

St Patty's Day continued from first page

And if past attendance is any indication, the effort is a great success. More than 350 students attended last year, considerably shortening the lines at the bars. As many students, if not more, are expected to attend this year's celebration as well.

Student Government Board, Greek Council, Association of Campus Events, and the President's Roundtable on Alcohol and Other Drugs sponsor and fund the event.

"I'm particularly impressed that this is purely a student-driven initiative," President F. Javier Cevallos said. "I think it speaks significantly to the responsibility of a large number of our students."

The university wants to provide students with a fun way to celebrate this festive holiday without feeling like they need to go to a bar to do so.

Family Ties is published three times a year by the Division of Student Services and Campus Life and the Office of University Relations at Kutztown University.

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Mark Your Calendar...

February	Room selection for Golden Bear Village Apartments for 2005-2006 academic year.
March	Room selection for traditional residence halls for 2005-2006 academic year.
Monday, Feb. 21	No classes in observance of President's Day. Administrative offices open.
Wednesday, Feb. 23	Follow Monday class schedule
Thursday, March 3	Residence halls close at 6 p.m. for Spring Break
Sunday, March 13	Residence halls open at 1 p.m.
Saturday, April 9	Spring recess begins at end of classes. Residence halls remain open.
Wednesday, April 13	Spring recess ends, classes resume at 8 a.m.
Wednesday, April 20 - Saturday, April 23	Bearfest XXVII
Sunday, May 1	Last day to cancel housing for 2005-2006 without loss of \$125 housing deposit.
Monday, May 2 - Friday, May 6	Final exams
Friday, May 6	Residence halls close at 6 p.m.
Saturday, May 7	Commencement
Sunday, May 15	Residence halls open at 1 p.m. for Summer Session I

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Family Ties
Important News for Families of Kutztown University Students
SPRING 2005

ROOM SELECTION PROCESS FOR 2005-2006

By Apryle Carney, Housing & Residential Services

The Housing and Residential Services Office will begin its room selection process for the 2005-2006 academic year in February. Students eligible to participate in this process are those residents who participated in the November '04 housing renewal process or who are new residents for the Spring '05 semester.

Golden Bear Village Apartment applications will be mailed to on-campus mailboxes of eligible students by the second week of February. Applications will include instructions and details of this process.

Room selection for traditional residence halls will take place in March, at which time those students who did not select apartment-style residences will receive instructions with details on the traditional room selection process. Traditional residence hall spaces will need to be reserved for new freshmen. These spaces will be reserved after current residents have been given an opportunity to participate in room selection for same room, same building which tentatively takes place on March 15. Students will be responsible for giving attention to mailing(s), announcements and postings of this important process as well as following through with instructions and timelines provided.

Please note that we will be increasing the number of reduced rate triple rooms (double rooms with triple occupancy) for the fall semester to accommodate student need. Reduced rate triples will be placed in buildings that can accommodate the specially designed loft units. These buildings will include, but are not limited to: Berks, Lehigh, Schuylkill, Deatrick, Old Main and University Place. Some of these rooms will be identified before traditional residence hall room selection takes place. Others will be added after the tentatively scheduled March 15 selection process.

Students who decide they are not returning to the traditional residence halls or on-campus apartments for the 2005-2006 academic year, should complete a room cancellation form in person in the Housing and Residential Services Office, 106 Old Main, by May 1 to avoid loss of their \$125 housing deposit.

Please visit our website at www.kutztown.edu/admin/harlo for other information related to room selection. 2005-2006 fee information will be available online by May 1.

St Patty's Day on the Hill

By Ritta Basu and Camille DeMarco, University Relations

This year, as in the past two years, Kutztown University will again have its own St. Patty's Day celebration to offer students an alternative to celebrations that occur in the wee morning hours at the local pubs on March 17.

Traditionally, downtown bars advertise early morning openings and try to attract students with green beer, free T-shirts and Mardi Gras beads. At the same time – 6-8 a.m. – various university organizations provide breakfast, live music, as well as T-shirts, beads and all sorts of St. Patrick's Day memorabilia to rival that which is distributed in the bars.

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Residence Hall News:

Berks Hall will see a change for the 2005-2006 academic year. Formerly an all-female residence hall, Berks will be designated a modified single-gender building. Thus, males and females will reside in Berks with no intervisitation after midnight.

This change was made to accommodate the growing demand for additional co-ed style space. It also provides more available space for underaged males. Old Main and the Education House will continue as all female residences to accommodate that particular option.

Housing and Residential Services always strives to provide a wide variety of living styles to accommodate upperclassmen as well as new students at KU.

EACH ISSUE OF FAMILY TIES CAN BE VIEWED ONLINE AT:
www.kutztown.edu/familyties/

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Financial Aid Notices Go Electronic

In keeping with the university's move to electronic notifications, Financial Aid Services (FAS) now provides students with updates to their aid packages through On-Line Student Services via the KU website. Students can view their financial aid awards, day or night, in real time. We encourage students to monitor their aid for any changes or corrections.

It is strongly suggested that students link any personal email addresses to their KU email account in order to ensure receipt of essential messages from FAS regarding aid eligibility. Utilizing KU email accounts, Financial Aid Services notifies students, who are in jeopardy of losing their financial aid due to a lack of academic progress, with recommendations of how to regain eligibility. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Financial Aid Services at 610-683-4077.

President's Ball raises money for student scholarships

By Ritta Basu, University Relations

More than \$58,000 for student scholarships was raised during the second President's Scholarship Ball, held on campus November 6 in Keystone Fieldhouse.

Approximately 250 people attended the ball and 160 items were donated for the silent and live auctions. The funds raised during the ball will be distributed between each of the university's five colleges for scholarships.

In addition to dinner, dancing, and the auctions, William '73 and Joanne '74 Ribble of Gainesville, Ga., announced that they would be giving their alma mater a \$1 million gift in the form of a charitable remainder trust. The couple had previously established the William and Joanne Ribble Scholarship in 2001 for students who have shown a commitment to community service. Also, the Urban League of Philadelphia established a \$5,000 scholarship in the Ribbles' name.

FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

By Linda Bowen, Financial Aid Services

Federal regulations require a university to establish an academic progress policy as part of eligibility requirements for all federal financial aid programs. Federal programs, known as Title IV aid, include Pell grants, SEOG grants, Perkins loans, Work-Study, Stafford and PLUS loans. (PHEAA grants are state aid with different eligibility requirements and will be discussed later.)

All students who apply for financial aid (including loans) must satisfy the academic progress requirement, which has two parts:

1. EARNED NEW CREDITS REQUIREMENT

Progress is measured for the academic year based on the student's prior two semesters of enrollment. The total number of NEW credits you are required to earn is determined by your enrollment on the last day of drop/add. A typical full-time undergraduate student must earn a minimum of 24 new credits per academic year. Withdrawing from a class after drop/add may mean that a student will be short the number of credits needed for satisfactory academic progress.

NOTE: Repeats of courses for which a student received a passing grade do not count as new credits.

2. GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) REQUIREMENT

Upon entering the fifth semester, an additional requirement goes into effect. The student must have an overall grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 and not be on 'academic warning' or 'probation.' The GPA is measured annually at the end of the academic year for the upcoming year.

INSUFFICIENT PROGRESS FOR FINANCIAL AID

A student may make up credits during the summer at Kutztown or at another institution but will have to pay for summer courses on his/her own. However, courses taken elsewhere will NOT affect the GPA and will count towards the credit needed only if they are accepted by Kutztown University. The student is responsible to submit an official academic transcript to the Registrar's Office.

PHEAA STATE GRANT ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY

PHEAA state grant progress is based on the last academic year (summer, fall, spring) a state grant was received. For every term a full-time grant was received, 12 NEW credits must be earned during or after the term. A part-time grant recipient (taking six credits) must earn six NEW credits during or after the term.

NOTE: Repeats of courses for which a student received a passing grade do not count as new credits. Also, some state grant recipients, who were enrolled in developmental classes, may need to earn more than 24 credits in an academic year.

Please be advised that your academic advisor has no responsibility to monitor your progress requirements for financial aid eligibility. As an aid recipient, you must ensure that you will have earned enough credits and have the minimum overall GPA to continue to qualify for financial aid. Please direct any questions you have regarding academic progress to Financial Aid Office Services at 610-683-4077.

CONGRATULATIONS!

In November, the New Student Programs and Services Office was recognized at the annual National Orientations Directors Association conference in Chicago for excellence in the design/outstanding orientation handbook category.

Each year, the NSPS office distributes a "Connections" manual for incoming freshmen which is designed by a communication design major; but it was this year's (2004) issue that received the accolades and recognition.

The publication was designed by Ryan Martin '04 and the office received a certificate for its effort.



Academic Achievement Awards to be given in April

Established in 2002 by Professor Emeritus Carlson Chambliss, the Academic Achievement Awards honor students (primarily seniors) in six areas: research, original artwork, artistic performance, writing, athletic achievement, and outstanding service to the community.

Up to 12 students who meet specific criteria may be awarded medals (two gold, four silver, six bronze) for high-caliber achievement and character. They are nominated for consideration by KU faculty and staff at the beginning of each spring semester.

Dr. Chambliss, a retired physical sciences professor, created the awards to yearly celebrate and acknowledge the outstanding achievements of KU students.



Five Days of Justice: January 31-February 4

Five Days of Justice, a biannual event coordinated by the Student Involvement Services Office, is a jam-packed program offering the campus five days of reflection on issues of human rights, equality, and social justice.

The program, which was created in 2000, focuses on a variety of local and global topics – anything from town gown relations to apartheid and overpopulation.

Presentations throughout the week involve video screenings, debates, community forums, and lectures. A sampling of this year's program includes:

- Lapel ribbon distribution
- Body image lecture
- ACLU speaker
- Pay equity awareness bake sale
- The Mystical Arts of Tibet
- "Women in Iraq and Afghanistan" lecture
- Author Lena Williams
- GLBTQ (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning) Center opening
- Berks AIDS Network

Several offices co-sponsor and/or develop some of the programming for the week; these include the Women's Center, Multicultural Services, University Relations, and Housing and Residential Services.

For more information on this event, please call 610-683-1383.

STUDENTS WORK TOWARD SMOKING CESSATION ON CAMPUS

By Mary Gutekunst, Health & Wellness Services

Over the past two years, Kutztown University has participated in a Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education grant-funded project aimed at increasing tobacco awareness and establishing smoking cessation programs among college students.

As part of this project, six students were selected to receive scholarships by becoming members of the Pennsylvania Students Working Against Tobacco organization. PA-SWAT collaborates with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and local agencies in program delivery and services.

In addition to attending two statewide summits to develop and implement strategies addressing campus tobacco use, the students (who identify themselves as the STEP [Student Tobacco Education Program] Team) coordinated some local events and programs. A major goal for the student group is to increase campus involvement and support in promoting a smoke-free environment.

The Great American Smoke-Out event featured a display of various educational information and handouts, free CO sleuth testing (measures amount of "smoke" in lungs), games, cigarette trade-in for free Subway sandwiches, and prizes. "Mr. Butts" made guest appearances on campus as well to help increase tobacco awareness. And finally, the students sponsored national motivational speaker, Aric Bostick, to talk about student success.

The STEP Team is highly committed to empowering other students to choose a tobacco-free lifestyle. The students work closely with staff members from the Health, Wellness and Counseling Services Center to provide residence hall programs and other educational events.

The center itself provides Quit-kits and an Alcohol and Other Drug Specialist who follows up with program and event participants to further encourage smoking cessation.

KU Radio Station Back Up and Running

By Camille DeMarco, University Relations

The university radio station, KUR, received a facelift in 2004 after years of challenges, small budgets, and relocations.

The original station, WKSC, began in 1967 and was housed in the John B. White House. In 1984, it became WRKU and in 1986 it moved to the basement of Rothermel Hall. The station was on the air in some capacity until 1998 when renovations to Rothermel took place and the main radio transmission wires were accidentally cut.

Throughout its existence, WRKU used low-powered signals and a faculty or staff adviser to guide the student-run station. Also, outdated facilities and lack of budget were prevalent issues during this time.

In 2000, a Communications Task Force was created to study and eventually improve the various communications outlets on campus. Matt Santos, director of Athletic Advancement, was a member of the team and had experience with college radio as an undergraduate student at Rowan University. He was asked to evaluate and spearhead the restructuring efforts of the station in 2001.

Committed to making the "new" radio station the best it can be, Santos with the help of students, Doreen Tobin, associate vice president of Student Services and Campus Life, and Electronic Media Department faculty members began the task at hand; with funding support from Student Government Board and the Office of the President.

Santos believed that a radio station should benefit the university in several ways. "The radio station can serve as a student-life outlet for those interested in music and programming, provide real-world experience for electronic media majors, be used as a university marketing tool, and also as an outlet for athletic events," he said.

In 2002-2003, space was allocated in the McFarland Student Union, Communication between students and the administration was established. State-of-the-art, automated equipment was ordered and installed, a full-powered FM frequency signal was applied for, and by 2004, a search began for a permanent, part-time station manager.

Unfortunately, the full-powered FM signal was not available in the Kutztown area, but Santos hopes that an AM or FM signal will be available in the future.

In April of last year, KU alumnus Mike Regensberger (class of 1999, pictured at left) was hired as the university's first station manager. As a telecommunications major, Regensberger always had a strong interest in radio. He came to KU after stints at WEEU in Reading, WDIY in Bethlehem, and WGPA in Allentown.



After initial funding and equipment challenges, Regensberger spent the fall of 2004 training the student staff in preparation of KUR's unofficial air-date of January 24. The official on-air celebration and grand opening will occur sometime in March.

Regensberger's goals for KUR are to make it a quality station, especially for a university of KU's size, and to be one of the prime campus sources for news and entertainment: weather updates, new band announcements, etc. "I would like KUR to become the 'voice of KU'."

Currently, the station follows a music intensive, indie-format during the day, and an automated pre-format in the evenings. Over time, Regensberger said the format will grow into a full-service, college radio station with different types of music programming and talk shows.

He said he has a great student staff who will work toward maintaining a good reputation for the new and improved station -- that is, no profanity or blatantly offensive material. Regensberger also said that KUR will run like a fully powered station which will give students a true taste of the radio business.

KUR can be found on-campus on 88.3 on the FM dial, and on channel 24 (cable television) in Kutztown.