

# THE CAPITAL TIMES

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## Professor Spotlight



**Professor Steven S. Funck**

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Don't judge a book by its cover. It's a frequently used saying when first meeting a person. But, what exactly does the phrase mean? It means you should get to know someone fully before an opinion is formed. Yet, how many students get to know their teachers before they get to know them? For many, the first day of class is a time to get to know your professors. But, how many students give a teacher a second glance and look past their role in class?

Professor Steven S. Funck is one of the many teachers at Penn State Harrisburg who is more than just a teacher lecturing on neutrons and electrons and grading our papers on his days off; he is a teacher with many more chapters in his life.

In high school, Funck mostly enjoyed math and sciences but it was not until his senior year that he decided to major in chemistry. "Up till that point I was planning on majoring in engineering," said Funck. At the time, he was taking an advance chemistry course and says his teacher that year was great.

Nonetheless, his first career was not as a teacher but as a Naval Officer. "I had always wanted to go into the Navy since elementary school," said Funck. While a Naval Officer, Funck was assigned to a variety of positions including: Stock Control Officer, Supply Officer, Fuels Officer, and Seas and Air Energy Requirements Officer.

During his Navy career, Funck traveled many times to Europe and the Far East. Funck also found himself traveling throughout the United States. "We always tried to take every opportunity to see as much of that section of the country as possible," said Funck. He cannot recall a favorite spot, but he comments on enjoying seeing new things and looking at historical sites.

After being in the Navy for twenty years, Funck retired as a Commander and moved with his family back into the area where he grew up. He knew he wanted to do something completely different and remembered enjoying the academic community as an undergraduate and graduate student, so he thought he would try to get back into a university setting. But, he never really thought he would get back into the setting as a professor.

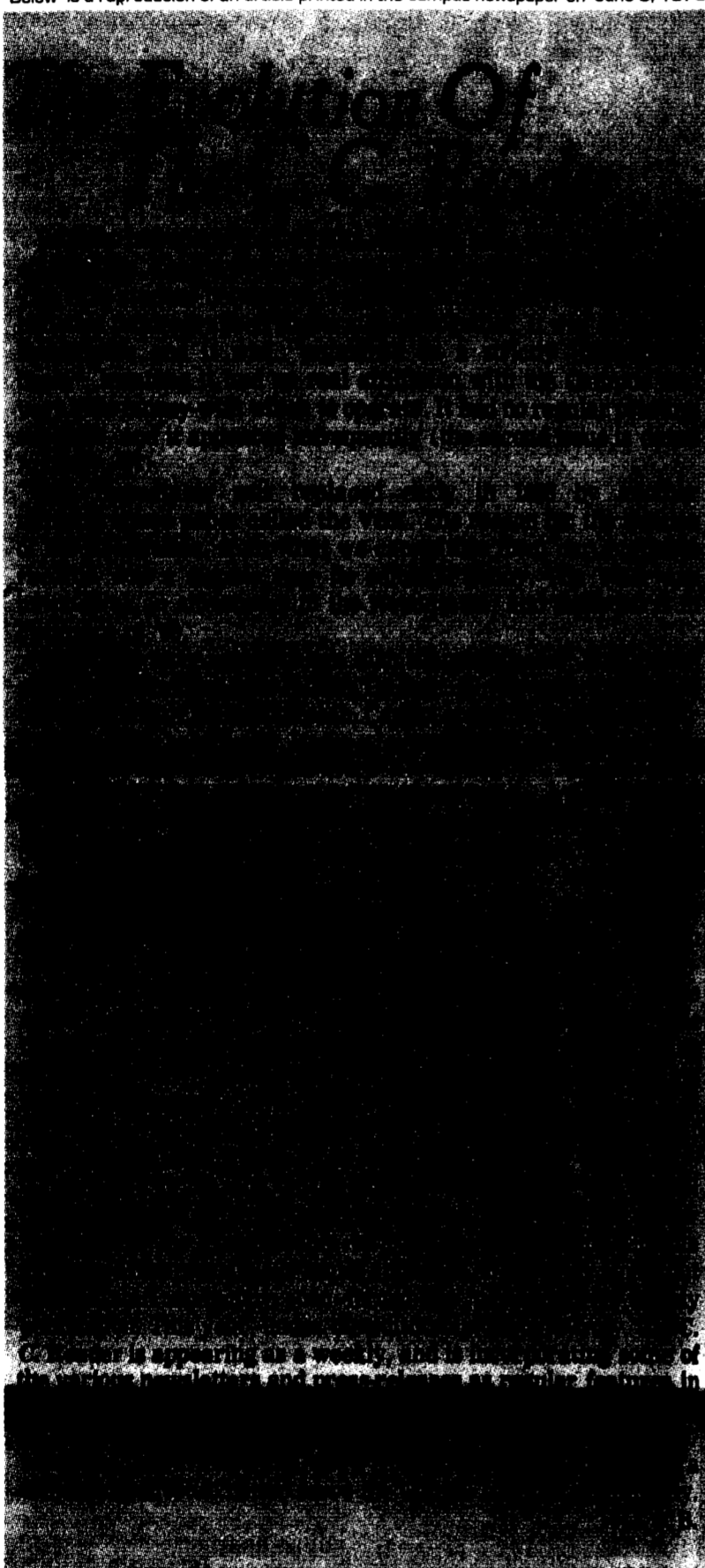
He was then offered an adjunct teaching assignment at HACC. "When the opportunity to come here was offered I was very happy to do so," said Funck.

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## From past to present

### A 70 year history of Penn State Harrisburg and its news

Below is a reproduction of an article printed in the campus newspaper on June 8, 1975.



By Maruja Rosario  
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The adjacent segment gave readers a history of the campus newspaper until spring 1975, during the heart of that newspaper's reign. However, the history continues just a bit longer than those editors could have imagined back then.

The *C.C. Reader* remained the campus newspaper until the fall of 1982 when its name became the now infamous *Capital Times*. The new name accompanied a new layout that took the "tabloid" approach and "vastly improved" the style.

In fall of 1984, the editors became brave and invested in using a spot of color on the front page, though it was only for their banner and only on rare occasions.

In 1994, the *Capital Times* started using color for their banners every time they printed, and it wouldn't be until spring 2001 that color would be used on two full pages, the front and back pages.

In fall of 2004, the *Capital Times* underwent its most drastic change yet. Under the direction of Editor in Chief Kathryn Herr, the newspaper went from tabloid format to true newspaper format and finally shifted from being printed on a small sheet to a broadsheet the size of *The New York Times*.

The newspaper also decided to eliminate elements that made it seem more like a magazine, such as "Speak Out" (a section where students were asked a question and their answers were posted), horoscopes, and comics, though it did run the occasional editorial cartoon.

Now, it has been reformatted once again with inspiration from, among others, *The Patriot-News* for a more sophisticated look. The campus newspaper has seen its fair share of news throughout its sixty year history, though thirty of them belong to the US Air Force base under the names *Wings Over Olmsted* and *Olmsted Orbiter*.

When the *Orbiter* published its last issue on December 28, 1967, it politely dedicated the issue to the staff and personnel that were transforming the base into a college, and with a tearful farewell, editor Harold E. Hickernell ended his editor's comments with, "and with that - it's thirty."

Meanwhile, the *Roundtable* had already begun covering events at the fledgling college of 400 people and they were major stories. The Student Government Association had met with opposition from students who, angry with the way the SGA was doing their jobs, organized their own party, the Freedom Assembly, and held a vote of the student body to see which party the school would rather have in power. The count was 122 in favor of the Freedom Assembly to the 88 earned by the SGA. In a democratic society, the Freedom Assembly would have been put into power, however, Student Activities refused to accept the win, stating that all powers of government belong to the SGA and so did the money. A disgruntled student body wrote letter to the editor after letter to the editor and filled the majority of the *Roundtable's* early issues.

In 1969, the *Capitolist* appeared and added its slogan, which it kept until the 80s, "All the news that fits...we print."

In June 1969, the paper saw its first graduating class and had this to say about that event, "Last June, Capitol

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## Nittany Lion History

The Nittany Lion, Penn State's mascot, was started by Harrison D. "Joe" Mason. At a baseball game against Princeton in 1904, Mason and other members of Penn State's team were shown a statue of Princeton's famous Bengal tiger as an indication of the merciless treatment they could expect on the field.

Since Penn State lacked a mascot, Mason replied with an instant fabrication of the Nittany Lion, "fiercest beast of them all," which could overcome even the tiger.

In 1907 Mason wrote "Every college the world over of any consequence has a college emblem of some kind—all but The Pennsylvania State College... Why not select for our the king of beasts--the Lion!! Dignified, courageous, magnificent, the Lion allegorically represents all that our College Spirit should be, so why not 'the Nittany Mountain Lion?' Why cannot State have a kingly, all-conquering Lion as the eternal sentinel?"

Over the next few years, Mason's "Nittany Lion" won such widespread support among students, alumni, and fans that there was never any official vote on its adoption.

The Nittany Lion pictured above left is from 1975. The current mascot, shown above, has been through many changes in appearance over the years but it still remains the same; it is an essential part of Penn State's tradition and pride and stands to remain the symbol of our legacy for many years to come.

Material was obtained from gopsusports.com and psu.edu.

## New technology battles plagiarism

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In today's highly digital world, Universities have had a growing problem with plagiarism among students. Plagiarism has been defined at Penn State Harrisburg as "the fabrication of information and citations; submitting others' work from professional journals, books, articles, papers, electronic sources of any kind, or the submission of any products from commercial research paper providers regardless of what rationales a vendor uses; submission of other students' papers or lab results or project reports and representing the work as one's own; fabricating, in part or total, submissions and citing them falsely. Note: Copying and pasting any materials from the World Wide Web is plagiarism."

A very long, detailed definition for

something that is in essence very basic: plagiarism is taking credit for work that is not your own.

With the ease students can gain access to information, it is all too easy for a professor to miss a resource students used. It can be an unintentional slip on the student's part or a deliberate attempt to fool the professor, either way, it is plagiarism. It is also a sure ticket for trouble due to the University's new enforcement on cheating as a whole and plagiarism in particular.

One of the tools professors are now using to catch plagiarism is turnitin.com. This website allows faculty to run written assignments through a very advanced plagiarism screen and single out students that seem likely to have stolen ideas, concepts, whole sentences, paragraphs, or even entire papers.

With resources such as turnitin.com available to instructors, plagiarism

has become a serious concern for many students. The departments on campus have made it clear to professors that they are expected to look for students who plagiarize and bring charges against them according to the University's plagiarism policies. While some policy dealing with plagiarism has been in place for as long as the University has existed, increases in the amount of plagiarism has forced the issue in a big way.

With these new anti-plagiarism resources, it is very easy for professors to find cheaters, or even people working together when they have been instructed not to. Similar concepts, ideas, wording, or formatting are all found and flagged by turnitin.com, and any one of these issues can be used to bring charges of plagiarism against a student.

"I can understand that they need to crack down on plagiarism, but

bringing charges up on people who work in study groups but do their homework separately is a bit ridiculous. They need to be more careful to check out the situation before bringing up charges against students," one student who had a run in with plagiarism charges said.

So while the new system has definitely aided the professors, it has created its share of problems as well. Why is it such a big deal?

"The first reaction I have to plagiarism is that it is dishonest, and as a teacher that just angers me. On a more rational level, plagiarism hurts the students. If they cheat on an assignment, then they won't gain the skill or concept that assignment is designed to teach. In the end the students hurt themselves when they plagiarize," Prof. Paul Epley of the computer science department said.

Considering the fact students

are paying thousands of dollars to learn, by cheating on papers and projects, they are in fact cheating themselves. With that view in mind, the University has started enforcing its plagiarism policy far more in recent semesters.

The number of students accused of plagiarism has gone up in recent semesters, and the incidents of failing, either the assignment or the course, due to plagiarism have also increased. With products such as turnitin.com providing a detailed report on what exactly was plagiarized and where it was likely taken from, it is easier for professors to prove a student is cheating, in turn making it simpler for the university to take disciplinary action.

So, between your future and the fact that the University has so many effective tools at its disposal to catch you, plagiarism is a bad idea.