

Convocation Day Obstacle Course funds eye surgery for those in need

April 20, 2015

By John Miller

Men's Top Finishers

1. Jesse Brenon
2. Kevin Ludwig
3. Matthias Gaige

Women's Top Finishers

1. Shelby Brassard
2. Kyra Lowie
3. Katrina Hamer

"Best Effort" Awards went to Nathan Swann and Peter Maloney



Following a presentation by Convocation Day's keynote speaker, Dr. Geoffrey Tabin, a massive obstacle course was inflated in the yellow light of the West Gym. The Physical Therapy Assistants Club, the Criminal Justice Program and the hard work of Melinda Pitman – Student Assembly's vice president of Financial Concerns – made the course a reality.

The Criminal Justice Program provided the funds and the prizes. First place won a Fitbit, second received a \$25 Amazon Gift Card and third took home a \$10 Amazon Gift Card.

It cost nothing to run through the course against a friend, but if you wanted to be timed it cost \$5. All proceeds were donated to the Himalayan Cataract Project, which seeks to restore eyesight to blind people in developing

countries. In total, the event brought in \$500. The Student Assembly donated \$100 and the Business Club donated \$100 as well.

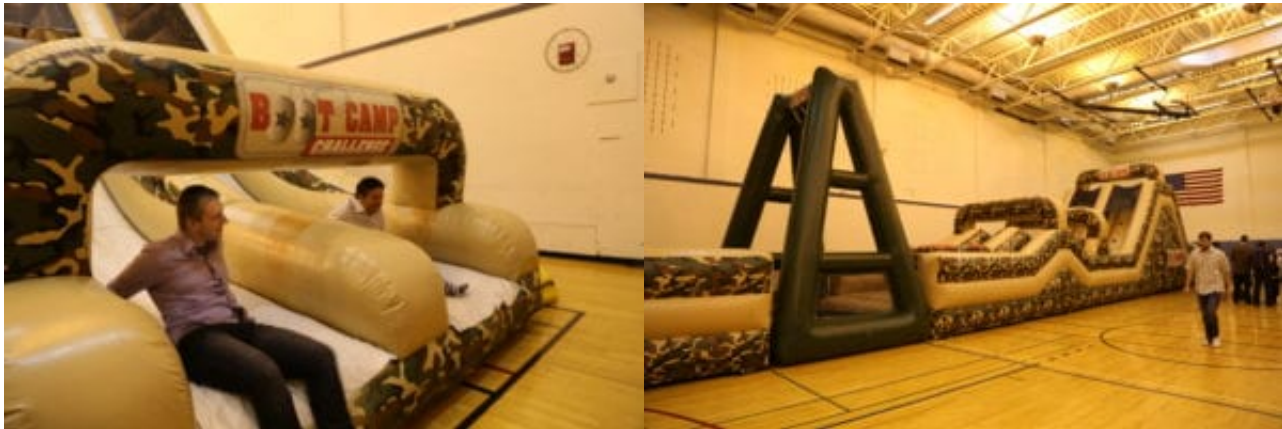
According to the Himalayas Cataract Project website, www.cureblindness.org, the cost to restore the eyesight of a person in a third world country is only \$100. This includes the material cost and the transport of the patient. Therefore, the obstacle course effectively allowed five people to see again.

Horst Hilpert, the president of the Physical Therapy Assistants Club, said the course was a great way for students to get up and moving after sitting through Dr. Tabin's presentation.

Melinda Pitman said that the course, which took over four months to plan, was part of a new effort to "try and make Convocation Day more fun and exciting for the students."

You can find more information on the Physical Therapy Assistants Club by emailing Horst Hilpert at horsthilpert@gmail.com.

Writer John Miller is a SUNY Broome student.



Filed Under: [Uncategorized](#)