

# Giovanni Reminds Students That Education is Key to Future

By Jan Travers

She intrigued the audience for more than 60 minutes in her intense, sincere, yet comedic way. But while the laughter died away, the serious message did not.

Nikki Giovanni, a renown poet, lecturer and teacher, speaking at Penn State Harrisburg on February 24, as part of the Black History Month celebration, told the audience of about 140 to feel good about themselves. "Don't get down on yourself because you are not going to change your color, race or gender," she warned.

Giovanni, known as an individualist, feels the best role model is yourself. "Role models are a waste of time. I get upset because people look

for excuses not to be who they are." Explaining that it is better to be alone than to be with a fool, Giovanni told the group to be strong enough to be surrounded by strong people who don't always agree with you. "People who make changes are people who stand for something," she said.

And according to Giovanni, the time for changes is ripe. "1987 is not working. Look at the hundreds of hungry people on the streets while farmers are being paid to destroy their crops. We cannot solve our problems for each other, just with each other," she offered. "We must cheer for each other and build a community of trust and good wishes for each other."

Giovanni said she is betting on this generation to save the character of



the country. "Education is the key to the future because the key to the future will always be in the brain."

Reminding the students that "we are not giving you more than you can handle," Giovanni acknowledged that college students struggle. "If you're not, you are not getting an education."

Alluding to the low Black enrollment at Penn State, Giovanni addressed her comments largely to the Black students. "This is your school and you should participate in it. You have a right to be here. You are capable of being here," she said.

The key to an education is effort, said Giovanni. "If you don't know what a professor means, stop her and tell her you don't know what she means. We who teach, no matter what color, want someone to learn," she said, noting that it makes their (teachers) day when they see student's eyes light up.

"You can say because you are Black--and you will--that so and so doesn't like you. They won't like you more because you flunk their class. You are not here to fill a quota, you are here to be educated," she explained.

Encouraging the audience to "expand our reach because we have the desire to control the few Blacks that

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Picture by Jan Travers

Dr. Carol Nechemias checks for her passport one last time before departing for her trip to Russia with a group of Penn State, Harrisburg students. (See related story on page 10).

## Blumberg Bombarded at Business Forums

### Part II

By Kathleen Riley-King

On February 4, 1986, the Business division held a second open forum.

"I'd like to know why there are so many evening courses as opposed to morning [courses]," began one student. He said that he is a traditional student who lives on campus. This semester, he does not start his school day until 2 p.m.

Beth Jones replied that the evening courses are scheduled to meet the needs of the part-time evening students. In addition, more afternoon classes have been scheduled to accommodate the Business faculty. Elaborating

on this point, Dr. Blumberg explained that about 40 percent of the Business faculty teach graduate as well as undergraduate courses. Since all graduate courses are held at night, the professors want to teach their undergraduate courses in the afternoon rather than in the morning.

Another student responded, "I think that that kind of response is not gonna change anybody's perceptions. I think most of the problems that we have are peoples' perceptions rather than something actually being wrong. I would think that this person . . . has some kind of perception that he's not getting the kind of scheduling he wants. I don't necessarily think that they want to hear the exact technical reasons why . . . If they were going to Main Campus, they'd probably have a greater flexibility 'cause there's more teachers . . . We're not getting a discount for going here, but yet you're saying that because of certain constraints that you have, we have to be more understanding and be more flexible, but that's not going to . . ."

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## Capital College's Enrollment Increases

By Tom Boyle

Graduate enrollment at Penn State, Harrisburg increased 16 percent and undergraduate enrollment increased three percent from last year, according to Robert J. Graham, Ph.D., associate provost and associate dean of faculty.

The figures reflect an unexpected national increase in college enrollment reported by the U.S. Department of Education's Center for Statistics. Penn State, Harrisburg usually lags a little behind the national trends, said Graham.

"All of those graduate programs . . . are successful beyond our anticipations," said Graham. "The liberal arts areas are going to continue to grow."

The M.B.A. program, started just two years ago, continues to grow and this year has a total of 251 students.

Undergraduate enrollment in the behavioral science program has increased 30 percent and the new graduate program in recreation and parks has grown steadily since its conception.

The new doctorate program in adult education and the graduate program in education in training and development has had an enrollment double what was originally expected.

"We structured a lot of different strategies within the admissions office," said Sandra L. Zerby, director of enrollment planning, recruitment, and admissions, attributing this year's enrollment increase to a more aggressive recruitment campaign.

Penn State, Harrisburg has increased its advertising, publications, open houses, and traveling in an effort to recruit new students.

"We saw many, many more people," said Zerby, referring to the extensive traveling that the admission's office now does. The 50 percent increase in applications for this spring semester was a result of increasing visits to other schools, including some out-of-state.

Publishing a new brochure to attract international students and traveling to out-of-state campuses has increased enrollment of students not living in state.

The number of 18-24 year olds fell two percent from last year, but that will "push upwards" in the future, said Zerby.

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