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Guest bartenders step in to help university Professor John Scholz raise funds for the Lance Armstrong Foundation.

Professor raises \$15K to 'Ride for the Roses'

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The atmosphere of Shaggy's on Main is anything but ordinary - the regular crowd of scantily-clad girls and their male counterparts in beer drenched golf-shirts are nowhere to be seen.

On the evening of Tuesday, Oct. 10, the dance floor is covered with people mingling over drinks, a far cry from the usual college kids dancing to the sounds of a local cover band.

The hundreds of undergraduate students with plastic beer mugs are replaced with mostly graduate students there for a good cause.

The event was organized by students from the Doctorate Physical Therapy program for the Lance Armstrong Foundation in support of their professor, John Scholz..

The \$5 fee charged upon entrance, along with a portion of the tips made by bartenders and all of the raffle prize money go towards Scholz's goal of raising \$15,000, to be donated to the Lance Armstrong Foundation.

Decked in yellow T-shirts and big smiles, coordinators Julie Sinkosky and Melissa Ronan, both second year DPT students, spend the evening behind a table filled with raffle prizes from more than 20 businesses around Newark.

Scholz, professor of physical therapy at the university, rode 100 miles in the Philadelphia Livestrong Challenge this past September. While fighting his own battle with cancer, Scholz says Armstrong provided him with inspiration to keep up the fight.

With support of family, friends and the community, Scholz was able to raise more than \$12,500 for the foundation. Tuesday night's fundraiser was arranged to help him reach his final goal of \$15,000.

Besides the monetary goal, Scholz says he hopes people who attend the fundraiser will be inspired to help and give back. He says he is overwhelmed by the support of the community.

Assistance comes in all forms, not just from students. Scholz's co-workers act as guest bartenders, serving up beers and shots to willing donators. The bar is manned by a mixture of Shaggy's regular bartenders and the professors in their yellow PT polos. One guest bartender in particular was sporting a bicycle helmet which reads, "Dr. Scholz - My Hero."

More support comes in the form of donations from 22 local businesses including Tan Inn, Lettuce Feed You, Bloom, the National 5 & 10 and Savvy Lou Bags. Ronan and Sinkosky say everyone was willing

to help the cause.

According to Ronan, if Scholz's goal of \$15,000 is met he will be able to participate in the Ride for the Roses in Austin, Texas.

The Ride for the Roses weekend is an annual event which will be held from Oct. 13 through the 15. The race is a celebration of the Foundation's most enthusiastic supporters, including Lance Armstrong.

Scholz says he hopes to meet Armstrong next weekend at the race.

"He has been such an inspiration to me and so many people," he says. "These events are just incredibly inspirational."

Supporters of the event approach the tables of raffle prizes as the night wears on. Some of the prizes include everything from gift certificates to restaurants, fragrant body lotions from boutiques on Main Street and even a beta fish.

Elizabeth Foster, a senior, attended the event with friends. Foster says she is blown away at the determination and support from Scholz and his students.

"Obviously, this is a good cause and people want to help good causes," she says. "I just think the idea of the professors acting as guest bartenders and the raffles were such a unique idea to get people, especially young adults, to come out to help."

At the end of the evening, \$2,758 is raised, which not only means Scholz will be riding in the Ride for the Roses, he'll hopefully be meeting his inspiration, Lance Armstrong.

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