

# Ceremony to honor students in ROTC

By Heather Cook  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

After marching in a parade tomorrow, students from all three branches of Penn State's ROTC program will be honored in a joint services awards ceremony.

The annual ceremony, which honors the achievements of cadets, midshipmen and officer candidates in the ROTC program, will take place in Schwab Auditorium after the parade from Wagner Building.

Lt. David Fowler, assistant professor of naval sciences, said the parade is a particularly interesting part of the ceremony because it presents a military aspect of ROTC life to students on campus.

"They see the cadets walking around campus weekly in their uniforms, and maybe don't really think anything of it," he said. "Maybe if they see a little more military display they'll make note of it."

All students from the Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC will attend, whether they receive awards or not. Parents of many students also will be there, and Fowler said he expects as many as 400 people to be at the ceremony.

The awards that members will receive will be anything from \$1,000 scholarships to the swords given to all Navy ROTC graduating seniors.

Students will be recognized for academic achievement as well as achievements in their battalions.

"It's always been a memorable occasion, and it's a good chance for the students to be recognized before their peers and their parents," Lt. Col. William Haner said.

Maj. Bruce Sullivan said that though this is the first year he will be experiencing the ceremony, he has heard good things about it and mentioned a letter he got from a parent of one of the students being honored.

"This parent shared sentiment how their son has really had a chance to blossom in this program — the whole coming-of-age sort of thing," he said.

# Disability Services smooths transition

By Kathy Hsieh  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Students with a learning disability or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder should have no reason to be intimidated by University Park.

The Office for Disability Services aids students with disabilities in their transition to college life. The office provides an orientation program for students at the beginning of each semester.

"A learning disability exists when a person who has average to above average ability is achieving well below in one or more areas," said Marianne Karwacki, learning disability specialist.

Many students try to get away from being labeled with a learning disability early on in life, but then sometimes require the benefits of the Office for Disability Services when they reach college, Karwacki said.

The office sends out forms to all paid and accepted students for students to request information on its services.

Students who seek the help of the office are assigned an individual counselor, who they meet with periodically, depending on

the individual's needs. The counselor and student maintain a one-on-one professional relationship.

However, the counselors try to make the students as comfortable as possible. In fact, some students have even kept in touch with their former counselors after graduation.

"I'm going to one of my former student's wedding this summer," Karwacki said.

The office accommodates students who need its services, whether it is in their study habits or their courses.

For example, the office provides books on tape to students with reading disabilities. Its staff members also might allow students to take tests under different conditions, depending on the students' needs, Karwacki said.

Students with ADHD also receive accommodations from the office. These include the use of a tape recorder, note-taking assistance and testing adjustments, such as extended time for exams in a distraction-reduced environment.

ADHD is classified under pervasive developmental disorders. There are three classifications under ADHD: ADHD combined type, ADHD predominantly inattentive type and

ADHD predominantly hyperactive-impulsive type.

ADHD affects learning in a more indirect way, said Denise Person, a disability specialist with the office.

Students with ADHD have problems attending, focusing and concentrating. They have a hard time paying attention to details of coursework and have difficulty following through and completing tasks. People with ADHD also might have trouble organizing tasks, remembering certain information and keeping track of their belongings, Person said.

"Students may lose their IDs more than four times during a semester or lose their keys," Person said.

Students with the ADHD predominantly hyperactive-impulsive type might be fidgety and restless, she said. Students also might have trouble waiting their turn to talk and might blurt out answers before the entire question is even asked, she added.

The severity of ADHD depends on each individual case. The difference between ADHD and learning disabilities is, in many cases, medication can be prescribed for people with ADHD. At least several hundred

students on this campus have ADHD and the number is increasing, Person said. However, among those who have ADHD, not all of them need classroom accommodations.

"It depends on how they experience it and how they dealt with it in the past. To some, it is on the surface — it is a big part of who they are. To others it is not a big deal, like, I wear glasses, I have ADHD," Person said.

A number of students were diagnosed with ADHD prior to attending Penn State, a number were recognized by professors and a large number were identified by other undergraduate and graduate students who have ADHD and know the symptoms, Person said.

"That is very gratifying when another student comes in because another student pointed it out," she said.

One Penn State student, who did not wish to give his name, was trying to seek help after he did poorly his first semester at Penn State. He was referred to Karwacki, who had him tested and diagnosed with ADHD and a reading comprehension learning disability.

He was an average high school student who came to Penn State on an athletic scholarship.

## Amusement parks primed for summer speed-seekers

By Brandy Brubaker  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Attention, ladies and gentlemen. Please fasten your seatbelts and remember to keep your arms and legs inside the car at all times. Enjoy your ride.

Many students will be hearing these things this summer as they hit super-speeding and loony-looping rollercoasters at America's many amusement parks. And the parks will be waiting for them with a variety of new and old, high-flying, sickeningly spiraling attractions.

Carrie Waddle (freshman-international business and marketing) said her summer plans will definitely include a trip to Cedar Point, located in Sandusky, Ohio.

"It's the coaster park," Waddle said. "They have fast rollercoasters and are always building new ones."

In fact, Cedar Point is keeping up with its reputation. On May 13, when the park opens for the summer, Cedar Point will show off its new Millennium Force. Bryan Edwards, a public relations representative, said the park is very excited about this ride.

"We really wanted to kick off the millenni-

um with a big ride," he said. "People always say Cedar Point was the first to break 200 feet. Who's going to break 300 feet?"

Millennium Force does that and more, advertising itself as the tallest and fastest coaster in the universe. At 310 feet in the air, the "giga-coaster" blasts through the park at up to 92 mph.

But, Edwards said, rider beware. "We're really targeting the thrill seekers — the people who like the adrenaline rush," he said. "It's not for everybody." Cedar Point is also the home of the crowd favorite Magnum, one of the fastest and tallest coasters at Cedar Point until the Millennium Force.

Krissy Lauder (sophomore-division of undergraduate studies) ranks the Magnum at the top of her favorite coasters list. "I love the Magnum because you get on there and you go for the ride of your life," Lauder said.

Another fan favorite is the Steel Phantom at Kennywood in Pittsburgh. However, much to the dismay of this coaster's following, this is the last year it will roar through the park. Mary Lou Rosemeyer, publicity director at the park, said eventually this departure had to come, even though the Steel Phantom continues to be a favorite.

## Electronic texts preferable over paper, alumnus says

By Matt Carroll  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

E-trade, e-commerce, e-business, e-banking, e-shopping, e-pets and, if you are in the mood for a novel, e-books are available for those who would rather click a mouse than turn a page.

According to Penn State alumnus Jeff Edmunds, web designer and author of the new electronic novel *Metro*, this new medium is not a fad and has its advantages.

"Electronic texts have one major advantage over the old standard — the middle man is taken out," he said. Besides saving paper, he added, e-texts do not take up space in publishers' warehouses, saving the publishing company money, which benefits the author and the customer. "It has great potential for the future," Edmunds' book, written without the Internet in mind, is a "postmodernist" detective story, which takes place mainly in a labyrinth like Paris Metro, an underground rail system.

"When read as written, the text of *Metro* is, thematically and temporally speaking, nonlinear and thus, in a sense, hypertextual. Implementing many of the features pos-

sible in a Web environment would have been redundant and would have detracted from the text's inherent hypertextuality," he said in an interview with his publishing company, the Ministry of Whimsy.

Downloadable texts, texts on disc and texts similar to *Metro*, which can be viewed on the Web for free, could be evidence "the nature of literary acquisition is ready for a change," Edmunds said.

The Ministry of Whimsy, a publishing company located in Tallahassee, Fla., has recently, with the advent *Metro*, begun publishing electronic novels on its Web site ([www.mindspring.com/~toonem/industry.html](http://www.mindspring.com/~toonem/industry.html)).

Contemporary fiction, which has a more select market than other more popular genres, may find its niche on the Web according to Jeff VanderMeer, a publisher with the Ministry of Whimsy.

"When Jeff Edmunds sent *Metro* to us, we were already booked for more than 18 months ... I loved the book and wanted to publish it, but couldn't," VanderMeer said. "At the same time, we had begun to see electronic books begin to fill a niche in the market."

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