

Editor's Comments

By Kathryn Herr
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Let me start out by apologizing for all the mistakes in our last issue. I am especially apologizing to Grego Bosley for putting his picture on the front page and attaching the wrong name in the caption. At 5 a.m., one is not exactly thinking clearly, which is approximately the time I retired each night from working on this paper in order to put it out on time. This issue should be an improvement. Well, it better be.

With that said, I would like to make mention of all the improvements on campus since last semester. The pool alone is worth coming to school. For those who have not yet felt the water let me tell you it is the most perfect temperature. Stacks Market is also doing a great job coming up with new and inventive items for students to enjoy. I thought the sushi was very cool. I do wish, however, that they would get some cheese sticks and maybe a salad bar as well.

I noticed during my frequent visits to the front porch that there are many more adult students this year. I commend those students, whom are categorized as non-traditional, and say right now that you have my support. In classes of my own, I have noticed that adult students seem to be diving right in to class work, while other students complain and whine about assignments. It has been my experience that adult students often have a different perspective on many issues and can add new ideas and points of view that traditional students can't offer. The rest of us are lucky to have this opportunity to learn from non-traditional students.

So far this semester seems to be off to a good start. I guess I will have more to say once the snow comes and the frostbite sets in on my toes. All I have to say is that this campus better be warmer than last year. I was so cold last year that I had to start wearing shoes in October. Usually, I can get away with flip-flops until at least Thanksgiving. I am going to take this space to

ask for everyone's help with our professor spotlight section. I think it is a great new feature and I would like to see it really do some good. However, most of us on The Capital Times staff are Communication majors and don't see many professors outside the Humanities office. If anyone has a professor they really love or hate for whatever reason and think they would be good for an interview, let us know and we can use them for our spotlight.

Although I am probably going to get in trouble for this, I will say it anyway; what is up with bookstore prices? One of my friends saved over \$100.00 on books buying from Amazon and that included outrageous shipping costs. With all the money we pay in tuition and parking, the bookstore shouldn't be extorting our money as well. If anyone has a thought on this topic send me an email and I'll publish your thoughts: kah928@psu.edu.

Submissions:

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By Nat Melnicove
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Nadia Ivanova related a saying from her native Russia, "Nine months of the year it is really cold and the other three months, it is a little less cold." Having spent time as an exchange student at nearby Dickinson College in 1996, she was eager to return to the four seasons of Central Pennsylvania.

The Public Administration graduate student is one of 73 international students furthering their education at Penn State Harrisburg. Some, like Ivanova, have been in the United States in the past, while others are here for the first time.

PSH's international students represent five of seven continents and 27 countries. Though Asia is the most represented continent, India, with 17 students, and Taiwan, with 11 students, are the top two countries represented. Other students are here from Africa, South America, North America, and Europe.

A majority of the international students are here on student visas. This makes applying to college an especially lengthy process. They take the same academic tests as American students, but also must pass the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The student must then prove they have sufficient funding for their first full year of school. Next follows an interview process that includes a review of documentation, proof of permanent ties to their home country and a security background check. The student visa is then awarded by PSH, through the permission of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Specific challenges await international students at PSH. They include a lack of on-campus housing. Living off-campus leads to a second challenge, lack of transportation. The combination of these

problems is a major issue because the students can become isolated from campus life.

Ask any international student on campus who helps them through the admissions process, as well as the adjustment to campus, and the answer is Donna Howard. Howard is the Coordinator for International Student Affairs at

said Howard. She mentioned the challenge the students face in balancing the American culture and their native culture.

Events are held to help the international students make the transition to life on campus and America. Each semester begins with an orientation for new international students, followed by a reception and

big part of why there is hatred is because we don't understand. It's OK to sit down and be comfortable to ask each other questions," she added. She also stressed that bringing students of all cultures together would open them to learning all different points of view.

One campus club involved in bringing students of different cultures together is the International Affairs Association. Dr. Clem Gilpin, assistant professor of community systems and afro-american studies, is the club's faculty advisor.

Gilpin said bringing international and American students together "gives us an opportunity to interact with people from other countries who will become leaders of varying aspects of their societies. It's a two way street—we gain a great deal and they gain a great deal."

Ezra Nugroho, President of IAA, agrees. The Information Technology graduate student from Indonesia said it is important to "bring awareness about international students to local people." He reiterated Gilpin in adding that people from different parts of the world can come together at PSH and learn about each other.

For first-year Computer Science graduate student Syed Majeed Amjad, the experience has been rewarding. "Everything has been great. It (campus) is fun," said the Pakistan native.

Russian grad student Ivanova is happy to be back studying in the United States. The climate of Central Pennsylvania is just right for her, as is the PSH campus. "My first impression of campus is very positive. It is small and you can get much attention from the professors," she said.

Another story on International students can be found on page 10 of this issue.

PSH welcomes international students



Photo by Jennifer Kauffman

International students and their new friends enjoy a cookout outside the community center Friday night. Many events are held throughout the year

PSH.

The number of international students fluctuates annually, according to Howard. This year there is a slight decrease in the overall number of international students. However there are 27 students beginning their first year on campus, which Howard noted is a good number. She also states the number of applicants is increasing as well.

With five freshmen international students on campus, the experience of the first year of college is especially demanding. "Not only is it an adjustment to college life, but it is an acculturation process as well,"

lunch to allow them to mingle and meet other students. Other helpful programs throughout the semester include seminars dealing with income tax and employment. Monthly socials are also held. One program Howard is hoping to get off the ground is the Lunch with an International Flavor, where an international student would host a presentation along with a small sampling of the food of their native land.

The interaction of international and American students is of utmost importance. As Howard said, "If you can get it to happen, it is a wonderful thing. A

PSH library, more than just books

The library is full of alternative resources to assist students

By Sharon Fufaro, Staff Reporter and Christian Torres, Staff Reporter
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Walking through the front doors of the Penn State Harrisburg library, one can easily get a feeling of fright. Face it, the library can be intimidating. Other than its physical size and amount of stored information, many students are not aware of the many alternative materials and services that the library has to offer.

Known as the "Library of the Future," the current PSH library was opened in 2000.

In addition to traditional library material, access to over 1,500 film titles in VHS and DVD format is available on the first floor. Students are encouraged to check out these videos and DVDs free of charge. Titles are

not limited to documentaries or educational materials. Examples include "A Clockwork Orange" and "The Terminator." This floor also includes reference materials, computer workstations, and printers.

The library features the CyberCafé, which is also located on the first floor. The CyberCafé has a quiet study-friendly atmosphere, drink and snack vending machines, and a campus information board. The Morrison Gallery, located across from the café, provides an environment suitable for speaker presentations, videoconferences, and art exhibitions. With paintings or photographs filling the walls, the gallery is worth a walk-around before entering or exiting the library.

There are over 170 computers available for student use throughout the library building. Each state-of-the-art computer is complete with Internet service. There are also access ports

found on all three floors for laptop computers. Students can now take a compatible laptop to any location in the library and be instantly connected to the

"For me, this is probably the best place on campus. It's an easy going place where I can just relax and read a book or study for an exam."

-Andrew Meyers

Internet. In addition, the library has recently made wireless networking available.

The Library Information Access

System (LIAS) offers many tools for research. The most common tool used is the CAT, a list of materials owned by Penn State Libraries. The CAT searches online resources, archives, manuscripts, reference and book material by subject, title, author, or keywords. Another helpful tool is the E-Resource list, containing over 300 online indexes and databases, which are utilized through University Libraries. This list includes indexes of information as broad as LexisNexis Academic Universe and as specific as African American Biographical Database, 1790-1950, among others.

On the second floor of the building, students can get the latest news headlines or juicy Hollywood gossip by checking out the various newspapers and magazines. Newspapers from Baltimore, New York, and Philadelphia are included in the

Please see LIBRARY on 4



Photo by Jessica Pouchan

Casy Conapitski, a junior Communications major, browses through the hundreds of movie titles available in DVD or VSH format in the library. Students can check out these materials as just as they would a book.

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