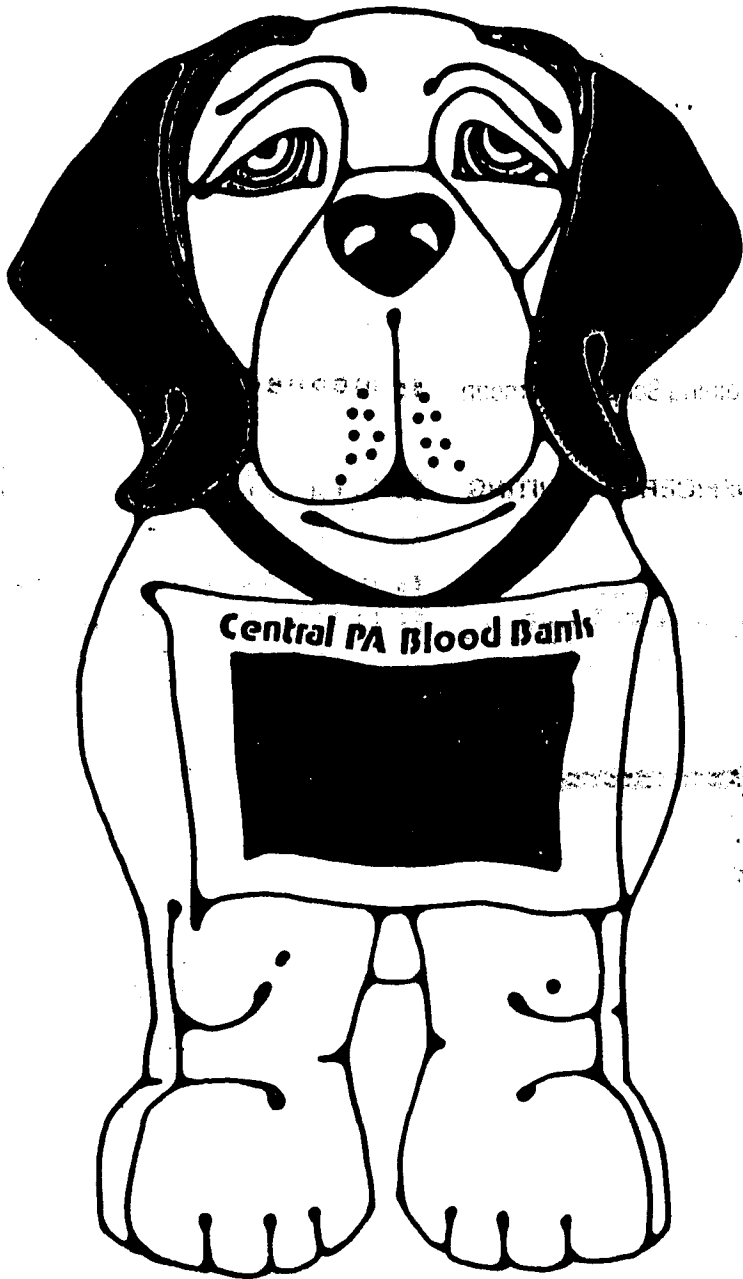


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### Cynthia Duffy:

## Interest Began With Internship

By Nathan Lee Gadsden

Until her junior year in college, Cynthia Duffy was not sure what career she wanted to pursue.

Now, at age 24, she is the Assistant Director of Community Relations at Penn State Harrisburg. She has held the position since Jan. 3.

Duffy said her interest in public relations was sparked by an internship in the Communications Department at Dickinson College. "The experience I gained there was very valuable and set me on the path to communications," she said.

A native of Williamsport, Duffy earned a bachelor's degree in English at Dickinson. After college, she was hired by the Pennsylvania Bar Association where she eventually became the Communications Coordinator. Her responsibilities there included public relations and publications.

According to Duffy, she enjoyed working for the Bar Association but pursued the position at PSH because she was "looking for a new professional challenge."

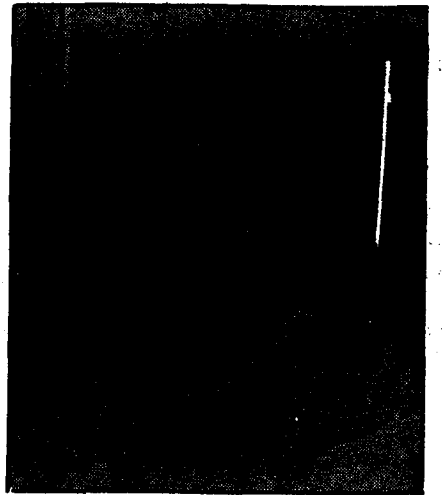
She said her work with PSH publications and programs has been personally rewarding. "I've been exposed to a lot of things I've never been exposed to before." Duffy noted the campus's lecture series and cultural programs.

Although she balances her career with married life, Duffy finds time for other activities. Along with exercising to reduce stress, she plays and teaches the flute, and serves on the board of directors of the Harrisburg Singers, a

professional choral group. Her primary responsibility on the board is for public relations.

Duffy said her goal in Community Relations is to tell people that PSH is a quality school. "There are an awful lot of interesting programs, research activities and student achievements going on here," she said. She added that her office cooperates with University Park on many programs.

Duffy said overall the students at PSH are different than those at Dickinson. "Students here are very practical minded," she said. "They're getting a degree with specific careers in mind, especially graduate students."



Cynthia Duffy, Director of Community Relations

Photo by Denina C. Benson

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