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Class of 2012 goes topless for Camp Casey

May 5, 2010

Wayne State University School of Medicine students blew off a little steam and raised funds for children fighting cancer during Buzz if for Boards.

The sounds of buzzing hair clippers, music, cheers and laughter filled the Scott Hall cafeteria May 4 as members of the Class of 2012 shaved their heads to raise money for Camp Casey. The class recruited students to shave their heads as part of a now annual fundraiser.

Camp Casey, a nonprofit horseback riding and outreach program headquartered in Birmingham, Mich., provides overnight mini-vacations at dude ranch resorts for children fighting cancer and their families. Planning and expenses associated with the trips are completely subsidized by Camp Casey.

"We had a lot of interest and a lot of enthusiasm," said Cole Kreofsky, president of the Class of 2012, who also parted with his red locks for the cause. "We raised just over \$1,000, and when it's all over I think we'll reach about \$1,500."

Maya Holtrop, 24, of Beverly Hills, joined the male students in shaving her tresses. Stephen DiCarlo, Ph.D., professor of Physiology, was given the honor of taking the clippers to Holtrop's head.

Asked why she chose to buzz it for boards, Holtrop said, "Because everybody should do something a little crazy in their lives – just a little crazy."

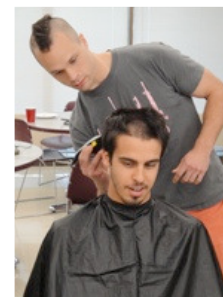
Kreofsky said two other female students chose to donate their hair to Locks for Love in conjunction with the fundraiser. That organization provides wigs for female cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

In all, he said, between 35 and 40 students committed to thinning their follicles for the summer and to help Camp Casey.

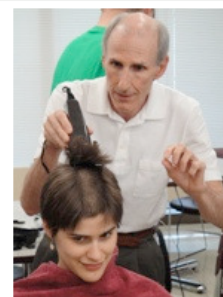
"I think that this is for a good cause, and it's great to help out kids with cancer," said Andrew Gupta, 23, of Bloomfield Hills, one of the first students to step up to the clippers.

There were a number of ways to participate. For students who shaved their heads, the Class of 2012 donated \$5 to Camp Casey. Others donated money to the fundraiser without undergoing the clippers. The student organization Hematology Oncology Peer Education donated \$100 to the effort.

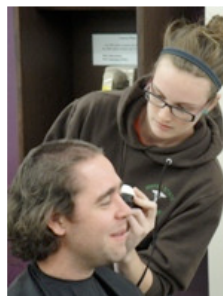
The class is still collecting donations. For more information, contact Kreofsky at ckreofsk@med.wayne.edu



David Wildt, already sporting his new 'do, goes to work on Andrew Gupta.



Dr. DiCarlo shows a delicate touch in buzzing Maya Holtrop.



The long tresses of Levent Sipahi are no match for Kristin Inger.