
Vice Chair for Student Programs January 2009 Report

Fall 2008 Summary

The purpose of the Student Programs Committee is to organize cultural, recreational, and community service events for Penn's graduate and professional student population. Since July 2008, the Student Programs Committee has planned and executed 15 events. The year began with a series of events called "Fun Fridays in Philly," which was co-sponsored with the Graduate Student Center. Events included a guided tour of Reading Terminal Market with a food critic, mini-golfing in Franklin Square, a trip to see a Schuylkill Banks movie, and a bike tour of West Philly. Due to popular demand, we held 2 afternoons of kayaking on the Schuylkill River in the early part of the fall semester. In October, the Student Programs committee organized seasonal events, such as a trip to pick apples at Linvilla Orchards, as well as a trip to Eastern State Penitentiary's Terror Behind the Walls Haunted House. The semester concluded with a trip to see the musical *Hairspray* at the Walnut Street Theatre, an afternoon of ice skating at the Penn Ice Rink, a rock climbing event at Pottruck Gym, and a dinner at Roy's Hawaiian Fusion restaurant. Community service events that were organized this semester included a Pie Tasting to benefit MANNA, a tree planting with U.C. Green, and volunteering at the Ronald McDonald Children's House.

Budget Update

The total budget allocated this year is \$22,000. The events organized by the student programs committee cost a total of \$6,722.41, of which \$3,403.00 was paid for by ticket sales. Thus, the cost to GAPSA for the Student Programs events through December 2008 comes to \$3,662.81. (Note: this includes the cost of the *Producers* tickets and the *Turandot* opera tickets, which will be held in the Spring). The committee is left with \$18,337.19 to spend for the spring semester.

Spring 2009 Plans

The Student Programs Committee is hard at work planning over 25 small scale events for the Spring of 2009. Confirmed upcoming events include trips to: the Opera Company of Philadelphia's performance of *Turandot*, the Philadelphia Museum of Art's Cezanne exhibit, Rock Climbing at Pottruck, a performance of *the Producers* at the Walnut Street Theatre, and a 76ers game. Events still in the planning stages include trips to: Longwood Gardens, the Philadelphia Zoo, Morris Arboretum, soccer tournament, dodgeball tournament, volunteering for U.C. Green, 21st Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education Volunteer Day, paint your own pottery at Expressive Hand, and several lunches and dinners at cultural restaurants in Center City and West Philly.

Submitted by Christina Arlt, Vice Chair for Student Programs