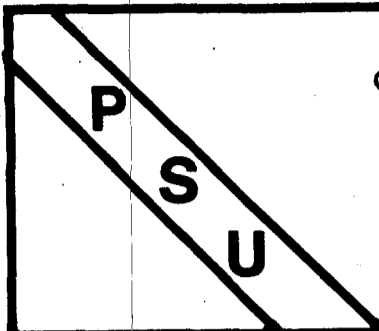


Anniversary Issue



Capital Times

Vol. 20, no.1

The Capital College

Aug. 27, 1986

Did you know?

Dr. George Wolf was the first faculty member appointed in 1968. The first class of students at this campus consisted of 18 people.

The preliminary plan for the campus called for only a graduate school.

Dr. Richard Heindel, for whom the library was named, was the first dean of faculty.

The first graduating class of 12 students in 1968 had commencement in Beaver Stadium at the main campus.

The first graduation held at the Harrisburg campus was Friday, June 13, 1969.

The student make-up at Penn State, Harrisburg has traditionally been 1/3 from Harrisburg Area Community College, 1/3 from other PSU campuses, and 1/3 from other sources.

In 1967, in opposition to the SGA as a governing body, a group of students formed the Free Assembly. It survived less than one semester.

Prior to Fall 1983 the academic year consisted of three 10-week terms rather than two 15-week semesters.

The first security force on campus consisted of one man from Globe Security who worked from 10 pm to 6 am.

In October 1971 a Sumo Wrestling Tournament was held on campus.

(continued on pg. 5)

Provost Reflects on Campus Growth

Dear Capital College Students:

This year we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of Penn State - Harrisburg, the Capital College. Our College boasts a proud history of having provided high quality, affordable, baccalaureate, graduate, and continuing education programs in Southcentral Pennsylvania. Our accomplishments and the strengths developed over the years include:

*More than 13,000 alumni, among them corporate and community leaders, physicians, attorneys, government officials, teachers and college professors, engineers and entrepreneurs;

*Eighteen baccalaureate degree, eleven master's degree and two doctoral degree programs, some with national reputations, all well-matched to the needs of this location;

*A student body of nearly 2,700--bright, mature and diverse--eclectic in background and interests;

*A full-time and part-time faculty of over 165--experienced, energetic, productive and committed to teaching and research as well as to professional and community service. Ninety percent of the full-time faculty hold the highest degrees or certifica-

tion in their fields.

*A strong and growing reputation for quality education and quality student life at community colleges, the Penn State Commonwealth campuses, University Park, and at senior colleges and four-year colleges for quality education and quality student life;

*The second largest library collection in the Penn State system, with more than one million holdings; also, the second largest library in this area second only to the State Library in Harrisburg;

*Recognition by community and corporate leaders that we are crucial to the economic development of Southcentral Pennsylvania.

On the occasion of our 20th anniversary, we can point with pride to these and numerous other significant accomplishments and, during our celebration year, you will recognize those individuals who played key roles in making them possible. On May 12, 1986--the anniversary date of our founding--we honored Dr. Eric Walker, the Penn State President who was instrumental in the development of the campus. At Spring Semester Commencement, we recognized the original

faculty of the College, and during the September 13 Alumni Homecoming celebration, we will recognize the first graduates of the College.

Concurrent with our celebration of a proud history, we will use the anniversary to announce an ambitious agenda for the future--some facets of which are already in place or are being implemented. In all cases, the efforts are part of strategic plan that includes the input of students, alumni, community leaders, faculty, and administrators.

The College's new name--The Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg, The Capital College (or "Penn State, Harrisburg" for short)--better reflects our status as a senior-level baccalaureate degree-granting college and graduate center. Moreover, in its abbreviated and more common form --Penn State, Harrisburg--the new name reinforces the fact that we are Penn State, and offer the nation-ally known Penn State Quality education.

A major component of our plan for the future is to enhance the academic programs of the College. Environmental scanning has indicated that growth opportunities exist for the College because of its location and because of new regional economic development efforts, and that now is the time to invest resources into new and existing programs of promise.

To this end, the College has added three new degree programs--bachelor's degree programs in criminal justice and computer science and a master's degree program in recreation and parks. Last year we added a master's degree program in training and development and the D.Ed. degree in adult education. All of these were developed as a result of strategic planning analyses that indicated significant job market opportunities for graduates of these programs. In addition, 13 new faculty have been recruited to the College this year along.

Among physical developments to support the academic curriculum are a computer aided design lab developed for engineering technology students, an upgraded television studio for multi-media students, and new computer equipment latest in computer languages, Ada. We are currently investigating strategies for renovating the Mechanical Engineer-

ing Technology Laboratory Building, have established a task force to explore our need for a new library, and have begun work on a campus Physical Plant Master Plan that will guide the overall growth and development of the campus through to the next century.

Future additions and improvements will hinge to a great degree on our ability to attract private support for the College. Outside funding must be sought for scholarships and research endowments that will enable us to attract the highest caliber of faculty and students. We also must attract private support for the physical development of the campus as well as for year-to-year projects. During our anniversary year, the College will aggressively continue its effort to secure this support from the community, alumni, business, industry, and individuals who have come to know the value and service of Penn State, Harrisburg.

We have chosen for our anniversary theme "20 Years Toward the 21st Century" to underline the fact that our accomplishments of the past 20 years have prepared us well to undertake our ambitious plans for the future. The stage has been set, and the College is poised to take a major and visible leadership role in education, research, and public service that will benefit all of Southcentral Pennsylvania and the Commonwealth.

Ruth Leventhal, Ph.D., M.B.A.
Provost and Dean
Professor of Biology

Name Change a Mouthful

It's a little like a newly married woman, no matter how many times she reminds herself of her new name, she still, without thinking, blurts out her maiden name.

So it is with Penn State University at Harrisburg--The Capital College. An informal chat with the students-at-large reveals they still attend Capitol Campus. What's in a name anyway? Right?

Actually the name change is significant and long overdue. According to the Provost and Dean Dr. Ruth Leventhal (Currents 3/86), "the first part of the new name--The Pennsylvania State University--at Harrisburg--seeks to give our academic unit a strengthened and distinct identity within the Penn State system, reinforcing the fact that we are a part of the Penn State University. Capital College recognizes the campus' long standing status as an academic unit that grants baccalaureate and graduate degrees.

The concept of a name change

is not sudden. In 1972 the Black Student Union, commenting on the need to attract more black students, said the identification of Capitol Campus as part of Penn State University was a problem and a name change should be considered. Following up on this, in the fall of 1974, rumors circulated around campus that the school administration was thinking of changing the name to Penn State University in Harrisburg or Penn State Institute of Technology.

Dr. Robert McDermott, then the provost, verified the discussion to the student newspaper saying, "we want to emphasize that we are not just an extension of Penn State, but Penn State in Harrisburg, able to offer a unique program of courses to fit the needs of the students." However, the idea of change was dropped soon after because of lack of interest at the time.

Dr. Theodore Gross, provost in April 1979, also tried to revive interest in a name change. "We are developing academic admission

standards and when that is finally done, we will talk about a change. I can tell you the word "campus" will come out of the name," he told the student newspaper.

However, by May 1980, a survey of name preference among faculty, staff, & students produced mixed results. The issue was sent to the Board of Advisers, who recommended retaining "Capitol Campus" as the name because no clear cut alternative could be agreed upon.

In April, when Leventhal became provost, she said her major aim was to move "Capitol Campus" forward and make it as famous as Joe Paterno." In order to keep her promise, she demonstrated her desire to move this school in a new direction by again pushing for a name change, giving PSU at Harrisburg its own identity. Finally, eleven years after it was first proposed, the Board of Trustees voted on March 14, 1986 to officially change the name.