

Takin' Over the Reins

By Cathie McCormick Musser
Capital Times Editor In Chief

Last spring, I agreed to succeed one of the strongest editors this paper has had in recent history: Matt McKeown. Dr. William Mahar, PSH school director of humanities, gave the commencement address in May. His remarks focused on lessons the faculty learns from the student body. As examples, he mentioned several students who made significant contributions to his education during the 1999 - 2000 school year. Matt topped the list.

Matt's commitment to excellence and unwavering resolve inspired us to give our best. The campus took notice. They noticed overall improvements in quality and credibility. They also noticed that the paper showed up every two weeks - something that had not happened in a while.

Now it's my turn. I am awed by the magnitude of the task. I spent last year as a reporter/writer and copy editor for the paper. There's much more involved with being in charge. Gratefully, there's a talented group of students with me, ready to carry the torch of being a first-rate student newspaper. While the majority of last year's staff graduated, several contributors have returned.

Paula Marinak's article on her interview with Dr. Hanes, our new provost and dean, is on page one. Paula is an excellent writer and reporter and is the former editor of HACC's student newspaper. I'm thankful for the stability. *The Capital Times* covers mostly campus events and issues. I can ask Paula to cover any topic and know I will get a strong, well-researched story that rarely needs editing and is always on time.

Eddie Capozzi returns in an expand-

ed role. He will cover sports and do sports commentary. We're also trying something different. His screenplay *Snapshot* will run in the column "Coffee and Serial." See page five for the first installment.

The WPSH crew return with their "See Deez" reviews. DJs Dirty, Gooseman, JDUB and Matt will keep you posted on what music to buy, borrow or steal.

While a few more former contributors may reappear, the remaining team is brand new. But, they're the smart ones. They've figured out there's more to a college education than passively sitting on your butt in a classroom. This is the lab, folks. Learn the theory in the classroom; practice it here before you get out in the real world.

Mike Molina, marketing major, is practicing selling advertising and managing a sales team. Michelle Dauberman, humanities graduate student, and Lori Mitchell, computer science major, are practicing computer layout and design. Barbara Gertzen, communications major, is practicing everything she's learned about copy editing and writing. Connie Goodell, humanities major, is practicing her business management skills and, let's face it, everything you do is business. These people represent the executive board of *The Capital Times*.

There are many more staff members writing, shooting photos, editing, researching and distributing. Look for their names and photos on this page and look for their contributions throughout the year. Each of them is committed to continuing Matt's legacy.

In fact, we have a dream. We'd like to become an award-winning student newspaper. We'd also like to be an online newspaper. Other plans include recruiting

a student liaison from each campus department to help us keep you informed and adding color to the first and last page on a regular basis.

Please let me know what you think. Letters to the editor are more than welcome. They indicate to us that you're actually reading the paper. Letters will be printed if signed with your real name and pass local obscenity laws.

This is your campus. This is your newspaper. I encourage you to participate in both. You'll be surprised at the difference you can make.

THE LIVING SECTION

Recognize anyone? Here's some of *The Capital Times* staff. Next issue introduces additional *Cap Times* folks.

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Food for Thought

By Connie Goodell
Capital Times Staff Writer

Did you ever notice how a semester begins versus how it ends? In some courses it takes two classes to get students communicating, in others it can take most of the semester.

Have you ever started talking to a classmate late in the semester, only to be disappointed that you hadn't talked sooner? How many times is your opinion of a class related to the degree of communication between students or the amount of student response to the professor? Input leads to various opinions and perspectives; discussion opens people up to one another. The sooner people open up, the more relaxed and comfortable everyone is.

I come to PSH and see most people in a hurry. I think about the other schools that consist of the younger crowds. Many of them live on campus and talk on a regular basis. I envy them for getting more from their education than credits.

Let's face it, we may be Penn State, but we don't have the big sporting events and other extracurricular activities that Penn State is known for. Not much brings us together outside of class, although soup nights and the ice cream cones are a beginning.

Memories come from activities not from being in a hurry. Let's make this a good semester. Come on people, don't waste time coming out of your shells. Introduce yourself to classmates around you!

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