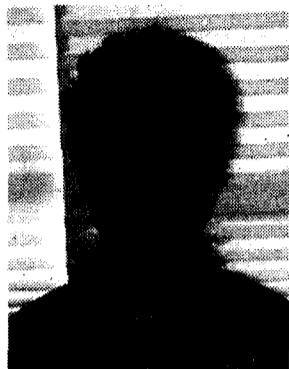


# An opportunity is just around the corner

## Do everything you can in and outside of the classroom.

By **RACHEL SHEPHERD**  
Assistant Editor



*The end is never as satisfying as the journey. To have achieved everything but to have done so without integrity and excitement is to have achieved nothing.*

~ Source Unknown ~

After a year of handling three clubs - two of which I am the head - a full-course load, a part-time job and looking for post-graduation employment, I thought I was going to lose my mind. There were about ninety-seven times a week when I thought, why am I doing all of this? I was going insane with busyness!

But now I understand why. As graduation nears, I can now reflect on my college experience and realize it was great for me to take advantage of an opportunity that I wish I would have had in high school - getting involved. Life outside of the classroom taught me more than any course in college. It constructed avenues for me to vent my creativity as well as meet exciting people that may some day help me advance in my career. While clubs are a big part of it, that's only the tip of the iceberg - internships, community service and even study groups have helped me gain the edge I need in order to become successful in college.

My point is that every opportunity you seize opens another door to your future. You are able to do something that will self-enrich and see more of the world. It will even help you with your classroom advancement. And who can forget contacts - you will meet someone who knows someone, then you know them and so on and so forth. For instance, I really became close to a professor at HACC - Cheryl Wilson. She got me involved in Circle K where I met Amy Brown who then referred me to the administrative assistant

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of the policy office at PennDot, where I eventually interned. Through that job, I met many contacts for future employment in the state and/or references for other jobs. The chain of events that occur when you open your mind is endless.

Professor Churchill told me once that for everything you do, you will get noticed. By this he meant, we receive recognition for all our hard work in one form or another. Being the assistant editor of the student newspaper made me grin at this remark. I thought, “ya right, who cares?” But someone does care. There are more fans of what we do than we are aware of. I feel good that I was part of such a great team and that I learned invaluable skills that I can use in a variety of occupations outside of school.

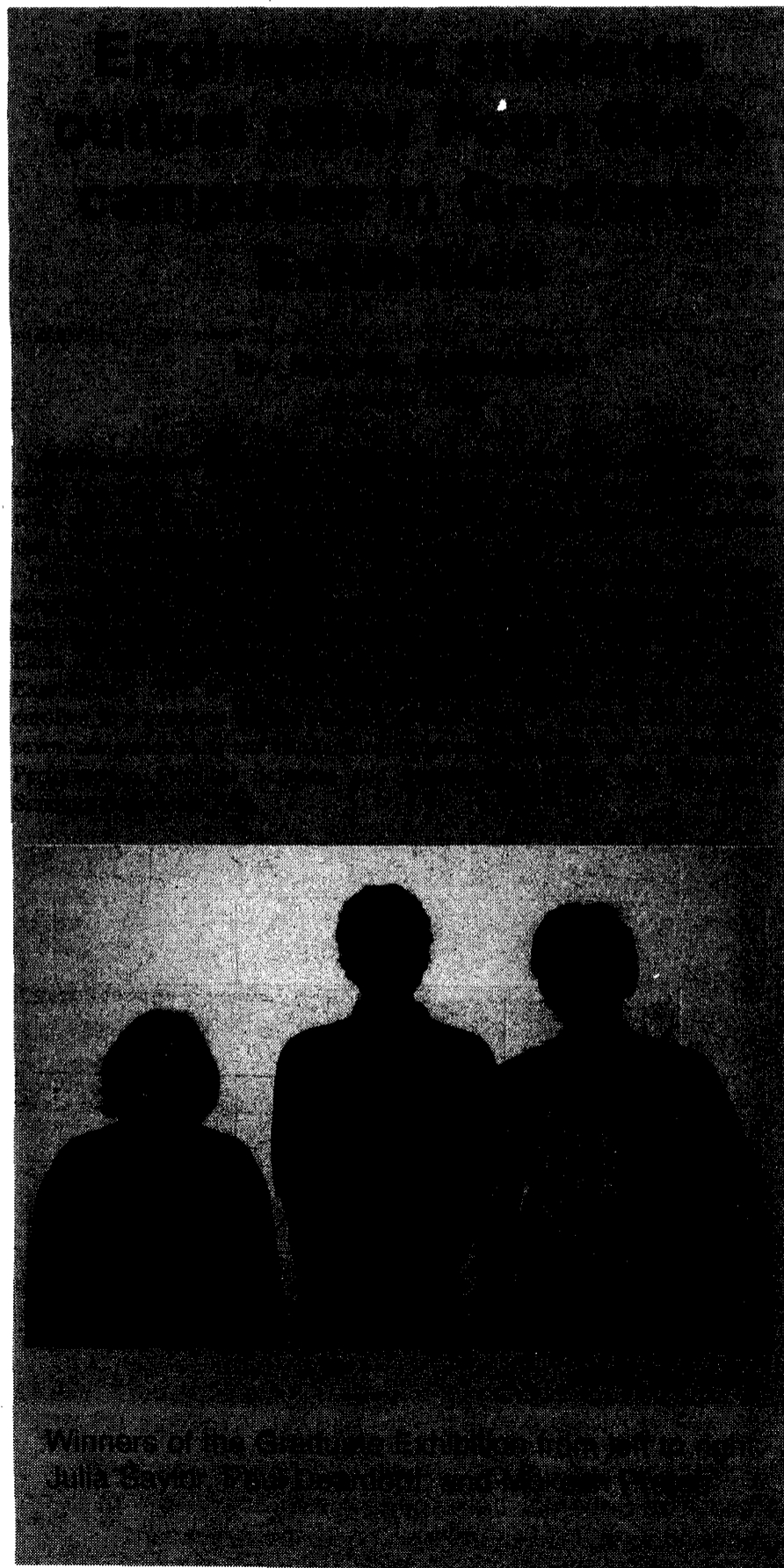
I can look back and be thankful that I worked my ass off, and more importantly, where it will take me. Believe it or not, hard work is still invaluable to many, including employers.

But it is important to remember the people who helped me get through the best and worst years of my life. First would be Linda Meashey from the Student Support Center. If it weren't for her telling how to get up from a fall, I would not be at Penn State. Then I have to thank Adriana Stroh, who kept me on my toes at every single club meeting with Circle K and the *Tarnhelm*. Special thanks to Dr. Peter Kareithi for being a hard-ass but improving my writing skills immeasurably and reminding me never to give up on journalism. I have to thank my editor Pete Strella for his encouragement, hard-work ethic and positive attitude not only here, but at HACC. And finally, my dear friend

“Mrs. B” who always taught me to face the music, and my family who helped me despite all their hardships. Without the “Lindas” or the “Adrianas” the college experience is nothing more than taking classes. It is not just the things that you do, it is the people that you meet and what those people know to help you get ahead. If I have any advice to give a college student, it is to look into every prospect imaginable - you never know where it might take you and more importantly, what you will learn.

Whenever something comes to an end, we tend to look back and show gratitude, even if it was something we may not have enjoyed at the time or something we took for granted.

That time has come for me.



Winners of the Student Support Center Award  
Jula Gayler, Penn State Harrisburg