

# The Capital Times

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Obititus Dictum

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## 1995 PSH graduates celebrate commencement ceremony at Hershey Theatre

by Danielle C. Hollister  
Co-Editor

Traffic came to a standstill on Chocolate Ave. as Penn State Harrisburg graduates, friends and family gathered to celebrate the 1995 commencement ceremony at the Hershey Theatre on Sat. Jan. 6, 1996.

Once inside the elaborate theater, 132 baccalaureate degree candidates and 100 master degree candidates prepared for their graduation. The commencement ceremony began promptly at 9:30 am with the procession of students lead by professors carrying banners representing each division.

The students in their black caps and gowns filed into the theater filled with their families and friends anxiously awaiting the big event. Provost and Dean Dr. John G. Bruhn welcomed everyone and introduced the Keynote Speaker, Dr. Robert J. Bresler, professor of public policy.

Dr. Bresler offered his "sincere congratulations to

all members of the graduating class" and he recognized "the sacrifice, hardships and long hours" that the graduates have endured to get here today.

He cautioned the graduates, "Do not under any circumstances settle for mediocrity."

Dr. Bresler said that they should always strive for more than the ordinary.

"The mind is like a muscle," he said. "It can atrophy from disuse and develop if challenged."

Dr. Bresler said that the challenge for this generation is a moral, intellectual and spiritual reawakening of society. In closing he said, "Good luck and God's speed to each and every one of you."

In addition to the many leadership roles he has served in within the School of Public Affairs, Dr. Bresler is currently National Affairs Editor and regular columnist for the magazine *USA Today*. He also provides political commentary for numerous

radio and TV stations.

Dr. Bruhn presented Dr. Bressler with a Nittany Lion statue to thank him for speaking at the graduation. The crowd broke into applause when Dr. Bruhn recognized Frank Holzel, an Electrical Engineering Technology graduate, who was the only student in this graduating class to maintain a perfect 4.0 G.P.A. throughout his college career. Three other students graduated with Highest Distinction (see the end of this article for list).

Student Government Association President Duane Brooks spoke to the graduates about their future.

"Let this day be a new beginning of what may come," he said. "Life is short. Make the best of it today because they're may not always be a tomorrow."

Brooks concluded his speech by saying, "Good luck and congratulations to everyone and remember be Penn State proud."

The feeling of Penn State

proud was also conveyed by the Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Society President, Sharon Cole.

"In a few moments you will join the largest alumni association in the world," Cole, who is a 1989 social science graduate said. "You are never far from a strong network of friends ready to help you be your best."

She said that Penn State Harrisburg alumni are a global community with graduates living in 34 countries around the world.

Cole closed her speech with the "Penn State tradition."

She yelled, "We are!" And the graduates roared back, "Penn State!" Cole said, "Thank you." And the graduates responded, "You're welcome."

Before the ceremony began, the Penn State proud students shared memories of their college experience with each other. They also talked about their feelings on graduating and what the future



Dr. Bruhn awards diplomas to graduates at the 1995 commencement ceremony

Photo by Danielle C. Hollister

holds for each of them.

"It's great," Jennifer Collins, psychology graduate, said. "It's exciting and I even got a full time job at the detention center."

"I'm really excited," Elaine Risner, communications graduate, said.

Feelings of excitement were mixed with nervousness and relief.

"Actually I'm scared to death," Nicole Tetrault, psychology graduate, said.

"It's a wonderful feeling to finally get it over with," David Kostiak, criminal justice graduate.

Some graduates did not hesitate to express their true feelings about this monumental occasion.

"Just let me outta here," Greg Smith, communications graduate, said.

"I'm surprised," Joanne Savini, behavioral science graduate, said. "I didn't think it would ever happen."

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## "Blizzard of '96" blasts midstate, delaying first day of classes at PSH

Penn State Harrisburg Physical Plant employees worked in rotating shifts around the clock Sunday through Wednesday to get the campus open.

Crews spent days plowing and shoveling all over campus. Some students even contributed to the snow removal efforts on Tuesday.



### Facts about the "blizzard of '96"

- Gov. Thomas Ridge declared a state of emergency that closed roads in 47 counties on Sunday that remained in effect until 6 am Tuesday in 35 counties.
  - This was the worst January snowstorm in Harrisburg city's history.
  - This blizzard topped the 20 inches of snow that fell in January 1945.
  - It almost broke the record 25 inches of snow that was set in February 1983.
- Snowfall accumulations:
- Harrisburg - 22.2 inches
  - Lancaster - 28 inches
  - York - 38 inches
  - State College - 17 inches

## "Library of the Future" projected to become reality at PSH campus in 1999

"This is the single most important event in the history of college," Dr. Harold B. Shill, head of division of library and information services, said.

By Cecilia Fuller  
Contributor

Right now it's only a small sign in the middle of a grassy patch of land. Nothing much happens there. Last November a bagpiper stood near it, honoring America's Veterans by playing "Amazing Grace."

In the next few years this small sign will be replaced by Penn State Harrisburg's "Library of the Future," with opening projected for the summer of 1999.

"This is the single most important event in the history of the college," Dr. Harold B. Shill, head of the division of library and information services, said. "It will begin to transform this from an Air Force Base to an academic institution."

"The library will be a magnet to attract and retain students and faculty," Shill said. "The change will be profound."

Gov. Robert P. Casey released \$17.33 million in state capital budget funds in January of 1995 for the construction costs of the library which will house more than just library books.

There will be a Special

Collections room, a government documents area/office, a multimedia area, a microforms room, a maps/geographic information systems area, a curriculum laboratory and a children's area.

There will be 10 group study rooms, 40 faculty/graduate private studies, and two faculty group study rooms, and 593 public seats. Personal computer users will have access to the Penn State network through 28-45 carrels with data ports.

"It will both change habits of learning at Penn State Harrisburg, and provide enormously increased access to electronic resources of all types," Shill said. "This is essentially a one building college. The bulk of the activity is here in the Olmsted building. This will give more of a collegiate feel."

There will be 45,030 square foot of space just for books. The present library only has 32,700, including administrative spaces," he said.

Faye Youngmark, head of circulations, said the new library will be a big improvement. With more space will come more organization, more resources, and quiet study area that can be

kept quiet.

"It will be more convenient," Youngmark said. "It will be more convenient. We're working in an old Air Force building. This will be designed for the technology. We can spread things out."

"Circulation and reserve materials will be in separate areas," she said. "It will make us more productive."

Her staff is looking forward to the change, with dedicated areas to work on reserves.

"Some of our work won't be out in the open, and with privacy it will be easier to get work done without interruptions," she said.

"It's so far in the future, I'm not sure I believe it," Carolee Roman, who works in technical services, said. Her department moved into the rooms vacated by the Registrar's Office in the fall of 1995.

"The new library will mean better working conditions. We'll feel more a part of the library, more accessible," she said. "Work flow will go a little smoother."

Book ordering goes on continually, she said. "We've been

ordering like crazy. The bulk starts in October and goes in until February. We'll have the space we really need."

Some books and periodicals are in storage until the new library opens, she said.

"There'll be more ambiance and more art," Roman said. "There will be a gallery."

The State Data Center Operations Unit, which collects census and demographic data throughout Pennsylvania, will be housed in the library building.

"We will have the two major information units of the state in the same facility," Shill said. "The library and the data center."

Businesses frequently access both the library and the data center when making marketing decisions. Two technology enhanced classrooms, with satellite video conferencing, will also be available for use.

New services will include a document delivery/drop-off photocopy center, a reference/consultation counter, electronic information workstation clusters, self-service copier nooks and a self-service copi-

er/fax room. A snack bar in the building will be available for patrons.

"It's important to build the flexibility for media," Shill said. "We're planning to be able to add electronic resources that don't exit today."

In the August 1995 Heindel newsletter, Shill announced, "The 'Program Statement for the New Library/Information Center Building,' a 124 page planning document that specifies the architectural requirements for Penn State Harrisburg's 'Library of the Future,' has been completed by a twelve person programming committee... An architectural selection board, to be appointed by Gov. Thomas Ridge, will choose an architect on behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The architect will use the program statement as the basis for designing the new library/information center."

The state appropriation funds will only cover the cost of the building construction. Private funds are being sought to complete the furnishing of the interior. A target of \$2 million has been set for donations

to be raised before the projected opening in 1999.

In order to install the advanced technology, corporate pledges and fund raising dinners had raised more than \$500,000 by the fall of 1995. An employee campaign had raised pledges of almost \$130,000.

Sandy Friedman, director of development and university relations, told Shill the faculty/staff campaign is open ended and new pledges may be still be made. A five-year payroll deduction plan has been a popular option.

Private funds raised will also provide for collection development and preservation and unrestricted funds for faculty/staff development and community outreach initiatives, Shill said.

Anyone interested in making a contribution may contact Sandy Friedman, Director of Development and University Relations at PSH. The address is Penn State Harrisburg, 777 W. Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057-4898. The phone number for the Development and University Relations office is (717) 948-6316.