

# State of the University Address shown in PSH auditorium

By Jessica Pouchan  
Staff reporter  
jcp209@psu.edu

Graham B. Spanier, Penn State University president, delivered his State of the University Address from Eisenhower Auditorium at University Park on Sept. 17, 2004. His address was shown at four o'clock in the Olmsted Auditorium at the Harrisburg campus. Ice cream from the PSU Creamery was served before the speech.

The program, entitled "Building on Tradition to Chart the Future," began with the Board of Trustees Chair, Cynthia Baldwin, who introduced both Rodney

Erickson, executive vice president/provost and Graham Spanier. Dr. Erickson spoke first and recognized the faculty and staff at Penn State.

"Dr. Spanier's vision is that Penn State should be the leading University in the nation in the integration of teaching, research and service", said Baldwin.

Spanier, who became the 16th president of PSU in 1995, began his speech by recognizing the 150th year anniversary of PSU's founding. He said, "This is an ideal opportunity not only to remember our past, but to examine it and to build on it." Reflecting on the progress seen in students, faculty members, and the university itself, Spanier

focused his remarks toward building on tradition to chart the future.

Spanier proceeded to speak about PSU's history. In 1855, Pennsylvania began a movement of studying scientific agriculture while America was on the brink of civil war. The Farmers High School was built and soon became a forerunner of PSU. Spanier spoke of the first building constructed at Penn State, Old Main, and of the first students arriving in 1859. Evan Pugh, a chemist, was PSU's first President.

Years later, discovery, testing, and research labs were built at PSU.

Agriculture and Engineering became popular majors. Today, PSU has the largest undergraduate enrollments in these majors.

Some traditional landmarks of Penn State still exist, such as the Nittany Lion mascot, which appeared in 1904; the student newspaper, the Collegian; the Alma mater; the school colors, blue and white; and the Blue Band.

Undergraduate centers opened in Pennsylvania in 1920 and 1930. Eventually, these centers formed the bases of Pennsylvania's statewide system of Penn State campuses. Research into steroid chemistry at Penn State led to steroid and hormone therapy and helped develop the first birth control pill.

"Let's fast-forward to 1955. Penn State is the nation's first university to operate a federally licensed nuclear reactor...", said Spanier.

Later, the 1970s brought a period of rapid research and discovery. Life-saving devices, longer lasting bridges, increased worldwide food production, and cancer research continues to shape PSU today.

Spanier also spoke of the goals he has for PSU--to humanize the university, to foster diversity, to integrate teaching, and to bring passion into education. "Humanizing the university," he said, "is the most important...It means building a culture that invests in our most valuable asset, our people," said Spanier.

"Major trends show that Pennsylvania is aging, which lessens Penn State's growth in students," said Spanier. He spoke of the drop in high school



Photo courtesy of psu.edu

Penn State University President Graham B. Spanier

graduates, the lack of public support, young workers moving out of Pennsylvania, and a lack of diversity.

"It comes down to pride in a 'Penn-Stater,' putting people in the heart of all we do, and expressions of human kindness, that makes Penn State University," said Spanier. He concluded his speech with hopes that 150 years down the road,

historians will recognize PSU as a remarkable success story.

Look for continuous coverage of university and campus events in upcoming issues. Any event coverage ideas can be submitted via email or phone to the Capital Times.



Photo by Jessica Pouchan

A PSH student takes some ice cream from the Penn State creamery before finding a seat in the auditorium to view the state of the university address delivered by Penn State President Graham Spanier.

## 'Communication: make it work for you'

Workshop urges students to become better leaders

Osman Abdalla  
Staff Reporter  
oaa106@psu.edu

Students arrived at the Capital Village Community Center on the morning of September 18 ready to immerse themselves in an enlightening communication workshop.

Members of the SGA, international students, CA's and others gathered over fresh breakfast and were given a very warm welcome by Dr. Janet Widoff and Ms. Nichole Duffy.

About twenty to twenty five students came prepared to learn about "Communication: make it work for you." JoVon Hill, vice president of the Student Government Association at the Capital College, convened the workshop by thanking the attendees and welcoming them by encouraging everyone to enjoy the workshop.

He broke the ice by having everyone get a paper plate and write on it his or her preference in food, movie, and vacation place, for example, to see if two individuals had the same preferences.

The point was to see the differences among us and also to create the interaction between the attendees and make everyone comfortable talking to each other and to get to know more people.

One of the attendees commented, "It got us to interact right away." Another said it was "something more vibrant and got those bodies moving."

"Seventy-five percent of the communication process is through the use of non-verbal

communication," said Nichole Duffy, assistant coordinator of Student Activities in her demonstration. She asked the attendees to communicate non-verbally to form a line in order of their birthdays. After the line was formed, participants realized that more than 75 percent of the attendees made it to right spot in

**Successful leaders of both genders tend to adopt a mixed-mode of communication."**

-Dr. Souha Ezzedeem

the line. It was very delightful for all the attendees. I can see that people were more comfortable and how that showed the power of the non-verbal communication.

The next speaker was the actual surprise of the conference, Dr. Souha Ezzedeem, assistant professor of Management for the School of Business Administration at Capital College. She said, "Men and women, on average and in general, have slightly different sets in specific areas. Knowing what the differences are and taking them into account in human capital applications is more intelligent than believing there are no differences."

She had clearly pointed out the differences between men and women in terms of leadership styles. It seems that men are

good in physical abilities and women are good in verbal and social abilities. Another difference was that men usually use the "I," but women use "we."

It was pitiful for me as a man to find out that men are egocentric and always concerned about their status. I wish all the men in the world knew about this truth and faced it.

When it comes to leadership, women's transformational style encourages participation, sharing information, and energizing others. On the other hand, men's transactional style "make the deal" and uses rewards and punishments, exchanges with subordinate, and formal authority.

Dr. Ezzedeem concluded by saying that "Successful leaders of both genders tend to adopt a mixed-mode of communication."

It is always good to see alumni around us to share their experiences and knowledge. Specifically, Lou Cost, accountant, and Parul Luthra of Highmark Blue Shield, gave us their knowledge and told the group how involvement was a key success to overcome cultural and gender differences.

The workshop ended with the appearance of Joel Gori, artistic director of Metamorphosis Performing Company. Gori started by performing various non-verbal situations that are interpreted by the audience. He was very comical and humorous. He showed how the body can voluntarily give you away. He also demonstrated many situations in which you can create a certain impression in your audience and how you can control your body motions in order to

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