

Dishing out manners

JOSHUA AMES
Collegio Reporter

Gabriella Laurindo, junior in biology and Sodexho caterer, says the reason she dropped her tray during the Senior Etiquette Dinner wasn't because the floor was slippery. She dropped the tray because she had too many plates stacked on it.

"We were supposed to carry four plates on one tray, but I was carrying six and it wasn't very well set," said Laurindo.

Although a loud crash echoed through the Crimson and Gold Ballroom in the Overman Student Center, Laurindo managed to save four of the plates while the dinner host and Dean of Continuing and Graduate Studies Peggy Snyder continued her direction to a crowd of 97 seniors on proper dining conduct without missing a beat.

Goldie Prelogar, senior in family and consumer sciences and dinner attendee, says that Snyder handled the distraction with a distinguished air of professionalism.

"I kind of wonder if that was planned," said Prelogar, "to see Dr. Snyder keep her poise under pressure, as an example to students."

Snyder says that dinner and lunch interviews are becoming more commonplace in today's workforce, and potential employers could make a decision for employment based on how a person handles himself while dining.

"A part of it is to see how you handle that," said Snyder. "Many of us will have jobs that will involve taking clients out for dinners or being part of social events. It's important to show that you can handle yourself in those types of situations."

Prelogar says that Snyder did an excellent job of

showing students the proper way of dining by making the subject matter entertaining. For example, Snyder's take on the polite way to fish a bone out of your mouth was described as "a search and rescue operation," and she explained it is a big no-no to use fingers to do so. Snyder says to always use a fork or pass it off to your napkin.

Prelogar added that potential employers could base employment decisions on such small things.

"Big businesses want to know that you're the whole package, education, manners and accountability," Prelogar said.

Snyder also spoke of the proper ways to chew food, apply lipstick, handle silverware, drink alcohol, use toothpicks and when to start eating.

Foods that splatter are to be avoided. If you must have these types of food, make sure you cut everything into small bites. Snyder also added that Americans don't use their knives enough, as a whole, during meals.

Lacie Reser, a senior in Family and Consumer Sciences, says that there are a lot of trivial aspects to dining that she wasn't aware of before the dinner.

"I learned some stuff as far as passing things around the table and proper placement of utensils," said Reser. "I obviously wasn't eating the proper way before."

Snyder made her way through the crowd periodically, answering questions as the dinner progressed. She would stop eating and address the question to the entire room. Students laughed and chatted in between demonstrations while different courses were being served.

"Everyone wants to present themselves in the best light," says Snyder. "Good table manners are a part of



Adam Vogler/Collegio

Dean of Continuing and Graduate Studies Peggy Snyder speaks to Pitt State students about proper dining etiquette during the Etiquette Dinner held in the Crimson and Gold Ballroom of the Overman Student Center on Monday, Sept. 25. The dinner, a part of Career Expo 2006, is held to educate students about how to handle dining situations in a business environment.

that. I think when you use good table manners, it represents yourself."

Snyder has been teaching etiquette for about 20 years

to many different groups of people. Snyder says that the only way to perfect etiquette is to practice.

"Unless you practice how

to do it correctly, it will not just be a natural recall," she said. "I think if you don't practice at it, it just isn't there."

SGA prepares for allocations, mid-semester evaluations

ABBY OLCESE
Collegio Reporter

Group allocations and mid-semester teacher evaluations were the main order of business at last night's Student Government Association meeting.

"Allocations are one of the most visible aspects of SGA, one of the things that SGA does that really does affect this campus," Ginger Niemann, SGA president, said.

Allocations are a process that every registered organization at the university goes through to receive money from SGA. Allocations are not the sole source of funding clubs receive, but a supplement to funds they raise on their own. SGA will review campus organizations' applications and present a proposed allocation for each group at meetings, starting next week.

SGA will be going into the allocations process with a new treasurer, Scot Schiefelbein, taking over for Heather Tersinar.

Tersinar resigned Tuesday because of scheduling problems.

Academic affairs director

Jeremy Johnson announced that mid-semester evaluations will take place Oct. 23-27. The evaluations are an opportunity for teachers at PSU to get feedback from their students regarding their classes. Academic affairs provides Scantrons and sheets of open-ended questions to the students about their perception of the course, and totals the results.

"We do it in hopes that teachers will use the results to help with their classes," Johnson said. "It helps because they still have time to modify that class before the end of the semester. With the evaluations we do at the end of the semester, it's too late for the teachers to do anything to change the classes."

Unlike the similar evaluations at the end of the semester, mid-semester evaluations are not mandatory.

"It's really unfortunate that not many faculty do it, but mid-semester evaluations serve as a sort of check," Mark Johnson, faculty senator, said. "In these evaluations, we're able to ask students questions regarding issues we'd like to know more about."

In other business:

Legislative affairs director Jimmy Nelson announced that he is accepting ideas for a campus-wide recycling program. Nelson encouraged anyone with thoughts on the subject to reach him in the SGA office next to the U-Club in the student center.

Andrea Cole, Larry Fleury, Crystal Brown, Ashley Hall, Aisha Sandage and Mike Wagner were sworn in as senators. SGA has four Senate vacancies left.

To hear a recording of the SGA meeting, log onto www.psu.collegio.com

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Student Activities Council Upcoming Events

Monday, Sept. 25 - Saturday, Oct. 7
A Prairie Home Companion
Playing Daily, FREE
12 pm, 3 pm, & 7pm U-Club Mini Theater

Thursday, Sept. 28
"Homosexuality, Morality & Diversity"
by Dr. John Corvino
7 pm C & G Ballroom, OSC

Thursday, Oct. 5
Oval Event
Contest w/ Cool Prizes!
11 - 1 pm Oval

Friday, Oct. 6
Open Mic Night
7 pm U-Club, OSC

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Contact us at:
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