

Faculty Advisor
PETER KAREITHI, Ph.D.

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Writers & Contributors

Laura Baron, Sinead DeRolste, Mike Green, Kathryn Herr, Andrea Kupp, Matt Mosely, Karen Plott, Lisa O'Malley, Michelle O'Malley, Marko Primorac, Joseph Ruggiero, Rachel Shepherd, Angela Shuff, Steve Standridge, Peter Strella, Eric Thomas

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COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR

By PETER STRELLA, EDITOR IN CHIEF

A lot has been done recently to make Penn State Harrisburg more student-friendly, but there's still something missing. Even with a towering library, a new food court, and improved campus housing, a piece of the puzzle has yet to be placed.

Where are the cheers? What about the fans with painted faces and witty posterboard signs? What happened to the uniforms with "Penn State Harrisburg" sewn across the chest?

Now that Penn State Harrisburg is upgrading to a four-year school, it only makes sense to restart the intercollegiate sports program. Penn State Harrisburg once had intercollegiate sports, but they were abandoned ten years ago due to poor participation and financial constraints.

Bud Smitley told *The Capital Times* last month that he hopes a program will be established in two years, but the school will have to make a significant monetary commitment in order for this to happen.

The University should do whatever it takes to bring intercollegiate sports to this campus, but they have to be smart about it. Times are tough and money is tight for students and Penn State. A future PSH athletic program will have to start small and expand gradually.

The best avenue for getting the program off the ground would be to start with one sport for men and one for women.

Basketball would be a logical first choice. We already have the necessary facilities and, since the men and women would be playing the same sport, bulk purchases could be made for equipment. From a participation standpoint, it would be easier to field a complete basketball team of 10 rather than a baseball or soccer team of 15.

Unless a Division III intercollegiate beer pong league exists where the athletes provide the beer and cups, basketball would be the cheapest sport to start up that would also have a good chance of seeing the necessary participation.

However, even with a couple hundred more freshmen, participation will be low at first. This is because Penn State is predominantly a commuter school with less than ten percent of its student population living on campus. The program will need to be promoted on campus and throughout Central Pennsylvania. Once our students and the surrounding high schools know about it, participation will increase. And now that HACC has intercollegiate sports, transfer students from the Wildwood campus can continue playing sports on our campus.

Once an intercollegiate sports program is established, Penn State Harrisburg will be a commuter school that has all the basic components of a university with thousands of students living on campus.

In other news, I want to congratulate the 29 students who were inducted last month into Penn State Harrisburg's Theta Iota Chapter of Alpha Sigma Lambda, a national honor society for adult students in higher education. It is a prestigious honor to be inducted into this society and it is encouraging that adult students are getting some overdue recognition.

The following adult students were inducted: Corrina Aloiau, Sherry Collins, Brenda Drawbaugh, Malinda Geedey, Audrey Griffin, Anshu Gupta, Ruth Harzer, Beth Helman, Kelly Henderson, Richard Hylan, Jason Jones, Linnaya Kenyon, Rebecca Kesler, Aimee Kistler, Jean Labalokie, Gregory Makuch, Elaine McDonald, Douglas Olexy, Cynthia Pate, Steven Perich, Earl Rine, Arline Rochkind, Peter Sanders, Erin Thek, Rebecca Thorpe, Heather Umholtz, Steven Warfield, Jean Yeakle, Jodi Zandt.

Charlotte Spencer, the chapter's national counselor, said the chapter is sponsoring the annual Career Forum in the spring and will award several \$50 book grants to adult students. The latter program is supported by the group's ongoing fundraiser of collecting Fox's Markets cash register receipts.



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