more."

NAACP President Travis Salters said he thinks media sources and non-members need to interact with minority groups more in order to get a better understanding of cultures.

"I don't think it's a problem, but

it's something that could be worked on," he said.

UPUA Representative Anthony Christina said he believes in a proactive approach to student groups and the media.

"I think it's an organization's responsibility to go in the media and correct something," he said. "Show the media a true representation of the club."

Ragland also emphasized self-promotion among student groups and encouraged attendees to contact media sources to develop con-

sistent relations for exposure.

UPUA Chief of Staff Dustin Dove said all minority coverage, like the photo of LGBTQA Kiss out, should be published.

"I think it's great that they had that right there on the front page. I think exposure is the best way to get rid of the hate," Dove (senior-secondary education) said. "Maybe it's a bit shocking, but sometimes, people need to be shocked a little bit."

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### The Daily Collegian invites applications for its Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Collegian Inc. is soliciting applications for the following positions.

#### Two Penn State faculty members.

Eligible individuals are Penn State employees whose primary identification is with teaching or teaching and research.

#### One at-large member.

Eligible individuals are members of the local community who have an interest in the welfare of The Daily Collegian. Penn State staff and affiliates may be eligible.

These Board terms require two-year commitments. The following are not eligible for these seats: current students, former Collegian staff members within five years of their terms on the staff, current Collegian staff members.

Collegian Inc. is a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation which is legally and financially responsible for The Daily Collegian and related publications. The dual mission of Collegian Inc. is to provide a quality college newspaper for Penn State and a rewarding educational experience for its student staff members.

#### Collegian Inc. is responsible for:

- Overseeing the operation of The Daily Collegian and related publications. However, as a matter of policy, the Board does not become involved in day-to-day operations.
- Selecting top management of Collegian Inc.
- Setting broad policy and long-range goals
- Ensuring the financial independence and editorial freedom of The Daily Collegian and related publications.

Interested people are invited to submit a letter of application and a resume to Patricia Hartranft.

E-mail applications preferred: [pah12@psu.edu](mailto:pah12@psu.edu).

Applications by regular mail may be sent to:

**Patricia Hartranft**  
**Collegian Inc., James Building**  
**123 S. Burrowes St.**  
**State College, PA 16801-3882**

Applications should include your:

1. Reasons for seeking a directorship.
2. Local address, telephone number and email address.
3. Resume

The deadline for applications is 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10, 2010.

There's  
a spot  
for you at  
our table!

The Daily  
Collegian

The deadline for letters of application is 5 p.m., Friday, December 10.

A limited number of applicants will be interviewed by a committee of the Board. The Board of Directors includes four Penn State students, two Penn State faculty members and three directors-at-large. The editor in chief and the business manager, who are students, also serve on the Board. The general manager, who is employed by the corporation, is a non-voting member. For additional information and current Board members, check our website at [www.collegian.psu.edu](http://www.collegian.psu.edu).