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Commencement 1991

Founder's Hall site of graduation ceremony

Karen M. Putt
Capital Times Staff

Heads turned, cameras flashed and even a few tears were shed as the 263 graduating students entered Founder's Hall in Hershey for Penn State Harrisburg's fall semester commencement ceremony on Jan. 11.

Following a welcome address by Provost Ruth Leventhal, keynote speaker Irving Hand, professor of state and regional planning, took the podium to congratulate the graduates and offer words of caution.

"There's a plague that threatens our country," Hand said, "and its name is David Duke."

Hand denounced Duke and the attitudes of racism that "are not exclusive to Duke and Louisiana, but running rampant through our country."

He spoke in favor of "a world united," and the need for tolerance and

understanding in today's society.

Hand also praised Penn State Harrisburg for "shaping its place in the twenty-first century by dealing with the issue of cultural diversity."

In closing, Hand encouraged the graduates to do what they can to make the world better.

"It is your time now to help shape the future," he said. "There will be warts and blemishes, but do it with the love and care of those who have gone before you."

Following Hand, Mike Hermick, president of the Student Government Association, addressed the graduates.

Hermick spoke of the problems with the environment and what needs to be done to preserve the earth.

"It is our duty to accept the challenge," he said, "we have to stop destroying our planet."

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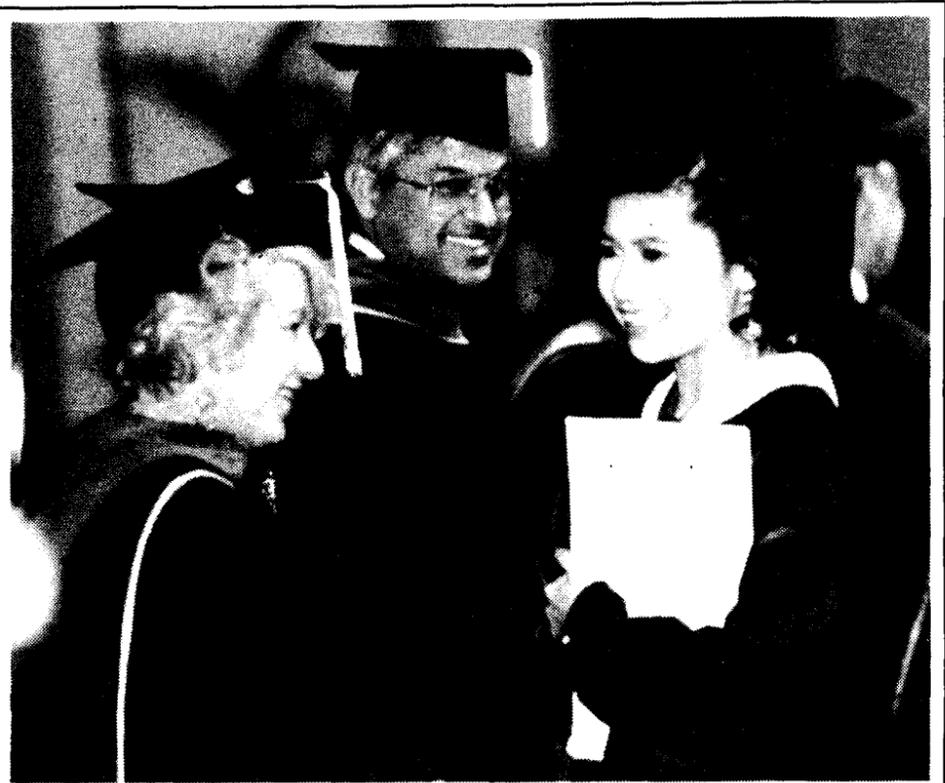


Photo by Darrell Peterson

Linh Nguyen-Phan, (right) a graduating information systems major, accepts congratulations from Penn State Harrisburg faculty members Gayle Yaverbaum (left) and Krishna Dhir (center).

Prices rise, economy falls in former Soviet Union

Lee Ashton
Capital Times Staff

You're tired and hungry after a morning of seemingly endless classes. You wander into the Lion's Den, where you're astonished to learn that a steak sandwich, fries, and a large coke will cost you \$13.50 instead of the usual \$3.50.

If that price increase of 300 percent isn't enough to boggle your mind, imagine standing in line for a couple of

hours before having a chance to order. Then, what if the food was gone by the time you were ready to make your choice?

The scenario just described isn't likely to happen here, but it's a very real occurrence in Russia and other independent states who were formerly members of the Soviet Union. The move from socialism to a free market economy has resulted in a political, social and economic upheaval that is difficult for the average American citizen to comprehend.

Penn State Harrisburg students said they would change their lifestyles if they faced similar circumstances.

"I probably would become a vegetarian and not eat meat," said Lucretia Young, a senior humanities/business major. "Meat would be history. I could still afford school, but I'd have to cut down on other expenses, like gas for my car." Young added she wouldn't be able to afford new clothes until after graduating and returning to the work force.

Like Young, most students said they would have to "scale down" their lifestyle, only purchasing what they absolutely need.

"I would just buy basics and wouldn't eat at the Lion's Den," said Alice Ogwal, a junior accounting major. Noting that more money for food would mean less money for other things, she said unnecessary spending would hinder further education.

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SGA offers student leadership seminar

Stacey Simmers
Capital Times Staff

Everybody needs to learn certain skills to help them on the job and in their daily lives. The Student Leader Conference on Jan. 25 will give students just what they need.

"The conference is aimed at providing skills that students can actually use," said Mike Hermick, president of Student Government Association.

The program runs from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Saturday in the Capital Union Building.

The three main topics will be motivating groups, running effective meetings, and completing projects.

Frank Stroup of Harrisburg's Training

Store is the conference facilitator. He will be assisted by Steve Backels, of the Student Assistance Center, who will offer a "Stress Management" session.

Stroup said the program is geared toward student leaders, but also benefits the average student.

"We need to tune the leaders--help them realize that people who volunteer are doing it for themselves," Stroup said. "Not just to be the good guy."

Other students who attend will learn skills for school and jobs, Stroup said. They will learn to be confident when making any public presentation, as well as work on their organizational skills.

An added plus to the Student Affairs

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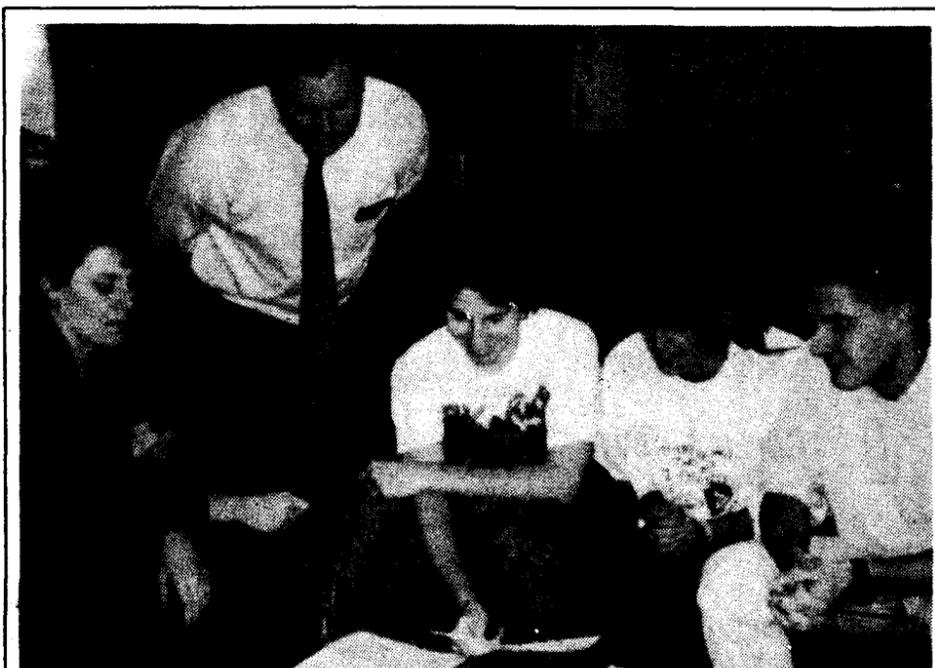


Photo by Janet Widoff

The Student Leader Conference Committee plans the Jan. 25 conference. From left to right are Donna Howard and Steve Backels of the Student Affairs Center and students Joe Silver, Kathy Burciaga and Dwight Collins.