

MATHOS KEEPS DORMS SAFE



Mathos
Night receptionist Elyse Mathos, a comparative cultures and politics junior, shares the ups and downs of guarding the door of Case and Wonders halls nightly.

SN What are your actual hours?

EM There's two different shifts. The first shift is from 11:30 p.m. to 3:15 a.m., and the second shift is from 3:15-7 a.m. So some people just work one and some people work the full shift, so it's 11:30 p.m. to 7 in the morning.

SN How do you deal with having to stay up all night?

EM Normally, I try to sleep a few hours before. If it's only the first shift, then that's the easiest one, so I'm normally fine. But if I'm staying up all night, then I'll definitely sleep a few hours before work.

SN What's the best part of the job?

EM It's easy. I basically get paid to do my homework most of the time, especially when it's slow and there's not a lot of people coming in.

SN The worst?

EM The hours. Sometimes you don't want to stay up until 7 in the morning. You get used to it, but I would say that's the worst part.

SN Sometimes you hear stories about this job being dangerous. Have you ever felt at risk at work?

EM Not really. There have been a few incidents, but nothing serious at least that I have seen. There's always a supervisor there and there's always at least one person at each door, so I have other people there with me, so I don't feel like I'm by myself.

SN Any odd or funny situations that stand out about the job?

EM A lot of drunk people walking in all the time; the things they say. You always see things that late at night that you just kind of laugh about.

SN What do you always want to tell the students coming in that you probably can't?

EM It's not a big deal if they forget their ID, everyone always apologizes. Also, they don't need to try and hide that they're drunk ... We're students too. We understand and we're not going to think badly of them.

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FACES + PLACES

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HELLO, MY NAME IS

Meera Patel

For Meera Patel, a choreographer and captain of the MSU Raas Team, Raas is more than just a dance. It's a cultural art form and her passion in life. "I started doing Indian dancing when I was four. It was something my mom put me in," the economics junior said. "It's something I've done ever since. I've done Indian folk dance and Indian classical."

Raas is a coed Indian dance performed with two sticks in the dancers' hands. Having danced their entire lives, Patel and her friends decided to restart the previously discontinued Raas team their freshman year.

Patel and her teammates choreograph and perform seven-minute routines for dance competitions that include a number of intricate steps. Each routine has a theme that is played out during the dance, and the dancers wear traditional Indian outfits.

"I love dancing for the Raas Team and it takes up all of my time," Patel said. "The people are really great and we're all friends."

— Compiled by Abaries Farhad, photo by Katie Rausch/The State News



Wednesday

Beyond the books

By Julie Baker
THE STATE NEWS

h, the places they've been, the things they've seen. Professors' lives outside the classroom are as vast and unique as those of the students they teach. Although their students may be unaware of what happens beyond the geographic borders of MSU, The State News offers a glimpse into the nonacademic lives of two professors. Whether it's a current passion for travel or a background steeped in life experience that would provide research for their future career. These two professors are sharing their stories.

Touring the world

Wanderlust. Tom Page knows the feeling well. It's the instinct he gets about every three months, the sense that has him checking over the mental lists he keeps of the places he'd like to visit and those he'd visit again.

With more than 50 foreign countries somewhere in between, Page is making his way around the world, one trip at a time.

"I lived in France when I was a child and we traveled all over Europe at the time and so that kind of got me into it. After I got my Ph.D. and started life as a faculty member, it afforded me a little bit more time to travel," said Page, an associate marketing professor since 1986.

During that time, he's climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, rafted through Grand Canyon via the Colorado River and scuba dived pretty much wherever he could find water, although some of his own highlights include trips to Antarctica and Australia. "I think growing up watching a lot of (TV) programs

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JASON CHIU/THE STATE NEWS

Associate marketing professor Tom Page stands beside a map in his office at the Business College Complex with about 110 pushpins scattered all over the map of destinations he has visited. Even though the only foreign language he knows is basic French, Page has visited 55 countries around the world. Every three or four months, Page's wanderlust intrigues him to travel to a new destination.

"Being called 'bunnies' dehumanized us as well. Our introduction was 'Hi, I'm your bunny, Penny,'"

Penny Gardner, assistant professor of writing, rhetoric and American culture



STATE NEWS FILE PHOTO

Lansing residents Marilyn Bowen, left, and Penny Gardner sit on the porch of the home they have shared for the past 11 years. Gardner, an assistant professor of writing, rhetoric and American culture, spent time in the early '60s working as a Playboy bunny at the Playboy Club in Baltimore.

Gaining insight

At 21, Penny Gardner was a divorced mother desperate to find a job to support her three children.

This was in the early '60s — a time, Gardner said, that was not ripe with opportunities for women who didn't have secretarial skills. The best solution she could find was becoming an entry-level cocktail waitress at Washington, D.C.'s Gaslight Club, a members-only "gentlemen's club."

"I was thinking that I was not pretty enough for that, but as a matter of fact, I was," said Gardner, an assistant professor of writing, rhetoric and American culture.

"At the time, I was blonde-haired and blue-eyed and young and able to be a sexual

object and lucky to make money off of it like I did," she said.

From the Gaslight Club, Gardner said she was hired as a Playboy bunny for the Playboy Club in Baltimore — a job she describes as both glamorous and exploitative.

"We were accessories to the club," she said. "Being called 'bunnies' dehumanized us as well. Our introduction was 'Hi, I'm your bunny, Penny,'" said Gardner, who teaches women's studies courses at MSU and identifies herself as a feminist.

Although many assume being a Playboy bunny translates into posing for a magazine centerfold, Gardner said her job only involved dressing in the skimpy "bunny" costume

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