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CAMPUS



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PG 4 - A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A BUSY RN STUDENT

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GETTING TO KNOW SCOTT SIMONDS

DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS - HACC GETTYSBURG

by Gabriella Grezina



What is Dean of Student Affairs and what is your job?

Simonds: At HACC, the Dean of Student Affairs oversees Admissions/recruitment, financial aid, registration, records, counseling/advising, student life, career services, veteran's affairs, and behavioral intervention, which is the disciplinary side of my job. But that's a very small part and we don't really have many problems on this campus.

I supervise all the staff in those areas, and I am responsible for planning and delivery of student services, budgeting, and campus enrollment management. I also help to resolve student issues outside the classroom, which can be of a personal nature, or issues concerning their enrollment, tuition, financial aid or a problem with staff of faculty member. It all comes here.

Would you be the decision maker then?

Simonds: Yes. We usually can find a way how to work through those kind of problems.

Sometimes faculty can notice changes in students that you and I may not notice as we see them passing by in a hallway. We can then talk through that and determine the best course of action to support a student.

Where did you grow up and what brought you here - to HACC in PA?

Simonds: I grew up in a small town in central New York state, called Waverly. I followed my wife, Patricia, to Central Pennsylvania, in 1995. That was my first introduction to Gettysburg, as I was employed at that time in student affairs at Gettysburg College where I worked for three years as Asst. Director of Residential Life. Then I moved to Penn State York as Director of Student Life for about ten years, and now I am back.

“ I am deeply committed to diversity and have involved myself in learning about diverse individuals and cultures since I was an undergraduate student. ”

Was the nature of your work before different from the one you are doing now?

Simonds: Yes. I worked with residential student who lived on campus. I was living on campus as well and that means I saw anything and everything – good, bad and the ugly. There were some real crisis situations, and it was not unusual to be on call on weekends. That was very challenging, but it really prepared me well for this career. At Penn State I worked with SGA, different clubs and organizations; lots of programming and leadership development, it was fun. So I think both of these positions gave me a really good foundation.

What do you enjoy the most about your work?

Simonds: The fact that every day is different and the fact that I can fix the problem. My job responsibilities are varied and challenging. The students are great at HACC and I really enjoy working with them.

What is your vision for the future for HACC students?

Simonds: I would like to see the campus grow, as it has been happening over past few years. I think our vice president has done a terrific job planning for the future. I would also love to offer more for the students; not only in terms of academic programs, but also more activities outside of classroom what I call co-curricula. I and SGA are working together on plans to put a fitness center here in near future. We are moving forward with planning more opportunities, services and resources.

Could you please elaborate on co-curricula?

Simonds: Absolutely. Learning outside the classroom is as important as learning in the classroom. It can occur while having a coffee with your instructor in a hub or while talking to your advisor, planning your career goals. I think learning occurs all over this campus.

What experiences have you had working with students from culturally diverse backgrounds?

Simonds: I am deeply committed to diversity and have involved myself in learning about diverse individuals and cultures since I was an undergraduate student. This is my fifth campus I've worked at, and in every campus I have been a part of a diversity initiative, ever since I was an undergraduate student. I worked in the Minority Student Services office in graduate school, advised the Gay/Lesbian/Allies student group for more than 10 years at Penn State, have been a member of diversity committees and initiatives at every campus I've been a part of. I think it's crucial to the success of any college community. It makes you think out of the box. It is challenging, because it forces one to look through the eyes of someone very different. I enjoy the challenge being a little uncomfortable and not only to talk the talk, but also walk the walk.



How do you deal with unmotivated student?

Simonds: I always encourage students to find their passion and follow it. I help them to identify their resources – either it is counseling or community based resources. There is a proverb that says “find a job that you love, and you’ll never work a day in your life.” I have a career like that, and that’s what I want for everyone. It revolutionizes how you approach your daily life – not dragging yourself to work because you have bills to pay, but having this feeling of accomplishment at the end of the day that you have made a difference. Sometimes students are here for reasons other than their own and maybe higher education is not what they want. Those conversations are difficult and challenging, but usually when someone is unmotivated, is because they haven’t found what their passion is. I love that moment in working with students when they find their career passion – it’s like a fire is lit within them. It’s very exciting.

You mentioned that sometimes higher education is not what the student wants. What would you advise then?

Simonds: Well, that is the beautiful thing about HACC – there are many ways to get there. We have certificate programs that you can do as little as a semester or right up to an Associate degree. Some Health Careers go even beyond that. Ultimately, I suggest to a student to pursue other options, and higher education is just one of them.

What are your best memories from school and why did you become Dean of Student Affairs?

Simonds: As you can probably guess, my best memories from college are from my co-curricular experiences. I was involved in campus events, new student orientation, and I was a Resident Assistant. I had lots of opportunities to take on leadership positions, represent my college at conferences, and had great role models at my undergraduate school who encouraged me into this career.

You said you were working with students while being a student yourself, so you kind of knew which path you will take?

Simonds: Well, sort of. I had gone to school because I thought I will be a high school Social Studies teacher, because I was history major. After I started my student teaching, I realized I really don’t want to be in a classroom; what I really wanted to do – was helping students to be successful in all aspects of college life.

Do you have someone you would call your role model?

Simonds: The late Valerie Hodge, dean of students at my undergraduate university. She was my mentor, an extraordinary role model. Despite how successful she became, she never lost sight of the fact that she was there for the students and I’ve always admired that. So I keep her in mind all the time and I often wonder what advise she would give me if I talked to her about this or what would she say about that. She would love to see me working in a Community College in a dean’s position; I know she would be proud of me.

If you had to choose, what would be the job you would see yourself doing in a completely different area you are in now?

Simonds: I always say that my dream job would be to work at a Barnes & Noble or Borders and be responsible for in-store special events like poetry readings, book signings, and live musical performances. I love music, movies and books; you can hardly get me out of those stores. And they have coffee too! Oh, and the store would be in Hawaii!

What is the worst, hardest and best about your job?

Simonds: Worst: Not as much student contact as I would like. Hardest: When you can’t resolve an issue to a student/family’s satisfaction, when the circumstances don’t justify me changing the policy or interpreting things to suit them. As a dean I have to be sure that I treat everyone equally. It is tough to balance what is in the best interest of a student and what is in the best interest of a college. Best: working with my staff team to make life better for our students.

What is a little known fact about you?

Simonds: I love live music of any kind. I’ve been to more than 300 live concert events. I am in awe of anyone who can stand on stage and perform, because I can’t do that.

POINTS OF INTEREST

If you could, whom would you like to eat dinner with from history?

Simonds: My grandfather, Elmore England. He died before I was born. I have heard stories about him from my family members and I would love to have a conversation with him.

Did you have heroes when you were growing up? Who?

Simonds: My parents were, and still are, my heroes. I learned a lot from them, and I admire them both.

If money wasn’t an issue, where in the world and how would you like to vacation?

Simonds: I love to travel, and lately I’ve been obsessed with visiting Greece. I love Greek food and I have read so much about the history and diversity of the country. The south pacific would be great too, like Tahiti or something very far away. I’d sail around both places in a hammock from the mast. I think travel changes you and when you come back even from a short trip, you look at things differently.

Do you play video games? If yes, which ones?

Simonds: I love Mario Super Smash Brothers! My nephews always beat me – badly, but I love that game!

If you could be any actor, whom would you like to be?

Simonds: I’d pick George Clooney. He’s debonair, a good actor, and I admire how he’s used his celebrity to try and improve people’s lives in Sudan and throughout the world. I admire those celebrities that are not in it for themselves, but they take their celebrity and try to do something positive with it.

What is your favorite Music?

Simonds: How many column inches do you have? I love music – I like many of the newer artists: Guster, the Avett Brothers, the Black Keys, Death Cab for Cutie, Snow Patrol, but also like the classics like Pearl Jam, Springsteen, U2, Pink Floyd. I’m not a big fan of opera, though. But I can’t imagine world without music.

I’ll let you know a little secret : when I meet someone, I’d like to know what they have on their I-pod, because I think from their music collection you can tell a lot about them.

For me, so many musical pieces are connected with memories, and you can be in a worst mood then hear a song and all of a sudden it lifts your spirit. I love when that happens.

Favorite Cuisine / food?

Simonds: I kind of look at food the same way I look at music. Thai food is my favorite, but I’m a big fan of sushi, seafood, and Mamma V’s calzones are delicious.

Movies?

Simonds: Singles, Almost Famous, Sixteen Candles, Dead Poets Society. Animal House, of course...I’m a big fan of Dean Wormer. I like lots of different movies.

I think you are an artist deep inside

Simonds: Yes, I think I am.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF

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A Busy RN Student

By Anjanette Hoffman

We asked one typical nursing student to try to show those students who are NOT in nursing—those on the “other side of the building”—just how demanding that program is. Anjanette Hoffman, a married mother of two daughters, four and five-years old, agreed to record for us what one day is like, stating that, “This is my typical Wednesday for most of this semester.” Those Wednesdays usually involve not only classes and labs, but clinicals with real patients, so that students find themselves rushing from one context to the next, as is detailed below:

5:30 am My alarm sounds “BEEP, BEEP”, knowing that I set numerous other alarms (just in case one doesn’t go off) 5 minutes apart, I don’t even bother to hit the snooze more than once. I crawl out of my warm cozy bed, get a shower, and get dressed for class. I wake up my daughters and get them ready to go with the babysitter for the day. After getting them dressed, we all mosey down stairs to eat a quick breakfast and I pack our lunches. Now it’s time to start the car and round up my equipment for the rest of the day. I hang my uniform in my car (that I ironed the night before) and begin my mental check off list of the other essentials (stethoscope, pen light, forceps, bandage scissors, many clinical references, clinical tool, etc.) I need for evening clinicals after class. Of course not forgetting the books I need for today’s class.

7:00 am The kids are loaded into the car and dropped off at the babysitter’s house. I kiss them goodbye knowing I’m not going to see them until tomorrow morning, since I won’t get home until about 10pm.

7:15 am I’m in route to school, listening to a lecture relevant to the current course material we are covering, which I downloaded the night before off iTunesU.

8:15 am I’m 15 minutes early before class, to allow for a restroom break and socialization before sitting in class for 2 ½ hours.

9:30 am Our instructor lets us have a 15 minute break to get something to eat (I’m starving since breakfast was 4 hours ago for me) and go to the restroom (thank goodness for this small bladder). On long days like this I always pack lunch and dinner (usually a healthy microwave meal) and some snacks (“my brain food”).

10:50 am Class is over and even though my hand is cramped from all the note taking, my plan is to still go into the lab with a fellow nursing student and practice some nursing skills that I may need to perform in clinicals.

12:30 pm After practicing in the lab and feeling more confident in performing whatever nursing skill that may arise in the clinical setting tonight, it’s time to get dressed into my nursing student uniform, that I leave out in the car so it doesn’t get anything on it, since it is white.

1:00 pm After chugging down a soda or coffee and eating a snack, because I’m feeling tired already, I brush my teeth (yes, I bring one to school with me on clinical days), get dressed, and pull my hair into a ponytail. Now it’s time to get back in the car and drive to our clinical site about 40 minutes away. I turn on another nursing podcast to listen to on my drive.

1:45 pm Clinical technically starts at 230pm, but I am early, because I never know what could happen that may delay my travels. So as I sit in my car I’m doing another check of all the essentials needed for clinicals tonight before I leave my car. This is usually when I do a little self-pep talking too. Thinking positive and telling myself “I can do this!”

2:00 pm I walk onto the nursing unit, greeted by the other early nursing students. We all sit together waiting to receive our patient assignments. Meanwhile, I dig through my book bag and stuff my nursing uniform pockets full of anything I may need while providing care to whichever two patients I am assigned.

2:30 pm My instructor tells me which two patients I will be caring for tonight. I grab my clipboard and drug book and head out onto the floor to find the primary nurses assigned to each client and introduce myself and get report.

2:45 pm I locate the chart of each patient and comb through it to understand what the patient’s history is and the current nursing concerns. I run to the medication room find the patients medication administration record and check the times I need to administer medications for each patient, making a little note on my clipboard (but always checking the chart for new orders too).

3:00 pm It’s time to greet my patients and let them know I’m the nursing student who will be providing their care for the evening. I start out by getting their vital signs and assessing them from head to toe. Then, I write up an assessment for HACC and document the findings in the patient’s assessment/nursing note sheet.

4:00 pm It’s time to check the patients’ blood glucose (if ordered). Since the patient’s blood glucose is high that means I need to draw up insulin in a syringe to administer prior to them eating dinner. I ask the patient when they plan to eat their dinner so I can administer the insulin, so I know when to come back and then I also bring any other meds ordered at that same time. Now, I go to the medication administration room and pull out all the ordered medications during the time I’ll be on the floor and putting them in the patient’s medication drawer for later administration. While drawing up the insulin and before administering any other medications I have to check the six rights (right patient, medication, dose, route, time, and documentation) for each medication against the patient’s medication administration record three times. I also need to look up any medications I am unsure of their pharmacologic class, therapeutic action, side effects, and contraindications for administering the medication (knowing my instructor will ask before we go into the room with the patients to administer the medications).

4:30 pm The patient’s tray has been ordered and they are ready for their insulin administration and any other medications. I go get my instructor, expecting to be quizzed on the medications I will be giving. After discussing the patient’s condition, the medication they will be getting and why it was ordered, we go into the patient’s room. I introduce my instructor to the patient and proceed to check the six rights again before administering the medications and afterwards I document the medications were given.

6:00 pm More medications need to be given, so the above process is repeated.

6:30 pm The patient needs help ambulating so, I go get a portable oxygen tank and a walker so I can help them ambulate the hallway and document any changes that occur with exertion. I let the patient know I’m going on break and that their primary nurse will be available to help them and always reinforce the use of their call bell. I go find the patient’s primary nurse and give them a summarized report of the patient’s current condition, any concerns, and let her know I’ll be coming back to give nine o’clock medications after break.

7:00 pm BREAK TIME!!! I’m starving by now, since I haven’t had a chance to drink or eat for hours (at this point I’m surprised I can hear the patient’s lung sounds over the sound of my stomach growling). The other student nurses and our instructor all meet in the cafeteria to have “post-conference”, where we discuss different topics and share any learning experiences we’ve had throughout the evening.

7:30-7:45pm We return to the floor, I let the primary nurse know I’m back, and then check on my patients. Both want to get washed up and so I change their bed sheets and gown. Also, I offer to rub lotion on their back, since it may help them to relax and provide additional comfort.

8:00 pm Time to get vitals again and document them in the chart.

8:30 pm I go back to the medication administration room and do my three checks of the six rights for the nine o’clock medications. Looking up any unfamiliar ones.

9:00 pm I find my instructor to administer the patient’s medications.

9:15 pm It’s almost time to leave for the night, so I go to each patient and do a quick assessment for any concerns I should pass on to the primary nurse before leaving. I tell the patient I’m leaving and ask if there is anything I could possibly get them and try to make them as comfortable as possible.

9:30 pm I find my primary nurse and give her a review of the patient’s assessment and report any concerns. I thank them for all their help. I find my instructor and let her know I have reported off and then wait for a couple other students to walk out to my car with, since it is dark by now and we have to park like a mile away.

9:45 pm I’m in my car, I take a deep breath and inside I feel like a nurse already. I know I have effectively and safely provided patient-centered nursing care. It’s in this moment that I realize why I have chosen to go through these long days. I dial up my husband and let him know I’m on my way home.

10:45-11:00 pm As I pull in the driveway I think ah, home sweet home, but everyone is in bed so I quietly tiptoe upstairs and slip into bed. I set my alarm for 630 am, so I can get my daughter ready for school in the morning and start working on the assignment due by 230 pm at clinicals tomorrow. I fall asleep easily knowing I’m one step closer to achieving my goal to be not just a nurse, but a good nurse.

PRESIDENT SKI VISITS GETTYSBURG

HACC'S NEW PRESIDENT- ELECT VISITS THE GETTYSBURG CAMPUS

by Kramer Harman

Fridays typically present little excitement at the Gettysburg Campus. In an almost vacant Hub, a handful of scattered students can be found. Some immersed in textbooks and course material while others casually scroll through their iPod over a sandwich or drink waiting for class to start. On the eighteenth of last month, students making their way through the building were greeted by signs announcing the arrival of HACC's newly appointed president, Dr. John J. Sygielski, and his tour of the campus later that afternoon. Around twelve, a small huddle had gathered in the Hub for a meet and greet of sorts, smiles all around with some small talk branching off of the main event, handshakes and introductions being made amongst the groups. Several minutes go by before Dean Jennifer Weaver turns the group's attention towards making their first stop on the tour.



In the statement released at the beginning of the year, announcing the selection of Dr. 'Ski', as he prefers to be called, the President-elect had the following to offer: "I've followed HACC closely since 2003 and I am thrilled to have an opportunity to represent a successful teaching and learning community that is highly responsive to its communities' education and training needs and which is strongly valued and supported by its constituents." He continued by expressing satisfaction at leaving his school of current employment, Mt. Hood Community College, in the hands of a firmly established team of leaders. The statement continued to relate the success achieved during Dr. Ski's tenure as president at Mt. Hood, which has included the following: helping to raise the enrollment rate, increasing fund raising and helping overall to enhance the involvement of the community in college affairs.

As the small entourage enters the Welcome Center, President Ski is introduced to the staff, and a small discussion ensues, laughter rippling through the group. As they speak, a camera flash goes off as Public Relations Director Patrick M. Early works to capture the perfect shot. As the conversation slowly comes to a close, those on the campus tour slowly began to make their way over to their next stop. Upon stepping into the Admissions Offices, Dr. Ski is welcomed by a similar setting. Following some more introductions accompanied by handshakes and smiles, Dr. Ski begins to ask the advisors about the jobs they perform at HACC. "The sense of the College here is one that really promotes and encourages, just a lot of interaction between the students and faculty." Dr. Ski mentions during the conversation, to which one of the advisors responds jokingly "You're going to like this campus best!"

In a personal statement sent by Dr. Ski at the beginning of February, he offered "When I interviewed for the position, I knew what a special place HACC is. That feeling has been reaffirmed through my interactions with some of you over the past month." He went on to say "The role of a president is to serve you, our students, our external colleagues and our communities. In a few months, I will provide you an opportunity to share your thoughts, hopes, dreams and vision for HACC with me. In the meantime, I am reviewing numerous College documents to learn as much as I can to "hit the ground running" in July. From what I've already reviewed, I am very impressed with so many of you and look forward to celebrating you and the phenomenal work you are doing to transform lives in central Pennsylvania and beyond!

The tour group later moves into the SGA office, where a legislative meeting is about to take place. Dr. Ski introduces himself to the students and then proceeds to go around the room and become more familiar with each student's purpose for being at HACC. Dr. Ski makes mention of the possibility of having a deeper discussion over some lunch about the student's experiences at HACC, "You could kinda educate me, 'cause I need to learn a lot of stuff." he says. Issac Patterson, President of the SGA had the following to offer on President Ski: "My leadership 226 course discussed the ability of a leader to make individuals feel like the most important person in the room when talking to them. I found that Ski does this very well... with his style of engagement in personal communication and body language." Patterson goes on to say that "The amount of time that he has spent researching each campus individually and listening to others is very impressive and only shows his commitment to his work... there is a fine line between being presidential and personable; and he has found his niche on that line."

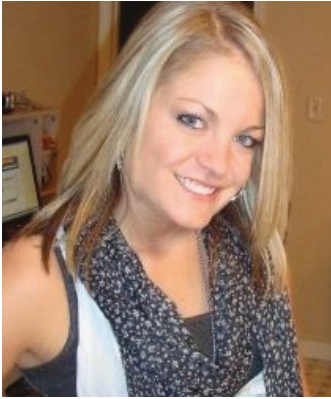
Though Dr. Ski's quick visit this time around did not allow for a personal interview, the tour did give us a chance to meet this new leader. The Cannon hopes to have an opportunity to provide a personal interview with Dr. Ski in future issues and looks forward to watching HACC continue to grow and flourish under his leadership in the coming years.

*Ski talks with VP Jennifer Weaver .
(Inset lower right) Ski talks with Professor Chris Esgar*



Former Scholarship Recipient Tells Students What to Expect "On The Other Side..."

By Chonda Stevens



Many students who plan on transferring to a university wonder if the atmosphere is going to be the same as it is at HACC. To get someone's perspective on this topic I interviewed a former graduate from HACC, Caitlin Palmer, about her experience transferring to Shippensburg University, more affectionately known as, Ship.

Caitlin, a 21 year old student who received her Associates Degree in Business Administration here at HACC, was the 2010 recipient of the Coca-Cola Scholarship. This East Berlin native, graduated from Bermudian Spring High School. Caitlin is currently majoring in Healthcare Administration with a minor in Public Administration at Shippensburg. Aside from attending school full-time, she works part-time as a server at Kyle's Kitchen.

To start our interview, I asked Caitlin if the courses are more difficult on the other side, that is, at a 4 year university. Many students would be relieved with her response. She feels that most courses are very similar to those she took at HACC. She said, "The upper level coursework is more difficult, but is a progression from earlier classes." She also explains that her study skills she learned at HACC have helped her with her classes at Ship.

I then asked her if she is more focused and motivated being away from family and friends. Even though Palmer commutes, she feels that it is easier to find focus at school rather than at home where she can be easily distracted.

One thing she finds in common with the two campuses is the number of activities held for students; therefore, she believes managing time is important. Due to these similarities, Caitlin has been able to maintain the same grade average she received at HACC.

I then asked her if she finds herself having more or less homework, she replies, "I have found that I need to study more hours, but the amount of work is not too much different. The amount of actual homework varies between classes." Caitlin is taking four and five classes during spring and fall semesters, as she did at HACC, though in the summer, Ship splits their semester into three terms and she is able to take up to six classes.

I ended our interview with the closing question, "What do you think the biggest difference is between HACC and Shippensburg?" Palmer feels that since HACC is smaller than Ship, her experience here is more personal. She says she is very glad she started her college career here at HACC because it gave her the tools she needs to succeed. Given the similarities between a community college and a university, students should be fearless and well prepared to transfer.

Art On Campus March Exhibit Features Three Female Artists By Jasmine Aguilar

For the month of March, the art exhibit of HACC Gettysburg will be presenting a mixture of art - abstract paintings, copper enameled sculptures, and stained glass - thanks to the participation of three artists: Susana Amundarain, Prudy Smith, and Gretchen Lopez. The exhibit this time for March will solely feature female artists since the art exhibit will coincide with Women's History Month.

HACC Gettysburg displays a wide range of art. There are three main exhibit locations that each show off the type of art it was built to display. The exhibit hallway or the main drag from the Hub to the Admissions office displays visual art and photography. The Learning Commons and the reading lounge area hold gallery rods for hanging art such as stained glass, quilts, and other textiles that are mainly for the purpose of hanging. A display case that is also located in the Learning Commons displays an assortment of pottery, jewelry, and other small objects. Each artist will have her art displayed in one of the three art exhibit locations.

Claiming the exhibit hallway is abstract painter, Susana Amundarain. Her paintings will take up the majority of the nine gallery panels and in several cases, will actually claim the space of one full large panel. So her art work will no doubt be truly significant in size. Amundarain's paintings will be related to scenic design. It can be safely assumed that she will have plenty of abstract paintings to offer showing the South Central Pennsylvania community right here at HACC Gettysburg.

Stained glass artist Gretchen Lopez will have her art displayed on the gallery rods of the Learning Center and reading lounge area. Lopez, who specializes in stained glass states that her work is inspired by the natural elements precisely of wind, wave, and earth. Her stained glass can be divided into two themes: abstract and representational. Lopez's abstract art hinders the flow of glass as well as its movement of nature. On the contrary, her representational art leans more toward reflecting elegance and grace.

The library display case will show off the copper enameled sculptures. These sculptures are done by sculptor Prudy Smith. Each piece can be assumed as an abstract piece of art. The foremost materials that Smith prefers to use are copper, silver, and glass enamel. On certain occasions, she will use clay or natural elements as materials in her sculpting. Every single piece takes continuous patience as there are a few steps in the sculpting process that require a patient mind. First, the metal has to be cut, forged and welded to the sculptor's preference. The artist then uses a process called forging. This is softening the metal by applying heat with a torch and finally hammering the metal into the desired shape. Repeating the forging process many times is a requirement. When this is accomplished, glass enamel is applied to the surface. The enameling process can easily resemble painting as in using a paint brush to paint a picture. This process consists of sifting ground glass (aka, the enamel) directly unto the metal surface. Next, the piece is placed into a kiln which is set on 1450 F. This process takes a mere 3-5 minutes. However, this process is another step that must be repeated. In this case, repeating is necessary to make sure the desired color effect is accomplished. Smith has gathered skills in metal work from teaching art at Littlestown High School. To create and refine form, she uses hammers, torches, and files as sculpting instruments. When each piece is done, every single one stands out as a one of a kind masterpiece that encourages the natural curiosity and wonder of its observers.

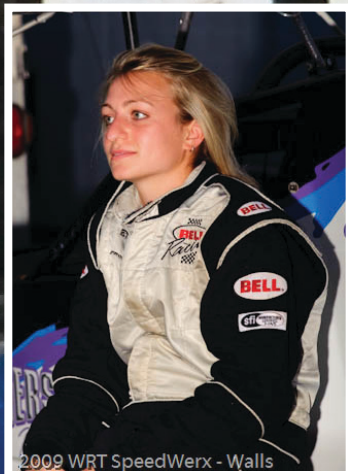
The art exhibit will kick off March 14 and will last until May 16 giving 6-8 weeks of viewing to all who are able to pass by the three types of masterpieces on a daily basis.

For more detailed information about the March art exhibit, an art reception will be held April 6th at 6-7 pm. Light refreshments will be provided and each artist will be present to answer questions. The students and staff of HACC as well as the community will be able to gain new knowledge of the artists' work. For the people who are interested in learning more about the work of Prudy Smith, please note that Smith will not be able to attend the art reception since she has recently transferred from the Adams County area of 35 years to North Carolina to be closer to her family. Her website is www.prudysenamels.com if anyone wishes to know more information of her copper enameled sculptures and the complete process

This is a FREE and informal meeting to get to know the artists and the unique art-work they each are a part of. Hopefully this art exhibit as well as the reception will bring people forward to appreciate and grasp a better understanding of the abstract paintings, stained glass, and the copper enamel pieces that will be featured.

BRIANNA HERSHEY

by W. Jeff Crawford



2009 WRT SpeedWerx - Walls

The engines fire up with a rambunctious growl enough to disturb even the most sedate fan. A noxious mixture of spent fuel smells, muddy silt, and gleaming steel causes all spectators to take notice instantly to the event that is about to happen before their eyes. Cars slowly ascend to the line while the drivers press more fuel into the carburetors that propel the sprint cars at high speeds around a somewhat oval speedway that seems more like a horse race track than one created for vehicles. As the lights drop down, the drivers begin to throttle higher and higher, waiting for their moment to jump into action. With that, they're off, whizzing away around this muddy track with hundreds of pounds of torque vibrating closely to their bodies and directly under their feet. As a spectator here in Central PA, a hotbed of sprint car racing, one might expect to see just the darkest shades of machinery whipping by them in tight formation as they drift ever so closely to the wall that borders the in-field area. But no, not all of these machines are so drastically dressed in maniacal design of approved sponsors. One top fin stands out in the pack, especially because it's mostly noted leading at the front of the pack. The words, while barely readable, are standing out better and easier on each turn. The words "Watts 97" seem to always continue leading. Old hands to the racing experience notice the numbers and that leads them to thrust cheers from their diaphragms. And when the checker flag drops and the driver emerges, some newcomers to the sport begin to realize that the leader of the pack is not a three decade veteran of the muddy turns, but a beautiful and vibrant young woman. Her name is Brianna "Brie" Hershey and she is also a HACC student studying Mechanical Engineering.

Brianna, or Brie, a nickname earned through years of developing relationships with many in the sport, has been around sprint car racing all of her life. She was quite literally born into the sport. Beginning at the early age of 5, Brie loved the speed. Her first endeavor into the racing world included driving smaller designs of the same car she drives today, simply called "quarter midgets". Her father, who has been involved in the world of racing beyond all of Brie's life, is one of her major influences. With his own racing team on the sprint circuit, he has quite easily transformed his daughter's simple love of the sport into her own racing division.

One look at her without racing attire might lead you to believe that she is nowhere near a high-output engine at any time during her days. A beautiful young woman with quite the intellect doesn't seem to be the type you would consider monopolizing such a rugged sport like racing. But as the rule usually goes, looks can, and in the case of Brie Hershey, are deceiving. So, to have an outstanding talent in one field that isn't typical for bright, beautiful women makes her even more amazing. One would expect her to consider a career in modeling over the dirt, grime, and oil soaked experience of sprint car racing. But taking a look at Brie throughout her life will help to understand better the vibrant woman she has developed into.

Traveling through various states like Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and Indiana with her father, Brie discovered very early on that the racing life is something she is passionate about. You can almost imagine that the early life for anyone, while at the most impressionable, can be the catalyst for lifelong dreams and aspirations. And since Brie was involved with the fast-paced lifestyle of sport driving, she found her love. A love she keeps with her until this day.

But sometimes with similar pleasures comes divided loves. While Brie was racing the circuit in her younger years, she found out that her full support system wasn't always available. Her father, for whom she loved and most admired especially for his own love of racing with his sprint team, wasn't always able to make the trips to support his daughter's racing. A decision of that caliber, for any parent, is always difficult, especially when it involves the one thing that most aligns the two souls involved. But the conflict only existed partially because it involved those things that they loved most. When Brie's father had to race on a weekend that she was also racing, he knew he would have to choose the race team he had vested interest in. This kind of decision didn't bother Brie, as she continued to tear up the midget and junior leagues with her driving prowess and vigor. She also knew that her mother and their adorable yellow lab, Axle, were in the field, cheering for her to win. When her father had weekends free, he was invariably by her side, assisting in every possible capacity.

When Brie was 12 years old, an interesting transition occurred. She was given a chance to step up and race the larger 270cc model sprint cars. During her first attempt at racing these larger vehicles, she was able to finish in 7th place, a feat not easily duplicated. Her win was following on the heels of the 3rd fastest qualification during the Quarter Midget Dirt Grand Nationals, another spectacular feat. But before Brie would go on to race the larger series, she would go on to win the 2005 Regional Championship in quarter midget racing.



WRT SPEEDWERX - WALLS

SPRINT CAR DRIVER - HACC STUDENT

Once her 14th birthday arrived, many more opportunities opened up for Brie. Now at a legal racing age, she was able to race more and at more venues. She also finally upped her class to the 600cc machine, a much bigger version of the cars she had been racing all along.

One of the proudest events took place when she was offered schooling at the Lyn St. James Driver Development Program (now called the Complete Driver Academy) in 2007, a foundation dedicated to teaching outstanding young women in the sport of racing how to continue to pursue their career more successfully. Brie was provided a full scholarship from the Women's Sports Foundation, a non-profit group founded by tennis great Billie Jean King and dedicated to the betterment of women in sports.

It wasn't until late in 2008 when Brie finally got behind the wheel of the full-sized sprint car. At this time, she had just finished up her training at the Lyn St. James Driver Development Program at Bondurant School of High Performance Driving in Arizona. This achievement allowed her to hit the ground running and continue to push for the larger cars as her full-time position. In 2009, she received a grant from the Lyn St. James foundation, the Project Podium Grant, in order to continue on with her goals as a 358 sprint car driver here at home.

And her quest for domination of the sport continues. She has raced most recently at local tracks such as Williams Grove, Lincoln, Susquehanna, and Trailways Speedways. Her love of the racing keeps her in the game, for as long as one could possibly expect. But there are other interesting aspects to learn about Brie, besides just the statistics and wins.



One very interesting story of note is a time when Brie won a qualifying heat in order to compete in actual race. When the car was inspected after the qualifier was over, it was revealed that a large piece of silt or clay was wedged firmly under the accelerator, causing a blockage of the pedal and not allowing for the highest amount of throttle during the race. With that sort of power riding so dominantly on how much gasoline can be distributed throughout the engine, a blockage of this sort could have been devastating. But through cunning and driving intellect, Brie was able to make the best of the situation and snag a win in the qualifying heat.

Racing is expensive. It's more expensive than most other sports around. The price tags on most items are enough to make your jaw drop. So when asked about how expensive it was, Brie explained the situation, "I was told 'Speed is expensive. How fast do you want to go?'"

Since Brie's is a small budget racing team, they rely heavily on parts fabrication and limited financial burdens. Simply put, if they can manufacture the part themselves, they will do it. This ideology makes more sense than trying to buy the same part for hundreds or thousands more. The benefits also outweigh a straight purchase, simply because you know your own work. If something is going to fail, you'll know why better than the manufacturer who puts out several hundred of the same part per year.

Some other refinements (or constraints, depending on the overview) help to keep costs down. Since the team is limited to two cars, the completed race car and a backup, it helps to keep the costs of numerous parts down. The team pit crew is manned by volunteers and folks interested in seeing Brie win each week, and that also helps to keep the costs down instead of having to pay out high salaries.

One would believe that a sport dominated by male drivers, who tend to be more outrageously competitive, would have more of those same males looking to wipe out a female competitor. But according to Brie, this just isn't the case. More of the different drivers, while still working at competing, take a more mild and familial affection to her. And since she is a driver who leads, she is also taken very seriously. No real instances stand out to her of times when someone brought the idea of gender into the argument. The idea flows more like tight-knit families of racers who want to see each other succeed in their own right, but still strive to be #1.

Her father, who has been in the racing world for many years, has recently taken time out from his own race team to continue to push his daughter to new heights and challenges. His dedication to her racing career is evident by the sheer amount of wins she has been able to achieve. Without the love of a family backing you, sometimes a sport like racing could make one feel barren and empty.

And without the support of sponsors, the enormity of costs could break the family bank. It's no wonder the team has asked companies like Watts Technologies and Bell Helmets to help supplement their financial needs. Her two major sponsors have stuck by her now for some time, and it looks as though they will continue to stick by her. They must quite well believe in her spirit and ability to drive to win.

You would think that someone who has this much going on would have no time to enjoy the other fun things in life. So what does one, who has a life so full of school and a successful career in racing, do for fun? "Skiing, dancing, and chilling at the beach," explains Brie. She also likes to treat herself to strawberry shortcake and uses chocolate milk as her energy on and off the field.

Sprint car racing is a sport not to be taken lightly. Many injuries and more serious issues can happen with this kind of sport. But the addiction and adrenaline help to open up the door to more and more spectators each year which, in turn, brings more fans to the notable 97 car.

Readers can find Brie racing on Fridays and Saturdays, March to November every year, on different tracks throughout Central PA.

Brie Hershey's website can be found by visiting: <http://www.briehershey.com>



Forum Trolls... Pay the toll



By Kristian Smith

This is the age of social media, cyber communities and online research. The majority of these services are available to us for the low cost of a monthly internet fee and tolerating the occasional blinking advertisement on the side of the page we are accessing. With new frontiers there are opportunities for new crimes: digital piracy, copyright infringement, identity theft. Like crime that happens in the physical world, many of us can avoid being victimized by staying in the right neighborhood and acknowledging that most things that are too good to be true, are in fact not true. This applies to pop up ads that tell us that we are winners or that they can remedy our endowment insecurities for the low price of 4.99 a month. The toll I am concerned with is the intellectual toll that we pay the forum trolls whenever we go searching for information.

A forum troll (n) or trolling (v) is a person or act with the sole purpose of adding conflict to an issue or to garner the poster attention that is typically lacking from their unimpressive social or family lives. The sheer size and often anonymity of the internet lends the troll all the safety they need to freely spew vile rhetoric, racial slurs or whatever else they feel they need to do in order to elicit a response to their post. When responded to, even if the response is completely lacking in hostility, you can expect a reply along the lines of, "UMAD BRO?!?!?" or, "LAWL."

These social deviants are protected by forums that allow users to post without providing accurate contact information. Of course, their words are protected by the first amendment. Anyone is free to say whatever they please. The issue at hand is not a legal one; rather it is a matter of ethical consideration. How many of these people would actually write this filth if their REAL name and photo were sitting right there next to their post? Should we really have to pay the toll of sifting through an immeasurable volume of baseless mental diarrhea to access a real intellectual debate on a forum? Debate is the cornerstone of our whole political and legal system. It is one of the things that make this country great. Would you willingly sit through a presidential debate if one of the candidates were wearing a paper bag over their head with a happy face drawn on it?

Why don't the forum moderators put a stop to it? The answer is money. Let's say you are looking for a forum debate regarding Pro-life vs. Pro-choice. The forum thread is 18 pages long. Every other post is some nut with a screen name like, "l8urb4by" who is adding nothing but off topic quotes about porn and making fun of dead babies. However, the actual discussion is insightful and thought provoking. So you are resigned to navigating through 18 pages of a thread that only has 9 pages of information you want. Every time you load a new page of the thread, 4 side bar advertisements load. Every advertisement gives the people running the forum a nickel. By not removing the troll's posts, the forum has made \$3.60 off of your time instead of \$1.80.

There are several ways to combat this phenomenon. The easiest and least committal would be to never respond to a troll's post. "Feeding" the trolls is the most direct way to add to their sense of power and ensure that they will continue posting. A more drastic and time consuming method is to only visit forums with a thorough application process and extremely active moderators. The latter will most assuredly limit the quantity of material you have at your disposal, but it will inevitably increase the quality.

Country Mouse, City Mouse From HACC Gettysburg to HACC Harrisburg



By Lindsay Klotz

There are many thoughts that run through a student's mind when considering attending a larger campus that is farther from home. The words, large commute, gas money and weather advisories, come to mind. There is also a feeling of wanting continuity. Leaving your friends and professors for a much bigger adventure at a larger campus is not always the easiest thing to do. After attending a school like HACC Gettysburg for a semester or two, you begin to feel you are in a happy place among the hustle and bustle of the other students. You feel comfortable and content with what you are used to, but then all that is thrown off when the idea of transferring to another campus arises.

Such a decision may come about when considering a transfer from a smaller campus like HACC Gettysburg to a larger campus like HACC Harrisburg. And this occurs often because quite a few degree programs may be started on the Gettysburg campus but must be completed by attending classes held only on the Harrisburg Campus. Between the two campuses there is a definite difference. Just driving up Route 15 toward Harrisburg, a person can slowly see the change from a rural landscape to a more populated urban environment.

Both campuses have their distinct advantages. The HACC Gettysburg campus provides a closer connection with professors, making everything more accessible and cozy. If you like smaller crowds, the Gettysburg campus is much more personable. Always being able to find a tutor to assist you at the tutoring center or a professor at his or her desk during office hours for any impending questions is very helpful. Yet because HACC Harrisburg is much larger, it offers more classes to choose from and some great resources. The arts building is very popular. It has a great selection of local art hung throughout the halls and a wonderful theater that serves as a venue for local and regional concerts and plays. Also, if you are more prone to a city environment, the Harrisburg campus is only a five to ten minute drive from the state capitol, the state museum, and the Whitaker Center.

Last semester, I attended classes at both the Harrisburg and Gettysburg campuses. Though the campuses were different, I found them each to be a very satisfying experience. The Gettysburg campus provided me with two of my favorite professors and sipping a cup of coffee at the Ragged Edge while sitting next the fireplace was one of my enjoyable pastimes between classes. At the Harrisburg campus, however, I found gorgeous landscaping with large trees, which are great to study under when the weather is warmer. The much larger library has a great selection of books and the top floor is a perfect study spot that looks over the whole campus. Through both of these campuses, I was able to meet a wide variety of people. All of them are quite diverse in their own ways, but great people nonetheless.

Do you prefer a larger campus closer to the city, or a smaller campus in the country? I think it is important to know yourself and the kind of environment that suits you if you have a choice. But even if you don't have a choice and you wind up attending both campuses, you will find they both will offer you an education that will prepare you for a job or for transferring to a four year college at a manageable cost and both are attractive in their own ways. It might be in the smaller Gettysburg Campus amidst the rural countryside with the familiar faces, or the larger HACC Harrisburg Campus in a more urban environment and its exciting hustle and bustle. Either way, I think you will find what I found, a great education that will prepare you for the future.

If you are going to be attending school at Harrisburg, there are some economical ways to make the expense of the added commute work. You can find a friend to share in a carpool, perhaps someone in your major field of study whom you've met in class. There is also the option of getting a gas card at your local gas station, which can give you discounts on gas. Another way to save money is by packing your own lunch and snack, which can save you on average \$25 a week. And above all, if it's Spring semester, make sure you tune in to the local weather channels!

LIVE & LOCAL MUSIC

by Rachel Strum



THE STATIC TREES

IF YOU LIKE: Bob Dylan, Vietnam, and The Velvet Underground
INFLUENCES: Beck, The Beatles, and Bob Dylan

BIO: Local couple Dylan Whitlow and Nikki Barber is The Static Trees. From their folk inspired tunes to their spacey, hippie-driven instrumentation, these two have revived the once popular groove of the 60's. With their first demo release "Ideas in Reverb", they have made quit a path for themselves in the music world. Already performing at venues like the Googie's Lounge in New York, NY and the SoundCheck in Nashville, TN, the two have got quite a bright future ahead of them.

WEBSITE: mspace.com/thestatictrees



SHADOWED STAR

IF YOU LIKE: Greenday, The Ramones, and AC/DC
INFLUENCES: Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, Sublime, and Van Halen

BIO: What happens when four, thirteen year old boys get together and realize they share a passion for music? They form the Shadowed Star. One year strong and still kicking, the boys cover some of the great punk/rock songs from Greenday, The Ramones, and AC/DC. With homework and chores to do, it's amazing they find the time to practice and perfect their music. They are new to band individuality, but are in the process of writing their own material. Front man, Brandon Glorioso, says "Having a band is something he wants for the future." Watch for these 8th graders well beyond their years in producing music.

WEBSITE: shadowedstar.net



JULES KEHR

IF YOU LIKE: The Beatles and Nora Jones
INFLUENCES: The Beatles and Nora Jones

BIO: Former sax player turned guitar player, this twenty-one year old has a lot on her plate; currently she is a nursing assistant working to get her CNA. From the hectic life of a nursing assistant to the life of any twenty-something female, it's amazing she finds time to write flowy tunes that are intertwined with "hopeless romantic" lyrics. If anything, she just wants to "go with the flow of life." If something were to catch, in regards to her music, then she would drop everything and pursue it.

CAMPUS SURVEY: WHAT'S THE MOST AWKWARD SONG ON YOUR IPOD?

We went around and asked students what their most awkward song was that they listen to and listed below are the results:

BRIE HERSHEY, 19
Mechanical Eng.
Hide & Seek
Imogen Heap

SAMUEL MELCHIORRE, 19
Bus. Admin.
The Hamster Dance

JESS COSTAIN, 21
Humanities
You're My Honey-bunch
Jessica Castle

ISSAC PATTERSON, 22
General Studies
Funky Town
Lipps, Inc.

ANDREW SEYMORE, 19
Graphic Design
No Woman, No Cry
Bob Marley

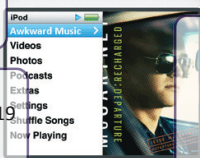
BAILEY JENKINS, 20
English
Sailor Moon
Theme Song
Moonlit Densetsu

MACKENZIE ECK, 21
Crim. Justice
Living In A Dream
Finger Eleven

BROOKE FLOHR, 20
Nursing
Bagpipes

DOMINIC VIA, 19
Sociology
Goodbye Horses
Q Lazzarus

ANDREA CROWE, 19
Elem. Ed.
Rockstar
Miley Cyrus



KENT FORRY, 18
Gen. Ed.
My Chick Bad (remix)
Ludacris

MARIA ZAVALA, 23
Business
Aladdin Song
Disney's Aladdin OST

ASHLEY WEST, 19
Elem. Ed.
If You Could Be Anywhere
Tom Felton

ASHLEY LAWYER, 19
Spec. Ed.
The Bad Touch
Bloodhound Gang

SUZIE ROTH, 20
Mathematics
If I Were A Bro
College Humor

JASMINE AGUILAR, 20
Social Science
Whip It
Devo

SARAH BISER, 18
General Studies
Sweet Transvestite
OST Rocky Horror Picture Show

JENNIFER JACKOWSKI, 28
Elem. Ed.
The Wall
Pink Floyd

RAQUEL SONTOS, 20
Sec. Ed.
Bottoms Up
Try Songz

DAVE BITTINGER, 23
History
Goodbye Horses
Q Lazzarus

ALISHA DIEHL, 17
Nursing
Harvey the Wonder Hamster
Weird "AI"

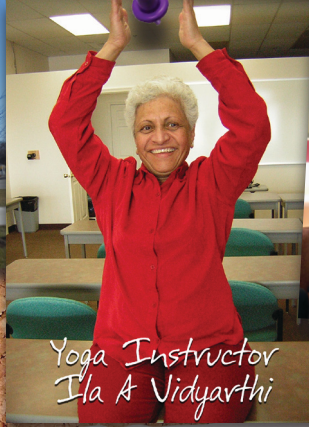
JANETTE LEON, 41
General Studies
Bachata
Aventura

LISA GRAHAM-HERRICK, 41
Psychology
Purple Rain
Prince

BRIAN DICKINSON, 19
General Studies
Gold Digger
Kanye West

JAMES CHAMPAGNE, 24
Pre-Med
You Are A Pirate
Lazytown

The Collective



To submit your photos for consideration,
e-mail them to: jeff@transdimensionalfilms.com

Upcoming Events HACC GETTYSBURG CAMPUS

March:

- 7th - Night Student Appreciation (5pm - 8pm)
- 8th - Night Student Appreciation (5pm - 8pm)
- 14th - Art Exhibit (thru May 16th; recognizing Women's History Month)
- 15th - Spring Open House (6pm - 8pm. Learn about HACC Gettysburg and enroll in classes)
- 17th - St. Patrick's Day Heritage Celebration (11am - 2pm in the Leader Lobby)
- 18th - Open Mic Night (6pm - 9pm)
- 21st & 22nd - Artist's Day (10am - 2pm)
- 23rd - Casa Abierta (Open House) (En Español e Inglés - In Spanish and English)
- 23rd - Night Student Appreciation (5pm - 8pm)
- 24th - Night Student Appreciation (5pm - 8pm)

April:

- 4th - Night Student Appreciation (5pm - 8pm)
- 5th - Night Student Appreciation (5pm - 8pm)
- 6th - Art Reception (6pm - 7pm. Recognizing Women's History Month)
- 20th - Night Student Appreciation (5pm - 8pm)
- 21st - Night Student Appreciation (5pm - 8pm)