

# New Jersey Underwater Attraction Opens to Public

By Chuck Spector

The New Jersey State Aquarium at Camden is now open! Four years after the ground-breaking ceremonies took place, the general public finally obtains "A New Way To Sea Life."

Only minutes from the Ben Franklin Bridge in downtown Philadelphia, sits the newest exhibit of the underwater environment on the East Coast.

Once you walk through the entry gates, you will discover a 170,000 gallon outdoor pool full of gray and harbor seals. You are also able to see an actual rushing trout stream before you even step inside the building.

The most dynamic attraction is the 760,000 gallon Open Ocean tank. It is the second largest in the United States (the largest is the Living Seas in Epcot Center, Florida).

This massive tank contains replicas of an underwater laboratory and even a shipwreck. There is also a section where visitors get a chance to ask questions to submerged employees "doing" S.C.U.B.A. (Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus) in front of one of the large viewing windows (Communication is possible by the use of a submersible two-way transmitter).

For those of you who never had the opportunity to feel a shark or a ray before, there is a special tank where you may lean over and pet them.

There are many areas where children can play and learn a great deal about our underwater relatives. Children are put in the fish's position when they are able to view what it would be like to see as a fish or to hear as a dolphin would. They are also able to see first hand how the colors of the rainbow are absorbed by water according to depth.



Angela Rutledge, a high school junior, is currently enrolled at Delco.

Photo by: DIANA MICERI

Other features include a 220-seat auditorium, the Riverview Cafe, which seats 150 indoors and 300 outdoors overlooking the Delaware River and Philadelphia skyline, and, of course, an extremely large gift shop. There is also parking available for over 2,200 cars, at a cost of \$7.00. A cheaper and a more enjoyable alternative would be the old-fashioned river ferry ride. The new ferry ride travels to and from Penn's Landing in Philadelphia to the State Aquarium for only \$2.00 each way.

The Aquarium is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. General admission is \$8.50 for adults, \$5.50 for children, and \$7.00 for student (with ID) and seniors (65+). For more information and/or directions call (609) 365-3300.



A huge crowd eagerly waits to enter the new aquarium.

Photo by: DIANA MICERI

## PSU Prepares Strategies To Improve Predicted Declines In Enrollment

By Roya Sami

Colleges and Universities began gearing up for declining enrollments in the late 70's and early 80's, due to the fact that demographers predicted a steady shrinkage in the college applicant pool from the mid 80's to 1994. The ideology behind the prediction was derived from the effects of population migration, as well as the decline in the birth rate in the United States.

The anticipated enrollment declines caused considerable alarm for most institutions of higher learning, since less tuition income would mean fewer resources to carry on important activities related to the mission of each institution. Penn State and many other northeastern colleges were particularly susceptible to the declines and therefore began preparing early to meet the challenges of lower enrollments.

Penn State, among other colleges, adopted a marketing approach in hopes of forestalling the impact of declining enrollments. The outcome was an efficacious recruitment effort, which included high school visitations, direct mail campaigns, telemarketing, and the use of video and computer technology.

Many schools have been able to keep their enrollment level moderate, while more than 100 colleges across the country have closed since the decline began.

In Pennsylvania, declines have occurred, but have been partially offset by increases in the number of high school graduates that go on to college. Overall, enrollments at Penn State have been relatively stable although declines have shown up within the last few years, especially in the western part of the state.

The Delaware County campus hopes to successfully compete with other colleges in the area by focusing

recruitment efforts more carefully and by offering scholarship incentives to talented students and capitalizing on the convenient location. Penn State hopes to attract academically talented students by offering non-need based scholarships that are equal to half the Penn State tuition and are renewable provided that the student maintains a worthy G.P.A.

Dr. Tierney believes that Delco can attract more students from the Manayunk area of Philadelphia due to the expediency of the newly opened Blue Route. Delco must make those who live in Philadelphia aware that the campus is now closer than Ogontz. Once the University is able to recruit more students to Delco the parking problem at Ogontz will be alleviated.

\*The author would like to thank Mr. Sevenski for compiling the information necessary for this article.

## High School Jr. Enrolled at Delco

By Andy McIntyre

Sometimes we tend to overlook just how diverse a college campus can be. In fact, many of you may not even know that at the Penn State Delaware County Campus this spring semester, a high school junior named Angela Rutledge, is currently taking Eng 50, a course in creative writing.

Angela is currently attending West Chester East High School, in what appears to be her final year. Only a junior, Angela is seeking the difficult task of early graduation.

She hopes to someday become a screen play writer, and eventually plans to attend N.Y.U.

I asked Angela why she enjoys writing and she said, "That writing aides her in connecting with herself." She went on to say that she tends to have a wild imagination, and that expressing her imagination through writing helps to make her thoughts more precise.

I also asked Angela just what she thought of the facilities available for students here at the Penn State Delaware County Campus. Angela said, "That at first I was a little

overwhelmed by the library, but many students helped me to find my way." She then added, "I was comforted to see the familiar sight of the Macintoshes, I learned to use them over the summer at the Pennsylvania Governor's school for the Arts.

Finally, I asked Angela what she hopes to gain from taking Eng 50. Angela said, "I consider myself to be fairly competent in the art of poetry, however I would very much like to improve on my prose, considering the fact that the average professional poet makes only \$3,000.00 dollars per year."