

## Ding: Beyond the classroom

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"other professor things" keeps her busy, but the flexibility that faculty members get is plenty. What she can research on and what she can teach every semester are just some examples. Classes she teaches include database, programming languages, C++, and principles of programming languages.

Ding's life goal is to be a good teacher, researcher, citizen and mother. To be a good teacher, one has to be passionate about what he or she teaches, she said. Teachers need to have a good record with their students, in addition to care and respect them. Of course being the perfect teacher would be better, but she said she could settle for "good" also.

Her father is the one who inspired her to always pursue her interests. His words of wisdom to her were to never stop learning, which Ding has taken to heart.

Referring to her character, Ding explains that she is a perfectionist. "Whenever I do something, I want to do it perfectly," Ding said. But as she gets older, she realizes that it is indeed acceptable to be "easily adaptable" with her work. Still, she considers herself to be a hardworking person who always strives to be the best person she can ever become.

"In order to achieve your dreams, you must be willing to work hard," she stated. "And in order to become a better person, you must be constantly learning."

Research is one of her passions. Currently, she is working on data-mining research. She is trying to find hidden patterns in databases. Other favorite pastimes include reading, playing racket sports and spending time with her daughter, whom she loves very much.

Recently, she bought a dog for her daughter because she "really wanted one" to play with, Ding said. Even though Ding was afraid

of dogs, she is learning to adapt. Their dog, Choo-Choo, a Jack Russell Terrier, is pretty well behaved, according to Ding. But her dog is not all she is proud of. Her daughter, who is in fifth grade, came in first place in her class 24 game and won third place at her school in Hershey.

"It makes me so happy that my daughter is doing well here," she said. "A good education is extremely important," said Ding, who is happy she is able to provide one for her daughter.

Ding also wanted to share her life's philosophy with Penn State Harrisburg students.

"In order to learn something, you must practice constantly because practicing is how we get better. And if it's something you really want, then you just have to practice it that much. That's how you know that you're really interested in something; when you just want to be really good at it and you won't settle for less."

### Ding's list of favs:

1. **Would-be animal:**  
Dragon because it has the power of bringing fantasy to life
2. **Food:** Chinese food and spicy food
3. **Drink:** Orange juice
4. **Sport:** To play, badminton, but does not have time to watch it on TV
5. **Traveled spots:** Hawaii, Italy, China
6. **Singer:** Karen Carpenter

## Rally calls on legislature to make a change

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enough to manage their college loan debt.

Penn State is the largest single contributor to the commonwealth's economy. This may not sound impressive, but when you look at dollar figures, we find that for every dollar, which the legislature invests in Penn State through the appropriation, Penn State returns nearly \$20 to the Commonwealth's economy.

In recent years, the university's annual statewide economic impact has totaled more than \$6 billion a year. With such an economic impact, why isn't the legislature doing more to recognize the university's contributions.

Before the rally's end, those in attendance had the

Rep. and Penn State graduate John Yudichak. In his opening remarks, he promised to call for higher appropriation as well as other educational reforms. As a Penn State graduate, he commented on his own experiences and concerns with regard to funding and tuition. As he turned slightly to face the students behind him, Yudichak expressed his concern for the futures of all students. As he brought his speech to an end, Yudichak, shared his concern towards tuition and the

university's research and research programs. Conklin went on to

discuss Penn States research in the area of alternative fuel and the impact such research could have on not just the commonwealth, but that nation as a whole. Conklin who is also part of the appropriations committee noted that

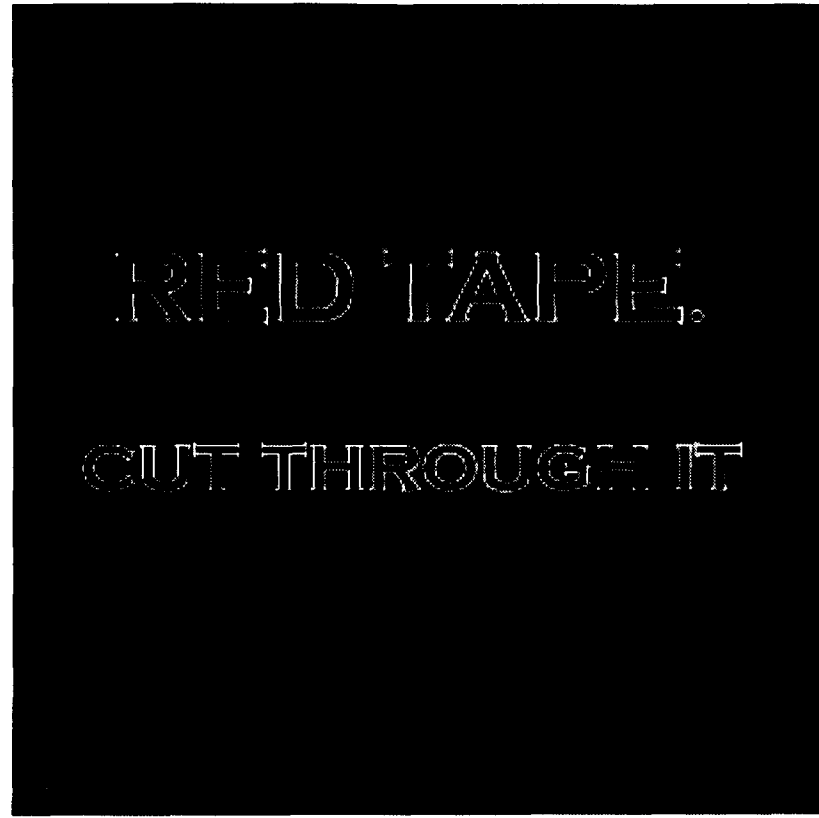
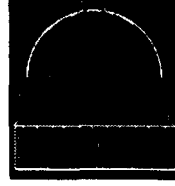
the legislature did not fund alternative fuel research. He further commented on the importance of funding similar research programs.

Unfortunately, Rep. Conklin's speech and concern towards alternative fuel research and funding lost credibility when he used the rally as a podium to give his opinion on the Iraq war. His lack of situational awareness left several in attendance wondering what the war had to do with tuition.

Throughout the event, one question continued to present itself, why isn't the legislature doing more to fund higher education. More importantly, why hasn't the legislature recognized that 57% of Penn State graduates leave the commonwealth?

Kiplingers finance magazine, showed that on average, Penn State graduates leave college with a debt in excess of \$20,000. As the debt and tuition continue to rise, it would appear that legislators are ignoring the needs of the citizens of the commonwealth. Event organizers hope to one day have upwards of 1,000 students attend the rally. They may ignore us now, but as Livingston said "we'll be back."

## Rally



Photos by MARIN BENDORITIS/Capital Times

opportunity to hear from some of Pennsylvania's legislators. The rally's most intense and heartfelt comments came from State

day his daughter chooses to attend Penn State. Rep. Scott Conklin, also addressed the crowd and spoke about the

## Allshouse receives honor

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

Jennifer Allshouse serves as a Police Service Officer at the Penn State Harrisburg campus. Extremely active in women's issues, Jennifer has presented a variety of educational programs dealing with personal safety, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, and domestic violence awareness to not only the campus community but also numerous organizations and groups throughout the mid-state. She holds Instructor Certifications in Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.O.) and Self-Defense Awareness and Familiarization Exchange Program (S.A.F.E.).

She is an active member of Penn State Harrisburg's Liaison Committee to the Commission for Women and the Sexual Harassment Resource Team. She also serves as secretary and treasurer for the Pennsylvania Association of Campus Crime Prevention Practitioner's and is an active member with Dauphin County Domestic Violence Task Force, Mid-Atlantic Association for Women in Law Enforcement, and the American Women's Self-Defense Association.

One of Jennifer's most recent accomplishments has been her role as chair on the domestic violence subcommittee. With a lot of help from dedicated committee members and women of the Penn State Harrisburg's Commission for Women, a fund raiser was held and the Commission for Women raised \$2600 in donations for the YQCA of Greater Harrisburg's Violence Intervention and Prevention Program.

Recently, Allshouse was selected to receive the 2007 Achieving Women Award presented by Penn State's Commission for Women. She will be honored at the April 9 luncheon at the Nittany Lion Inn on the University Park campus. She will be among seven Achieving Women from around the University who are honored.

## COLLEGE CHALLENGE

got blood?

GIVE BLOOD!

Date: Wednesday - March 28, 2007  
 Time: 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM  
 Place: Penn State Harrisburg  
Olmsted Lounge

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