

# The Capital Times

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Obititus Dictum

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## CRAGS building undergoes changes for this semester

Tina Shearer  
Staff Writer

Are you wondering what happened to the registrar's office?

On July 27, the admissions office and the registration office relocated to the C.R.A.G.S. building, combining to become Enrollment Services at Penn State Harrisburg.

Renovations to C.R.A.G.S. have been under way all summer to prepare for the merger.

The concept of enrollment services is to bring together the major services for students that are interrelated into one area.

"We did not just physically move, it is a whole revolution in the registration process," explains Dr. Thomas I. Strevler, Director of Enrollment Services.

Ideally, a student will be able to apply to the college, have transcripts sent and leave with a course schedule all from enrollment services.

"It is like one stop shopping," adds Dr. Strevler.

Since Dr. Strevler's hiring early last spring semester, he has been looking at the idea of creating one unit to handle both the admission and registration functions at PSH.

The idea really took off when the library needed more space in order to better serve the students until the new library is completed.

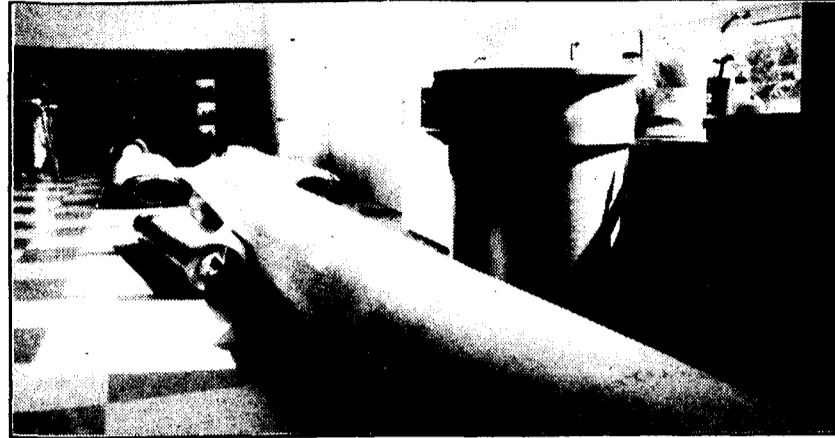
Dr. Kiffer, Interim Provost and Dean during the 1995 Spring semester, decided that the space occupied by the registrar's office would be large and close enough to also house the processing functions of the library.

With the registrar's office needing a new home, the plan to implement an enrollment services was put into action.

To create space for enrollment services in C.R.A.G.S., the Ben Franklin Technology Center and the Agriculture Extension Service were moved from C.R.A.G.S. to the building that admissions was located.

They were moved closer to the entrance of campus because they are both affiliated with off-campus constituencies. Admissions could then be merged with registration and move into the newly renovated area in C.R.A.G.S.

The new location of these once separate departments will take some adjusting for students, faculty and staff alike.



CRAGS in rags.

"This will force us to make better use of technology because we are not where we used to be," comments Dr. Strevler.

"One of the characteristics of

technology is that it begins to make distance a transparent issue," points out Dr. South.

People will use E-mail and fax machines more frequently to com-

municate from building to building. Technology will also allow the student to have more input over his/her education.

The introduction of touch-tone registration, personal E-mail accounts, and Gopher are just some of the ways students can be more informed and active in their educational planning.

Enrollment Services works under the philosophy of empowerment, "empowering faculty, staff and students too give them more control over the registration and information process," Dr. Strevler said.

For most, it means, "learning new organizational patterns and workplace behaviors," Dr. South comments.

Dr. South urges returning students to look at it as, "different, but better



Students gather materials (and food) from an information table at orientation.

## Malaysian students respond to new, uniquely American experiences at PSH

By Danielle Hollister  
Staff Reporter

Imagine coming to a new country where you're surrounded by new people with a different culture and at the same time taking five or six college level courses crammed into a six week session.

That is the challenge that 37 Malaysian engineering students faced this summer. Their heavy class load will continue for the next 16 months to allow them to graduate with bachelor's degrees in 1996.

Before coming to PSH, the Malaysian students had already earned associate's degrees in engineering technology in their homeland. They also spent six semesters studying in Canada for a three-year diploma in engineering technology. The 37 students attended four different colleges in the Toronto area.

"The transition from Toronto to here was a little difficult," Fuad Zakaria, 25, mechanical engineering, said. "I made some good friends in Canada and now I have to start all over again. It's going to be tough to make new friends."

Another challenge for foreign students is communicating with American students. "Sometimes it is difficult to communicate. Something I say might not be cool or it might hurt someone else [unintentionally]. Some people do not understand how hard it is," Zakaria said.

foundation within that program to provide training and education for their citizens, which is how the students were able to study in Canada and now here at PSH.

Dr. Ray and Dr. Ed Minnick, former director, Office of Continuing Education developed the connection between the Canadian colleges and PSH.

Ann Verobish, the former international advisor at the PSH Student Assistance Center, prepared for the arrival of the Malaysian students, who are all Muslim.

Some of her responsibilities included finding markets that offered hala-butchered meat which is part of the Muslim diet and finding mosques for them to worship in. Verobish found three local mosques in Oberlin, Wormleysburg and Enola. She also gave the students the names of a few butchers in Lemoyne and Mechanicsburg, as well as the location of hala-grocery stores in Washington, DC, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

The Malaysian students said they have traveled to Washington to stock up on the hala-meat, which is part of their religious beliefs. They said that they can eat other things like fish and eggs that are offered here on campus.

Verobish also conducted an orientation program to introduce the students to this area. She said she was amazed when she arranged to take them to downtown Harrisburg a few days after they had arrived at PSH and when they got to Strawberry Square, the Malaysian students told her they had already been there the

day before.

"They took it upon themselves to travel downtown. They figured out the public transportation system without our help," Verobish said.

The public transportation system in Middletown is not as extensive as the system in Toronto. This was initially somewhat of a problem for the Malaysian students. Now at least five of the 37 students have bought cars which makes it easier for them to get around. One adventurous guy even bought a Harley-Davidson. Twelve other students have bought bicycles.

According to most of the staff members who have dealt with the students, they are very independent, self-sufficient and eager to learn.

Donna Howard, who is the interim international advisor, said, "They are very anxious to learn about our different cultures and they want to learn as much as they can about everything around them."

"I truly enjoyed working with the students. They were a joy to be with," Verobish said.

The Malaysian students represent the largest single contingent of international students to enroll at the school. "These students are part of Malaysia's vision for the future and

PSH is now part of that nation building," Dr. Ray said. "This is quite exciting for our faculty."

"The challenge was to package the curriculum," Dr. Ray said. "Most students have advanced standing in some areas and deficiencies in others. After evaluating the curricula of the four colleges, the requirements for the Malaysians will range from 53 to 65 credits here at PSH."

The students have an intense program in order to complete their degree early. "It's good to finish

## Farewell & Hello Departing interim provost describes the best-kept secret in PA education

By Theodore E. Kiffer

Seven months ago I was enjoying retirement from Penn State University.

I had been retired three and one-half years when I received a telephone call from the executive vice president and provost asking me if I would consider giving up my retirement to come to Penn State Harrisburg as Interim Provost and Dean.

After much thought and consideration, I agreed to trade my retirement for the challenge of serving as the chief administrator of what was to me a relatively unknown entity. That decision has proven to be one of the most pivotal actions of my entire life. Now I have turned the leadership of Penn State Harrisburg to Dr. John Bruhn, newly arrived from his most recent assignment as vice president for academic affairs at the University of Texas, El Paso.

Before I leave the Capital Region, I want to share some of my impressions with you. I want also to thank the residents of greater Harrisburg for the warm reception and genuine hospitality which have been extended to me. I want to thank the students, faculty and staff at Penn State Harrisburg for their warm response to my efforts to make the college a better place in which to live and learn.

One of the first impressions I gained was that Penn State Harrisburg is the best-kept secret in the entire university and in higher education in Pennsylvania. Quality, realistically priced university education is available to the citizens of Harrisburg and the Capital Region through remarkably co-operative efforts involving the two-year Commonwealth Campus System, Harrisburg Area Community College and Penn State Harrisburg.

At the Spring 1995 commencement, Penn State Harrisburg conferred five doctorates, 90 master's degrees and 400 baccalaureate degrees. As an upper division college, offering course work only to junior and seniors and graduate students, Penn State Harrisburg provides local residents who start at Harrisburg Area Community College or elsewhere the opportunity to complete their college studies while continuing to meet the other responsibilities of life

such as working or raising a family. The high quality programs attract other students who attend full-time. Colleges exist because of students who desire an education. Because I lived in student housing and ate in the Dining Commons with students during the three or four or five days I spent in Harrisburg each week, I became well acquainted with number of students. I have never been an "ivory tower" administrator, far removed from the student body, so I tried to meet other students - the commuters and evening students as well. The Penn State Harrisburg student body is a most heterogeneous group of people. Typical juniors and seniors, parents, government workers and professionals of all interests and ranks mingle together in a common quest for knowledge and skills and create a wonderful learning environment.

I like to think I leave something of myself in Harrisburg; but I know that I am taking something away. I am taking with me the knowledge that a few miles down the river from center city Harrisburg lies Penn State Harrisburg - a student body to make any university proud, and a university to make a city proud. I have learned this in seven short months and I want to let you in on the secret as I depart.

(This article was reprinted from The Patriot-News with the permission of the author.)

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