

# Lt. Governor Baker Knoll visits PSH

Baker Knoll emphasizes importance of leadership

By Michael Green  
Staff reporter  
mrg222@psu.edu

On Thursday, September 23, Pennsylvania State University-Harrisburg had the privilege of hosting a representative of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The honorable Lieutenant Governor Katherine Baker Knoll was on campus to discuss PSH's strategic programs and needs. During her visit, Her Honor met with various student leaders for a half hour to discuss problems and interests of the student body and how state government was involved.

In her long career, Lt. Governor Baker Knoll has been State Treasurer, created the Pennsylvania student loan program, and has numerous other accomplishments in finance, transportation, housing, education, environmental work, human rights, small business development and urban and rural revitalization efforts.

One of the most important topics to Baker Knoll is leadership, and how young people must become the new generation of leaders for our communities. Without effective leadership, it is easy for issues of interest to the younger generation to get lost in the shuffle of other political concerns.

Knoll believes that the area of young leadership most visibly lacking right now is voter awareness and turnout. During the Vietnam era, she was involved in

the effort to allow persons 18 years old to vote, but the high young voter turnout of that era has declined to the lowest voter participation of any age group.

She agrees with student concerns over the lack of attention paid to student concerns, such as the meager status of state support for higher education. As a previous State Treasurer,

seemed less than interested in issues affecting students in the commonwealth.

Baker Knoll mentioned one case in which an incumbent state representative near State College was defeated by well organized pro-student vote turnout, only to be defeated 2 years later for re-election when students were no longer interest-

York, and Delaware.

She says that much of the reason many people think that California is a good place to live and do business is because of the sheer size and resources that California can put forth to lobby for its interests. The combined population of the four states involved in this effort is considerably larger than California, and hopefully this allows for more effective coordination of regional programs.

Baker Knoll also explained some of the Rendell administration's programs to improve Pennsylvania. One that she is particularly enthusiastic about is "Growing Greener II", a proposed \$800 million dollar bond issue to clean up and preserve the environment, an active interest of Her Honor.

Part of the \$800 million will go to increasing the cleanup of toxic waste sites, the reuse of previously used industrial sites, while state programs such as fisheries and state parks will be able to repair older facilities and build new places to enjoy the environment.

This bond issue would be funded by taxing trash and emissions of toxic substances. The General Assembly was unable to fit this proposal onto the November ballot, but a proposal to place the idea on the May primary ballot is to be discussed in the next several weeks in Harrisburg.

Another project, which was just approved, is a \$5 billion dollar economic stimulation plan to encourage and support private investment in the commonwealth. This program is designed to encourage investment in



Photo courtesy of www.governor.state.pa.us

Pennsylvania firms that the marketplace cannot or will not fund at a reasonable price. Hopefully, many of these new firms will generate new jobs and new revenue for the commonwealth.

Finally, the recently passed slots law and related property tax reform are expected to generate billions of dollars of economic activity, create thousands of new jobs, and relieve the property tax burden on homeowners.

At the end of her talk, Baker Knoll thanked students for interest in state government, and hopes that the campus voter registration leads to a high student turnout.

According to the governor's

Web site, Baker Knoll is the first woman ever to be elected to the position of lieutenant governor in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Before her position in public office, she was a businessperson and a schoolteacher. She is involved in many organizations throughout the state, such as the YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs and NAACP.

She has four children. Her late husband, Charles, was a United States Postmaster.

To learn more about Catherine Baker Knoll and the Rendell administration's various programs and initiatives, visit [www.governor.state.pa.us](http://www.governor.state.pa.us).

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Baker Knoll was heavily involved in the student aid programs of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA), and is proud of the fact that nursing students are subsidized by the state, through she agrees that most other students do not have similar programs.

In addition, Baker Knoll suggests that much of the reason for the "Brain Drain", or massive outflow of educated young people from the state, is the state's reputation of being anti-young people. Since older voters have a far higher voter turnout, obviously elected officials have no reason to pay attention to the concerns of younger citizens. Student readers mentioned that during last year's "Rally at the Rotunda"; some elected officials

ed. Other reasons that many give for the "Brain Drain" is high taxes, but Pennsylvania taxes are actually not higher than most states, far lower than such states as New Jersey, New York, Maryland, California, and roughly as high as Georgia, all popular destinations for departing students. The image of Pennsylvania as a high-tax state is not deserved, and the commonwealth offers opportunity to those people who are interested in creating new jobs and new products.

As part of an effort to stench the flow of educated residents and future high-tech jobs, Baker Knoll is involved in efforts to work together with other states in the region, such as New Jersey, New

# HIA adds new terminal, transportation center

New HIA terminal adds convenience to ease the worried minds of travelers passing through

By Christian Torres  
Staff Reporter  
cgt111@psu.edu

Thinking of flying out of BWI or Philadelphia? Here is one question, well, maybe two. First off, is there enough money for that guzzler called a car to make that trip; second, consider the Harrisburg International Airport. Ah, didn't think of that one, huh?

Located only across the street from Penn State Harrisburg, the airport is sort of an unknown in the PSH neighborhood. Not many students know that they can get virtually around the world by using HIA. Perhaps it is time to look a little closer.

The airport has just finished construction on its brand new terminal, and it is quite the terminal. It is the first airport completely built and designed since September 11, 2001. The new

terminal features new concessions, restaurants and brand new stores including the Perfectly Pennsylvania Gift Shop and for all of you chocolate lovers, the Hershey Chocolate World store.

The terminal also features the Susquehanna Club, the airport run frequent flier lounge. The club features a small meeting and conference room, telephones, fax machines, computer ports and more. And speaking of computers, the terminal building also features wireless internet throughout the building for anyone who has a compatible laptop computer.

Attached to the new terminal is the brand new multi-modal transportation center. The four story facility provides a three-story parking garage for short-term, hourly, daily and long-term parking. The first level can accommodate any kind of ground transportation including busses, limos, taxis and more. There is also a first floor lobby which can give travelers access

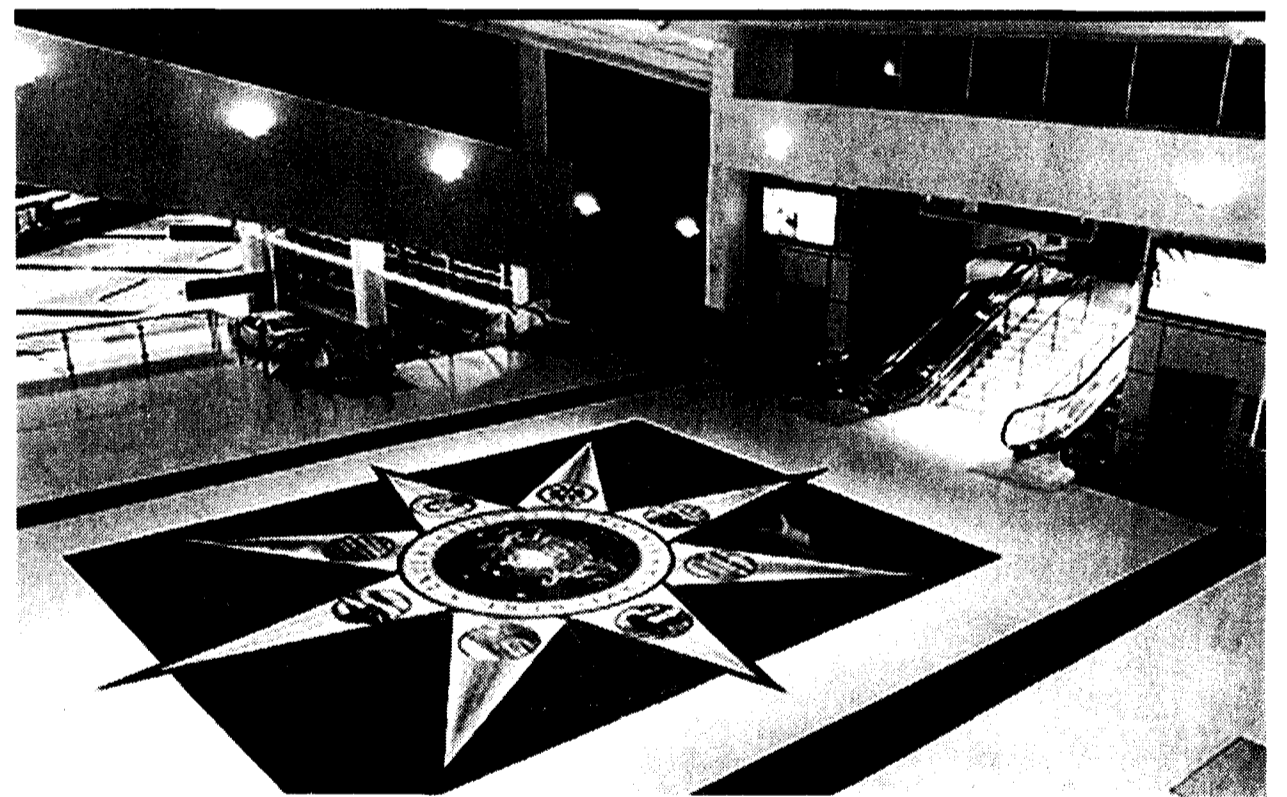
to six rental car counters, bathrooms and a seating area.

The transportation center is attached to the new terminal via a climate-controlled sky bridge.

The new terminal also has a unique Y shape to it. According to Scott Miller, manager of marketing and public relations at the airport, it will make the airport more flexible to receive more flights and perhaps more airlines. "Because of the Y shape in our building, we can actually extend the airport out in a 'y'," Miller said. "The building can actually be doubled by doing that and it gives us (the airport) more room to work with in terms of adding new gates."

Perhaps the most important feature of the airport is the new baggage handling center. According to Miller, the new baggage handling facility has cut down the time travelers have to wait at check-in counters.

"Our new system is a brand-new system where the baggage goes straight from the counter to our security facility downstairs,"



Photos courtesy of HIA Web site

Miller said. "The old system would have made travelers wait for the ticket agents to take their bags to x-ray machines which were located in the ticket counter area. Now the new system cuts all of that out and it gets less hectic (in the terminal)."

As for the old terminal building, Miller says that it just won't be abandoned. "We are planning to turn the old building into our airport corporate center and we are also considering adding facilities to the old building for the U.S. customs," Miller said.

With all of the great things that are happening at the airport, there could possibly be a black cloud on the horizon. U.S. Airways, one of the biggest carriers at the airport, has rumored that it could shut down in February if it doesn't receive major cuts in wages from its employees. Miller says that while the airport is watching the situation closely, there is probably no

need to really worry. "One of our other big carriers, United, has been operating under bankruptcy for a couple of years," Miller said. "So I am not really worried about the (U.S. Airways) situation and even if they would shut down, I think it would only hurt us temporarily. We have other airlines that could probably take the flights from U.S. Airways fairly quickly."

Miller says that the new terminal is the just the beginning in the airport's effort to compete with larger airports. "The airport expansion is only one part of the project, we also want to provide comparable prices to the bigger airports," Miller said. "I think people need to realize that going to the bigger airports will save you money, but not much. We are working very hard with the airlines that are already here to give prices comparable with BWI and Philly. For instance, we have gotten United and U.S. Airways to

give us prices comparable with Baltimore and Philadelphia. We also want to get more airlines in here as well."

According to HIA's Web site, the airport first began as a U.S. Army base. Soon after, it became Olmsted Air Force Base, and planes began landing there in 1918. The airport began serving the public in 1969 after became Harrisburg International Airport.

HIA is operated by eight major airlines serving more than 1.3 million people a year. The airlines that operate out of HIA are Air Canada, American Eagle, Continental Airlines, Delta Airlines, Northwest Airlines, Transmeridian Airlines, United Airlines and U.S. Airways.

The airport is owned by the Susquehanna Area Regional Airport Authority, which also owns the Capital City Airport.

For more information on the airport, contact the airport's Web site at [www.flyhia.com](http://www.flyhia.com).

