

# P.E.P.: A Student Teacher's Perspective

By Jaclyn A. Talarico

It's nearly 6 p.m. and I just got home. I'm extremely tired, my feet hurt, and I have a headache. What I'd like to do is spend the rest of the evening watching my favorite television sitcoms, but I know better - I have a date with quite a bit of work. I am, after all, student teaching, and long days and late nights are just part of the job description.

Along with approximately 90 other education majors here at PSH, I have been student teaching since February 1. Although I cannot speak for the other student teachers, I have to say that student teaching has been unlike any other educational experience I have ever had. I honestly believe nothing could have completely prepared me for all that I encounter in the classroom each day.

Don't get me wrong, PSH has certainly provided me with the education I need to be successful in the classroom, but all the content knowledge and educational theory in the world could not totally prepare a person to walk into a classroom of seventh graders and be a good teacher.

So, what is it like? Well, I'm student teaching at Milton Hershey Middle

School, a private school for disadvantaged children. I'm teaching seventh grade language arts. Right now in class, we are reading *Number The Stars*, a novel about Denmark and the Holocaust for young adults. Each student is also writing a short personal narrative about an experience in his or her life.

This is what the students are learning. I am learning what it is like to be a teacher.

So what have I learned? Well, I have certainly learned much more than this short article could detail, so to answer that question I really had to think. I decided to share with you how my experience has helped me define what teaching is: in three words, teaching is P.E.P., for those who like acronyms.

Teaching is Preparation. As a teacher, I spend much of my time preparing for the next day's lesson. I am always busy, whether I am preparing lesson plans, decorating bulletin boards for visual aids, or grading papers. The list goes on.

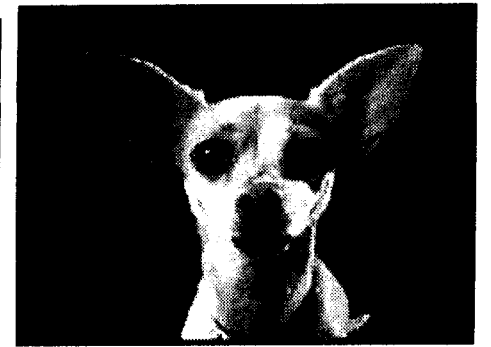
Teaching is Enthusiasm. A teacher needs to be enthusiastic about his or her subject. And, more importantly, a teacher needs to be enthusiastic about children.

Teaching is Patience. I've learned

that a good teacher is infinitely patient and flexible. I've learned that to be a good teacher, I have to be patient with my students, my co-workers and myself.

And finally, in addition to what I've learned about teaching, I've learned one more very important lesson. I've learned that I cannot wait to teach. Sure, I did mention I'm tired, and my feet hurt, and I do have a headache. They are all symptoms of the long days and late nights.

What I didn't mention, and I should have, is that I'm having a terrific time student teaching. It might sound cliched, but I've found my niche. I cannot picture myself doing anything else with my life and there really is no other feeling like it. I am excited to be a teacher. I am excited to be a good teacher, and, yes, I will be full of P.E.P.



Have you seen me? Call: 361-8677. Seen near 1500 blk. of S. Market St., E-Town.

## Hawaiian

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cargo shipment from the island of Oahu arriving at the Harrisburg International Airport on March 25. H.I.A. officials were unavailable for further comment.

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## Cathie McCormick joins an elite group of PSH Alumni

By Roderick Lee

Cathie McCormick will join Penn State Harrisburg's roster of elite students when she accepts the Ralph Dorn Hetzel Memorial Award on April 29 at the Penn State Conference Center and Hotel during the university's annual award ceremony.

McCormick's hard work and dedication to her duties as editor in chief of *The Capital Times*, has ensured PSH of its fifth Presidential Award in a row.

Named for the university's tenth president (1926 - 1947), the Ralph Dorn Hetzel award is given to two seniors in recognition of their high scholastic attainment, good citizenship and responsible leadership in student activities. The award also exemplifies the promise of public-spirited leadership in the future.

Recent recipients of the Hetzel award include three students from the school of business administration. Jon Segnor, who majored in information systems and served as the technology representative for the SGA, received the award in 1998.

In 1999, Wanda Bonasera, a management major, received this prestigious award for her work with the SGA as the senior senator of the school of business administration.

Last year, I was honored to receive the Hetzel award for my work as president of the SGA, while completing my bachelor of science in marketing and information systems. McCormick has officially broken the SGA's streak of three consecutive winners.

PSH's fifth Presidential Award recipient was George Daka, who received the Jackson Lethbridge Tolerance Award in 1997 for his outstanding work as president of the International Affairs Association. The Lethbridge award recognizes a stu-

dent for outstanding efforts to enhance the understanding of diverse cultures and create a community where individuals are accepted and valued. This award is named in honor of Jackson Lethbridge who is a Penn State alumnus.

Recent PSH recipients of the Hetzel award share a common bond. All were non-traditional students who managed to balance their busy work and family lives along with their academic workload while finding time to get involved in the campus community.

McCormick's nomination for the Hetzel award rose to the top of approximately 150 others based on her dedication to ensure that student voices were heard, that the student newspaper arrived on the racks in a timely fashion and that she was directly involved with the campus community.

McCormick has mastered the art of squeezing 26 hours out of a 24-hour day to teach the martial art of Tai Chi Chuan in her spare time.

According to PSH officials, only one other student received the Hetzel award -- in 1989. This may have been the first time a PSH student received one of the Presidential Awards.

The sacrifices these students made to make PSH a better place should not go unnoticed. Additionally, these awards are very prestigious. I feel that there ought to be a space reserved on campus to recognize past winners, enlighten other students of the tradition that is continuing, and serve as a barometer for responsible leadership.

The question now is "who will carry the torch next year and represent PSH?"

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