

# Woman leads in ROTC

## University unit picks first female brigade commander

By JULIE NASH  
Collegian Staff Writer

Since the Army ROTC program began at Penn State 74 years ago, only male cadets have sported three diamonds on their uniforms — or at least until Mary Terra came along. Appointed for this academic year, Terra (senior-administration of justice) is the first female in the University's Army ROTC to obtain the rank of brigade commander, enabling her to wear the three diamonds on her uniform.

As brigade commander, Terra is responsible for how the entire Army ROTC program is conducted and she works through her staff to make sure that every task gets done and is conducted to standard.

"She sets the example for other cadets to follow," said Commander Eric Sloughfy (senior-business logistics), military science III battalion commander.

She is also in charge of all tri-service activities including the Army, Air Force and Navy, and the University Army ROTC physical fitness program.

"She's one sharp woman," said Maj. Jim E. Fulbrook. "I see her as an excellent officer someday."

Terra joined the military six years



Courtesy PSU Army ROTC PAO

Mary Terra

ago because she could not afford to go to college. Through the Green-to-Gold military scholarship program, she received a three-year scholarship to attend the University.

"Every person chosen for brigade commander comes to the position with something to offer," Terra said. "As for me, I've had prior service and can understand the way things work because of my army experience."

Although this is the first time that a female has served in this position, Commanders Sloughfy and Greg

Mahoney agreed that gender has nothing to do with who makes the best brigade commander.

"The fact that she is a female is irrelevant," Sloughfy said. "What matters is the fact that she strives for success and gets the job done."

Although the majority of those in ROTC are male, all of the cadets are working together for the same goal, and the gender of the person in charge does not make a difference, Terra agreed.

"She has a professional maturity level and is very personable," said Mahoney (senior-engineering science), general military science battalion commander. "She was the obvious choice from the start."

The brigade commander, the highest position a cadet can hold, is chosen through an order of merit list that includes the grade point average, leadership evaluation by senior instructors and military camp performance, Fulbrook said.

When it came down to the final decision for brigade commander, two cadets were almost equal in every category, but Terra scored the highest possible at military camp, so that pushed her over, he added.

"You spend the first three years of ROTC taking orders and the last year giving the orders," Terra said.

# Administrators plan to fund continuing education research

In an attempt to stress the importance of continuing education for college graduates, administrators this semester are establishing new research grants. They expect the grants, given out on a competitive basis, will spur efforts to keep post-graduate education lively.

By MICHAEL P. BUFFER  
Collegian Staff Writer

Administrators plan to set up a fund this semester to provide modest research grants, awarded on a competitive basis, to support research on continuing higher education and related topics.

Continuing education is the University's attempt to further educate the public and provide "life-long learning," said Donna S. Queeney, director of research and external relations for continuing education. It comprises much of the University's services, which along with teaching and research, make up

"The research is a way to . . . strengthen continuing education."

— Donna S. Queeney  
Research Director for Continuing Education

the three major units of the University, Queeney said.

Continuing education has programs for extended degrees, professionals in mid-career and alumni. It is offered for business, professional and enrichment reasons and is taught in traditional classrooms, indepen-

dently and through Pennarama, a cable channel through which people may get University credits, Queeney added.

"Many may think that because they've graduated, they never have to learn again, but things change and people have to keep learning," Queeney said.

"The research is a way to improve the youthfulness of and strengthen continuing education," she added.

A committee will review proposals for the awards from faculty and staff members.

"We want to encourage research and publication related to continuing education by providing an opportunity for information support and exchange," said James H. Ryan, vice president for continuing education, in a news release.

Some research ideas discussed will be how to reach audiences, what methods of delivery to use and how to motivate faculty, Queeney said.

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