

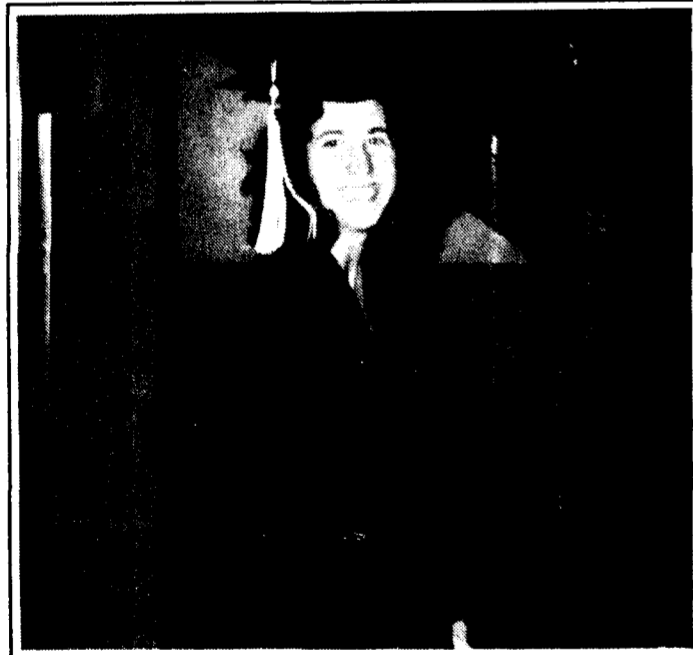
The faces of PSH's spring '96 grads



Heidi Lightner and Stacy Lybarger, psychology majors, make final adjustments to their caps before the ceremony



Tina Shearer, Ali Pirinccioglu and Dan Zackus are all smiles



American studies major, Stef Helwig as the commencement processional begins



Finally making the news instead of reporting it, Spring 1996 Capital Times co-editors, Danielle Hollister and Tina Shearer

photo by Jody L. Jacobs

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Spring 1996 PSH graduates celebrate commencement with two ceremonies

Jody L. Jacobs
Editor

Graduates of Penn State Harrisburg (PSH), accompanied by their family and friends, gathered at the Hershey Theater not once, but twice for commencement exercises Saturday May 11, 1996.

The 496 graduates were the first to experience a change in PSH tradition, two commencement ceremonies.

According to Alumni and Special Events Coordinator James Malm, this is the first time that the PSH graduation ceremony was split.

Malm said that this change is the result of an increase in the number of graduates at the PSH campus. A benefit of having two ceremonies is that it offers unlimited seating for the graduates'

family and friends and does away with the ticket system of past commencements, he said.

The first ceremony was held at 9:30 a.m. for associate, baccalaureate, masters and doctoral candidates in the Division of Behavioral Sciences and Education, Division of Humanities and School of Public Affairs.

The second commencement ceremony for associate, baccalaureate and masters degrees in the College of Science, School of Business Administration and School of Science, Engineering and Technology was held at 1:30 p.m.

Each ceremony was similar in format and Penn State custom, however each had its own unique variations.

Both began with the traditional academic procession of students dressed in

their black caps and gowns.

Each division or school was lead into the theater by their respective faculty banner-bearer who carried the division and school banners.

Provost and Dean John H. Bruhn extended the welcome to the 1996 graduates and their guests.

The keynote speaker for both ceremonies was Howard Yerusolim, PE, Senior Vice President with KCI Technologies. He served as Secretary of Transportation for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation from 1987 to 1994.

In the morning ceremony, Yerusolim was introduced by Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Catherine Baker Knoll. Provost Bruhn introduced Knoll as having a "strict code of conduct," and setting

"the highest standards of professionalism, accountability and integrity for the Office of the Treasurer." Bruhn additionally pointed out to the audience that Knoll is only the fourth woman in the history of Pennsylvania's history to be elected to statewide executive office.

After the keynote address, the senior class gift for 1996 was announced. Karen R. Wilson made the presentation at the morning ceremony and Jeffrey C. Williams presented the senior gift in the afternoon.

Student pledges, totaling \$1,620, from the January and May graduating seniors were presented to Provost Bruhn for the purpose of establishing permanent picnic tables for the front of the Olmsted Building. [See Commencement pg. 3](#)

PSH Olympic volunteers say their experience was not ruined by the bombing

Wendy A. Hess
Staff Reporter

Penn State Harrisburg had many Olympic participants at the games in Atlanta this summer, but you wouldn't have seen them on TV.

In co-operation with Borg-Warner Corporation, the official sponsor for security at the Olympic Games, Coordinator of Career Services at Penn State Harrisburg, Karl Martz and his wife Marylou, coordinator of student health at Penn State Harrisburg (PSH) were among the 200+ volunteers from both this campus and University Park, to assist the security force.

Karl Martz said the Penn State group helped provide low level security. They monitored entrances and guarded doors and gates at some of the events and press centers. Their primary objective was to check the credentials of those who entered secure areas, be observant, and report any unusual occurrences to Borg-Warner officials.

On the night of the bombing at Olympic Centennial Park, The

Martz's, who had brought their two teen-aged children with them, had tickets to the concert, but fate and a busy schedule kept them from attending.

Marylou Martz was a supervisor for the check-in procedures at the Woodward Academy, the campus where the Borg-Warner volunteers were housed.

On the evening of the bombing, two bus loads of people showed up. Marylou was one of the volunteers who assigned training schedules, set-up appointments for drug testing, and issued uniforms to volunteers. The duties incurred that night, due to the surge of incoming volunteers, prevented the family from attending the disastrous event.

"We had been working 14, 16, and 18 hour days," Karl Martz said. "We were just too tired to go. At 1:30 a.m., I was just getting ready to go to bed, when my beeper rang. Because it was so late, I knew something had to be wrong."

Frank DiVonzo, a PSH '96 Public Policy Graduate, worked with Karl Martz and the security team.



Karl and Marylou Martz volunteered at the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta

photo submitted by Karl Martz

"I yelled for Frank (DiVonzo), who had just left and was walking down the hall. I was making a phone call when the other phone rang. Frank answered that call, and I heard him saying 'Oh God, Oh no.' We turned on CNN and saw what was going on."

At that point, the volunteers set about securing the campus, said Karl Martz. No one was permitted to leave, in order that a proper head count be taken.

"We needed to figure out who was at Centennial Park," he said. "There were phone calls from worried parents that needed to be answered."

"In the end, it all worked out," Karl Martz said, "and everyone was accounted for."

Borg-Warner provided professional psychological counseling for anyone in the group who felt they needed some help in dealing with the crisis, said Karl Martz.

"We planned on sitting right where the tower was," he said. "Someone was on our side."

"Everyone pulled together," said Marylou Martz. "People who had complained about everything earlier, were now asking what they could do to help."

The Martz's said [See Olympic pg. 2](#)