

The Lion's Eye

A Newspaper by the Students of Penn State University, Brandywine Campus

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Un-can Your Creativity

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On any given day, more than 15,000 people in the city of Philadelphia are known to be homeless.

Homelessness is not limited to the cities. Delaware County has people who don't know from where their next meal is coming. PSU Brandywine is partnering with Media Food Bank to help fight against hunger in our area.

This was the topic discussed at the spring sustainovation kick-off. Dr. Joshua Phillips, assistant teaching professor in communication arts and sciences, addressed the audience and reminded them that food donation is not just about giving food. It has a profound affect on the recipient.

"Now, since the person does not have to worry about where the next meal is coming from, he/she can get on with the task of looking for a job, finding housing, and more," said Phillips.

The author of *Homeless: Narratives from the Streets*, has been researching and volunteering with the homeless for a decade and currently volunteers with the homeless in Camden, NJ and sits on the executive board of Delaware County's Homeless Coalition.

This semester, Brandywine will again be working with community partners Media Food Bank, Tyler Arboretum and Ridley Creek State Park by hosting events and projects where students and participants can engage in the efforts towards sustainability for our community and campus.

At the meeting, students were encouraged to form teams and participate in a friendly innovative design competition, called Canstruction, that will benefit Media Food Bank. The teams will create structures made entirely out of canned food. The structures can be a maximum of 6ft x 6ft x 6ft and will be evaluated based on best use of labels, best meal, structural integrity and more. At press time, 10 teams have committed to the competition.

Through a PepsiCo Mini-Grant from the Penn State Sustainability Institute, each student team will be given \$150 to purchase food items from ACME to start their structure. The building of the structures will take place on Sunday, April 15 from noon to 4:00 p.m. and Monday, April 16 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the lower level Student Union Building (SUB).

Structure viewing and voting will take place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of that week, followed by an awards ceremony in upper level SUB on Thursday, April 19. Deconstruction will take place on Monday, April 23, where all the items will be put into boxes and delivered to Media Food Bank.

Brandywine is encouraging its students to engage in this fight against local hunger. By working closely with community partners such as Tyler Arboretum, Ridley Creek State Park and Media Food Bank, Brandywine's Sustainovation Club is striving to spread its message of sustainability. "You're not just feeding someone for the day," said Phillips, "you're helping take the burden off somebody so that they can really try to further their life."

In addition to the fight against local hunger, Brandywine is also providing technological and academic assistance to Ridley Creek State Park by helping to update its existing tree identification tour.

"We've been able to bring our technology skills to help advance a key component of their education mission," said

Dr. Laura Guertin, professor of earth sciences. Last semester, Brandywine students helped update the existing tree signage and establish GPS coordinates for each species of tree. IST students are now working to develop a web-based application where users can access the information about different tree species that are native to Ridley Creek State Park. In the current semester, students are working to convert the web-based application into an Android app that can be accessed through smartphones and tablets.

Students are encouraged to get involved with the Sustainovation Club and Sustainability Committee in their efforts to promote sustainability on our campus and in our community. Sustainability is the simultaneous pursuit of human health and happiness, environmental quality and economic well-being for current and future generations. There are many ways for students to get involved, either by joining the Sustainovation Club, participating in Canstruction or volunteering at Tyler Arboretum. For questions or more information visit sites.psu.edu/sustainovation or contact Dr. Laura Guertin at uxg3.psu.edu or Dr. Esparagoza, ice1@psu.edu



Making History on Page 5



THON Continues the Philanthropy. Page 3

Don't miss the build.
See what Penn State creativity will yield at this year's Canstruction event. Building starts on Sunday, April 15 through Monday April 16 in the lower level of the Student Union Building.



PHOTO CREDIT: PHOENIX.CANSTRUCTION.ORG



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