

# Philly company to share cars with Newark

**By: Amanda Spinelli**

PhillyCarShare, a nonprofit, short-term car rental company, is extending its services to Newark.

Liz Galantino, senior associate at PhillyCarShare, said the company allows customers to rent a car for a few hours at a time.

"Customers can call us up and reserve a car at any time, even if it is an hour before they need it," Galantino said. "We offer a wide variety of cars including coopers and minivans."

Customers must be 18 or older and have a safe driving record, she said.

"We just need to verify the customer's record, and then they go through a brief orientation online," Galantino said.

The program currently operates out of Wilmington, as well as cities in Pennsylvania. Galantino said she is unsure when the program will debut in Newark.

David Silver, associate professor of philosophy at university, said he has used the program.

"It's simple to do over the Web," Silver said. "The one problem I had was figuring out how to turn the [Toyota] Prius on the first time I used it."

Galantino said PhillyCarShare views decreasing automobile use as a social benefit, promoting a pay-as-you-go pricing policy that encourages choice over commitment to driving.

"People and individual businesses save a lot of the expenses that come along with owning a vehicle," she said. "I myself spent \$7,000 on my car last year alone."

Rental rates are currently offered at \$3.90 per hour or \$39 per day.

Freshman Trisha Gomez said she thinks the service would be beneficial to college students, especially those that don't own cars on campus.

"I don't have my car here, and I know how annoying it can be to try to get a ride places," Gomez said. "I think PhillyCarShare would be really useful during those times when I just want to get off-campus for a few hours. It's also cheap, which is awesome since I am

a typical broke college student."

Galantino said in urban areas, such as Philadelphia, where the company was established, PhillyCarShare works with the city to ensure every rented vehicle is guaranteed a parking space in a location convenient to the customer's needs. Private campuses and universities allocate spots to the company.

"The parking spaces, or pods as we like to call them, are really cute," Galantino said. "They are painted green and say 'PhillyCarShare lives here.' "

She said PhillyCarShare has struck an agreement with the university regarding the allocation of parking spots, but would not release further details.

Clayton Lane, deputy executive director of PhillyCarShare, said people between the ages of 18 and 39 comprise a majority of the company's membership.

"There is little correlation with income, though it seems that middle-income households are more likely to join than low-income or wealthy households," Lane said. "The most common demographic is well- educated."

The company now has cars on many college campuses, he said.

Silver said the service is perfect for a university community.

"I really wish it was available when I was in college," he said.

According to Lane, PCS will attract similar demographics in Newark as the company does in Philadelphia.

"It is for people who can get to school or work without driving, but still need a car occasionally for local errands, jaunts to Christiana Mall, trips to Rehoboth or students visiting home," he said.