

FEATURES

Hey Wolf! I'd stay away from this one

As swine flu outbreaks increase around the world, DuPage County prepares

By Alex Glas
Features Editor

With the multiple outbreaks of swine flu around the world, it's easy to get a little scared. With the threat of an outbreak looming over the United States, fear may seem like an adequate response. People shouldn't panic, but they should stay aware of the situation in the coming days and weeks, considering the World Health Organization or WHO have raised the pandemic alert level to it's second highest level. According to the DuPage County Health Department, there may be one possible case of the virus in DuPage County. Due to federal privacy restrictions no more details of the person could be given. The college, in conjunction with the DuPage County Health Department, has a plan in place if an outbreak were to occur. Joseph Mullin, the Deputy Chief of Police here at school, was able to explain the role of COD in case of an outbreak.

According to the DuPage County Health Department, swine flu is explained as "a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza." It goes

on to say that outbreaks usually occur in the fall and winter months. The trouble with viruses is that they can mutate, making current vaccines and

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JOSEPH MULLIN,
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

inoculations useless.

Mutations occur when parts of the DNA sequence that makes up the virus get added or subtracted. Variants of swine flu are H1N1, H1N2,

H3N2 and H3N1. The viruses may vary slightly genetically but remain similar overall. According to the WHO website, "Last Wednesday, nine countries have reported 148 cases of swine flu A/H1N1, with one death. Mexico has 26 confirmed human cases of infection including seven deaths."

The symptoms of swine flu closely resemble those of a normal flu. Because of this, if you are sick it is recommended that you stay home until you can see a doctor. These symptoms may sound similar to your last cold fever, lethargy, coughing and reduced appetite. Like the flu viruses we're all used to getting, swine flu can be directly transmitted from person to person. It is speculated that humans contracted the virus when in close proximity to infected animals. With the transmission of the virus dependant on direct contact, people that are sick can easily prevent the disease from spreading.

"Most important is the use of common sense and cleanliness. If you are sick stay home and see your doctor. Do not come to school," Mullin said. How-

see 'flu' page 13

Six easy steps to help prevent spreading infectious diseases to each other

1) Don't get to close...

-When you see someone who's sick try and keep your distance to them. The closer you are, the higher the chances of getting sick. If you are sick, be courteous to others and avoid getting too close.

2) Try and stay home if you're sick...

-If at all possible, don't leave your home if you're sick. Only do this if you are very ill and you need to seek medical attention.

3) Cover it up...

-Most common diseases are spread through direct contact either from a cough or a sneeze. If you feel one of those coming on, cover your mouth or nose. This will help prevent the spread of disease.

4) Wash up...

-Just the simple act of washing your hands will go a long way. Removing the bacteria and viruses that may be present on your hands will help prevent the spread of disease.

5) Avoid rubbing your eyes, nose and mouth...

-The eyes, nose and mouth are the three easiest passages to gain access to your body. The wet membranes present in each of these passages are convenient for bacteria or viruses to grow.

6) Try to remain as healthy as possible...

-Maintain an active and healthy lifestyle and you shouldn't have to worry about sickness. If you're eating right and getting enough sleep your body should be strong in it's fight against disease.

TEC savvy investment for student's futures

By Steve Bert
A&E Editor

Over 130 students, faculty, public officials and community members gathered last Friday morning to watch history unravel in the newly constructed Technical Education Center. Karen Randall, Dean of the Business and Technology Division welcomed select board of trustee members, business partners, and public officials to speak during the dedication of the Tech Center. The speakers shared one common hope: the Technical Education Center would be a successful investment for the workforce of tomorrow.

Opening its doors to students next fall, expectations for the TEC's educa-

tional potential are as far reaching as the building's design. The 31 classrooms and 16 laboratories capable of housing nearly 1,400 students were conceived for state of the art learning. The rooms themselves were erected on the basis of adaptability. "We wanted to make sure that in this room we can change immediately to handle emerging technologies," Board Chairman Micheal McKinnon said.

The building is a symbol of the potential it stores. "The purpose is to create a skilled workforce for a global economy," Vice President of Central DuPage Hospital David Printz said. Manufacturing partners with COD were investing in that purpose. Production Manager of Magnetrol International Jay Bosserman found intrinsic value in the curricula offered at the Tech Center. "The

see 'TEC' page 13



Photo by Amanda Kellerman

The new TEC building will feature the latest technology and will remain upgradeable at all times. This allows the building to remain state of the art for years.

'Walk Sudan' with Phi Theta Kappa

By Alex Glas
Features Editor

Violence and fear can be considered everyday occurrences in the Darfur region of Sudan. With the country reeling from the effects of genocide and continued violence, Sudan has become a nation with little hope. All hope is not lost however, as relief groups and other nations rally to support the refugees and victims of horrible crimes. The Phi Beta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa is joining the cause with the "Walk for Sudan."

This has been an ongoing project for Phi Theta Kappa since October of last year. Sara Hamden of Phi Theta Kappa explained a bit more about the project. "Last October at a Phi Theta Kappa conference in Peoria the idea was brought up... but it

was up to each school to do something unique," Hamden said. The walk will take place tomorrow with check-in beginning at 9 a.m. Participants will pay a \$20 registration fee which covers a tee-shirt and lunch at the event as well as a minimum of \$40 in donation money. Participants are encouraged to raise more money for the cause if at all possible. Individuals as well as groups are invited to participate.

Clubs wishing to form teams are allotted certain perks that individuals won't have. Clubs will be able to man a table the day of the event, like free advertising, what's not to like? They will also be able to place a club flyer in the "goodie bag" that will be passed out to participants. The fees for the walk are the same for clubs as individuals but it's a good way to get your club noticed.

The money raised during the walk will go to two special organizations. Half of the donations will go to the Darfur Sister Schools Program and the other half will go to the Sudanese Community Center in Naperville. The Darfur Sister Schools Program helps build and establish schools in refugee camps in the neighboring country of Chad. The Sudanese Community Center in Naperville provides support throughout Illinois to those seeking a smooth cultural transition and individual help.

The walk will kick-off with an opening ceremony at 10 a.m. tomorrow at the K building. At 10:30 the walk will begin, ending back where it started at the K building. Anyone who still wishes to sign up for the walk but hasn't yet is encouraged to come out tomorrow and register.

For Your Information

Nuclear Medicine (DMIN) Advising Session

Come join other students interested in working with nuclear medicine. Meet with counselors and advisors to learn information and get answers. This session begins at 5 p.m. and run for an hour on Monday in IC 3-F. For more information please call Joanne Metler, (630) 942-3065.

Pharmacy Technician Advising Session

This advising session is designed to give out helpful information to those students interested in becoming a pharmacy technician. This event will be at 6:30 on Monday in SRC 1450A/B. For more information please call Nancy Feulner, (630) 942-2124.

Dental Hygiene Advising Session

Attention to those interested in pursuing a career in dental hygiene. This informational session will allow students to ask instructors and counselors the important questions in relation to dental hygiene. This program will run from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday in MAC 185. For more information please call Patti Belmonte at (630) 942-4237.

Physical Therapist Assistant Advising Session

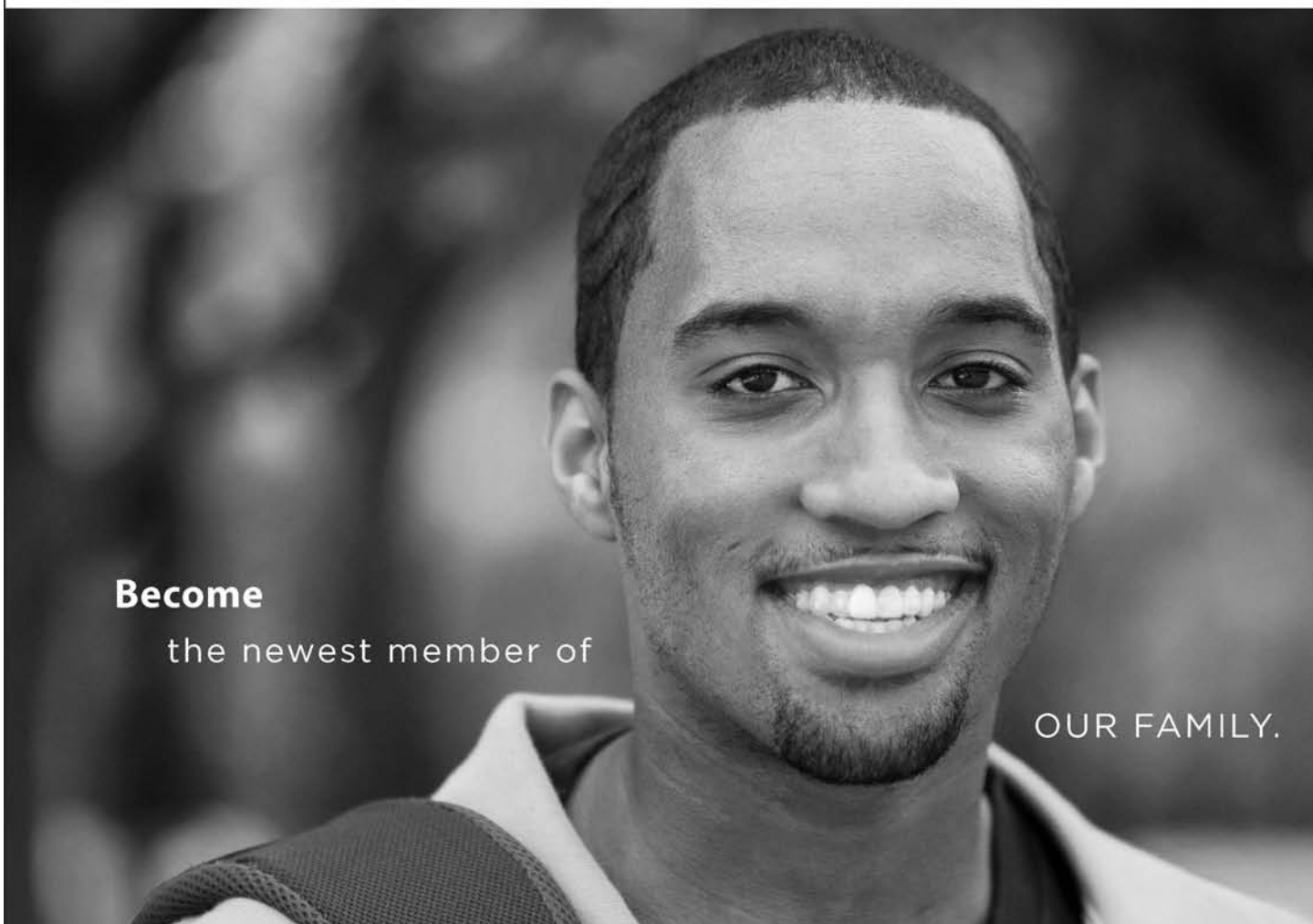
This advising session is geared towards students who want to become physical therapist assistants at some point. Learn the requirements for the classes necessary to complete the program. This will begin at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday in IC 1-P. For more information please call Don Schmidt at (630) 942-4076.

How to Get and Keep a Job

This is a workshop for graduating COD students with disabilities. It will be presented by Linkage to Careers, Career Services and Special Services. This workshop will be offered from 2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. on Monday in IC 2003. Please RSVP at (630) 942-3854.

Native American Studies Conference

This annual event sponsored by the International Education office's Native American Committee. This event will be open to the public and is free. It will begin at 4 p.m. and will run until 10 p.m. on Friday in SRC 2800. For more information please call the International Education office at (630) 942-3079.



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Planning for success

Students learn about academic and job opportunities.

By Alex Glas
Features Editor

Various organizations gathered on Wednesday for the "Plan for Success in the Current Economic Climate" workshop. These organizations from the came together in order to help students create an action plan for success in both school and in the working world. Career Services was running a raffle to encourage students to complete their action plans. UPS was even there for students interested in getting a job.

Each table setup was designed to answer a question on the action sheet. Whether it was getting involved at the school or finding research tools, there was a table for it. Although informal, students were given an opportunity to find out about jobs on campus and other im-

portant information vital for surviving in this rough economy. Staff members helped students with one on one resume review sessions, participation in a virtual internship and job fair and being able to speak about specific individual needs.

The action plans are meant to help prioritize and organize needs and goals each student has. With each goal written down it's easier to find out what needs to be in order to complete that goal. And for students with little to nothing written down on their actions sheets it could also be a wake up call. People think that community colleges are just an affordable education, but they offer so much more. Workshops like this one show students what else the college has to offer and what kinds of experiences one would need to enter the working world.



Photos by Alex Glas

Students investigate various academic or job opportunities at the workshop.

Annual Contract? *Nope* Monthly Bill? *Never*
 Credit Check? *Nuh-uh*



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'TEC' from page 10

technical facility is paramount to continuing our existence of superiority," Bosserman said referring to the U.S. labor force. "For that reason it is vital that we continue to invest in education," Bosserman said. Magnetrol International is located in Downers Grove and offers scholarships and internships for students at COD.

Congressman Peter Roskam of the 6th District also spoke about the importance of investment in education. "We all find ourselves in an economy that is very challenging. We need to be investing in things in the future with expectation that there will be very good things coming out of it. It's my hope that in the decades to come we'll reflect back and say that was a good day back in April. We planned for that," Roskam said.

"We have manufacturers here in DuPage County that cannot find enough skilled employees to hire. We're talking about jobs that are anywhere from \$60,000 to \$90,000 a year, because it would be more cost effective to produce these products here locally then to send them overseas and then back again," McKinnon said. Manufacturing, welding, and automotive technology are all fields currently seeking an adept labor force. The business and technology division housed in the TEC offers programs that ready students to fill available jobs in those areas.

'flu' from page 10

ever, this shouldn't be a free pass for students to play hooky. With finals coming up attendance is more important than ever, so unless you have spoken to your instructor and have heard differently, you're still responsible for your grades. Every instructor is different and would have different responses to missed days. By speaking to your instructor about this issue you can find out whether or not missing school or a final will be detrimental to you.

With the college receiving updates from the county health department, preparations for a possible outbreak have begun. The DuPage County Health Department has activated an incident command system in order to better control a possible situation. Mark Fazzini, Chief of Police, issued an announcement about possible swine flu outbreaks. "The command members of the Tri City Team that would be responsible for this type of event is already in place and planning a meeting to discuss operations for a possible response, should the need arise," Fazzini said.

The college has been designated as a distribution center for medical supplies in case of an emergency where medical teams can assemble and gather the necessary supplies to distribute them to the public. "The fundamental principles of pandemic response involve treatment of infected individuals, proper hygiene to prevent spread of infection, and separation of healthy from infected persons," Mullins said.

Fear can spread faster than the disease itself and at times can cause more damage. But with a cool, collected perspective you should be fine.



Photos by Rich Malec

Left: President Breuder addresses the audience during the TEC dedication.

Right: The crowd gathered for the TEC dedication ceremony.

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