photo courtesy of the Provost's office

A message from Provost and Dean John G. Bruhn:

Our Library: A Regional Gem

Our present library is in crowded, unattractive space in the Olmsted Building, but in terms of service, resources and a plan for the future, it is the best thing going in south central Pennsylvania.

Remembering my days as a student, I took the library for granted.

When I found the materials I wanted when I needed them, I thought the library was great; when I didn't, I was an unhappy client.

But a library today is more than finding an article or book.

It is an enormously valuable key to learning.

The latest technology is essential to learning - - that is what we are developing as we plan to occupy a new library on our campus in the year 2000.

It is already designed and, pending the release of funds by the Governor, groundbreaking should occur late in 1997 or early 1998.

A library however, is more than a collection of books and journals. It is, now more than ever before, the staff who make a library exciting, fun, and satisfying.

They are "on top of" the information infrastructure, and we have at Penn State Harrisburg the most qualified, service-oriented library staff I have ever worked with in my career at four different universities.

We often take them for granted; a word of appreciation from you would be almost as welcome as a salary raise!

You may not know that our library is a regional resource used by students attending colleges and universities in our metropolitan area which may not have libraries, as well as by many area businesses and industries.

Our market encompasses nearly 1.5 million users including 7,200 PSH graduates who live in the region.

Our library is a regional gem and, when we move into the next two to three years, the gem will become brighter to all in this region and beyond.

Vice president of American Society of Mechanical Engineering wins campus Good Ideas Contest

Jody L. Jacobs
Editor

When Benjamin Loomis - a mechanical engineering and technology major - was writing his proposal for his senior design project last fall, he was also writing a proposal for another good idea.

"I didn't think of it as such a big deal," Loomis said.

Loomis - a resident of the Penn State Harrisburg (PSH) dorms - decided it was time that something was done about the traffic-flow problem in the parking lot in front of the Dining Commons.

The lot - which also serves the students of Church and Wrisberg dorms - was not always being used properly, Loomis said.

Motorists are suppose to follow a one-way flow of traffic, but often, vehicles could be found driving in both directions, Loomis said. Even police vehicles weren't entering and exiting correctly.

"You just don't expect someone to be going the wrong direction," Loomis said.

The answer seemed simple enough to the senior - who is the vice president of the campus American Society of Mechanical Engineering - just add "enter" and "exit" signs. But no one else seemed to have the same common-sense answer - signs were never erected, Loomis said.

That is, until Loomis decided to take matters into his own hands.

During the Fall 1996 semester, Loomis noticed a yellow Good Ideas Contest application - a contest sponsored by Provost John Bruhn - hanging in the halls of the Olmsted Building.

He completed and submitted the form. Loomis said that although it was a therapeutic experience - expressing his frustration - he never thought he'd hear anything about his submission.

But early this semester, Loomis received a phone call from Provost Bruhn, to congratulate him for winning the Good Ideas Contest - and to award him the $50 prize.

"The Good Idea Contest is a way everyone at Penn State Harrisburg can contribute to creating a better college. We have had great ideas from faculty, students, and staff," Provost John Bruhn said. "I am pleased to announce that a winner from our last round of entries is Mr. Ben Loomis."

Loomis said he was happy to see that the parking lot is now clearly marked with enter and exit signs, and hopes this will keep his fellow students that use the lot safe from accidents.

"I was actually impressed that it was only a matter of weeks until the signs were put up."

The $50 award was also put to good use - Loomis applied the money toward a text book, "Finite Element Analysis."

The Good Ideas Contest was started by the Provost in the Fall of 1995 to encourage all members of the Penn State Harrisburg community to help improve the campus.

All ideas that are submitted are reviewed by a committee consisting of a graduate and undergraduate student, two staff assistants, a faculty member and a maintenance/operations employee, according to Valerie Duhig, assistant to the Provost. The committee, chaired by Dr. Bruhn, keeps their identification anonymous so that their choice of contest winners is not unduly influenced.

"If students only complain among themselves, nothing will ever get done," Loomis said. "It seems that if you have a reasonable request, then something will be done."

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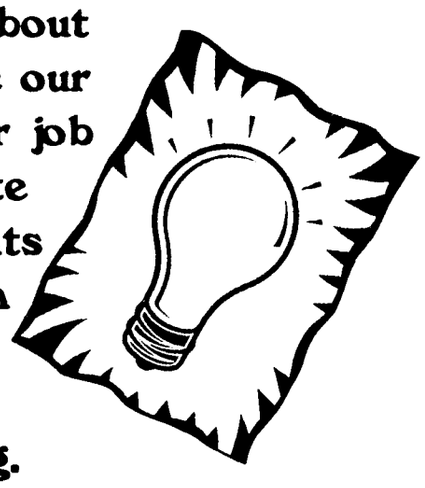
GOOD IDEA! CONTEST

Open to All Members of the Penn State Harrisburg Community

$50.00 prize to winning idea!!

Submit your idea about how we can improve our services and/or do our job better at Penn State Harrisburg. Applicants may enter more than once. Keep ideas coming, and we will keep improving.



FOR REVIEW, NAMES AND IDEAS WILL BE SEPARATED, BUT PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME HERE:_____ AND ALSO INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER:_____

YOUR AFFILIATION WITH PENN STATE:
__STUDENT __STAFF __FACULTY __ALUMNI

PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR IDEA IN 100 WORDS OR LESS, CUT THIS APPLICATION OUT AND RETURN TO JOHN BRUHN, 119 OLMSTED.

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