

July 3, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EDINBORO UNIVERSITY TO HOST SESSION FOR ADULT LEARNERS

Edinboro University of Pennsylvania will host an information session especially for adult learners who are interested in attending college on Thursday, July 24, at the Girard Township Municipal Building on West Ridge Road. Representatives from the University will be on hand to discuss learning tips, employment trends and the needs of the adult learner. Displays, demonstrations, class schedules and curriculum information for both the graduate and undergraduate levels will be presented.

For more information, contact Todd V. Jay, at Edinboro's enrollment management and retention office at (814) 732--2213.

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July 10, 1997

NEWS ADVISORY:

EDINBORO UNIVERSITY TO HOLD SUMMER RETREAT

As part of its planning process for the 1997-98 academic year, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania will hold its 1997 Edinboro Family Summer Retreat tomorrow, July 11, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on the Centennial Hall lawn. With President Frank G. Pogue presiding, the morning sessions will focus on specific University goals and priorities including the strategic planning, budgeting and continuous improvement process. The event will also include a progress report from the University's 21st Century planning group.

The afternoon sessions will focus on 21st Century priorities which include enrollment management, student success, technology and community outreach.

President Pogue said the retreat will allow for a year-end review of success and failures, and for planning for a successful fall at the University.

Several invited alumni will speak during the luncheon on how college prepared them for success.

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EDINBORO UNIVERSITY
OF PENNSYLVANIA

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July 10, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HAROLD SHIELDS APPOINTED TRUSTEE AT EDINBORO UNIVERSITY

Harold C. Shields of Allison Park, Pa., has been appointed by Governor Tom Ridge to the Edinboro University of Pennsylvania Council of Trustees. His appointment was effective on May 13, 1997.

Shields, a native of Creighton, Pa., brings a rich and diverse background to Edinboro's Council. He is currently the manager of employment strategies, university relations and diversity at Alcoa in Pittsburgh, where he has been employed in various management and administrative positions since 1981.

Prior to Alcoa, Shields was employed by the Bucyrus-Erie Co. in both Glassport, Pa. and Erie. From 1971 to 1981, he was a news and sportscaster with Erie's WICU-TV12, as well as an assistant to Erie's then-mayor, the late Louis Tullio.

From 1968 to 1975, Shields worked for the Opportunities Industrialization Center, a community-based training program serving adult and underrepresented populations in Erie.

Shields holds a bachelor of science in education degree with a biology certification, and a master of education degree in guidance and counseling, both from Edinboro University, as well as training at the Advanced Human Resource Institute, Cornell University School of Industrial Relations.

His professional career began as a teacher at Erie's McKinley Elementary School and Academy High School. He also served as a board member and past president of the Erie City School Board, and as a member of the board of the United Way of Erie County.

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Active in community affairs, Shields is currently affiliated with Three Rivers Youth, Inc., where he is board president, and is also a board member and dinner chairman of the North Hills Branch, NAACP. He was also elected recently to the Board of Directors for the Edinboro University Alumni Association.

He is also a board member and treasurer for the National Association of Minority Engineering Program Administrators, and treasurer for the 1997 National Conference of the Women's Engineering Program Administrators Network.

Shields, his wife Stephanie and their four children live in McCandless Township in Pittsburgh's North Hills.

"I'm looking forward to working with Harold Shields in the interests of Edinboro University across all of western Pennsylvania," said Edinboro University President Dr. Frank G. Pogue. "He is a two-time Edinboro graduate and has a variety of professional and volunteer experiences, not only in the greater Erie area, but across the region and the entire Commonwealth. I am certain that he will be a most valuable addition to our impressive team of trustees."

R. Benjamin Wiley, chairman of Edinboro University's Council of Trustees and vice chair of the Board of Governors for the State System of Higher Education, said, "I've known Harold Shields for many years and know that he will be an outstanding trustee. In addition to being an Edinboro graduate, his prior experience in the field of education, along with his community-minded service activities in and around Pittsburgh, will bring additional perspective and proportion to the work of the Council."

Trustees at Edinboro University and the 13 other institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education are nominated and appointed to six-year terms of office by the governor of the Commonwealth with the advice and consent of the state Senate.





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July 10, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EDINBORO'S ON-TRACK PROGRAM TARGETS RURAL WOMEN STUDENTS

Fifty students from rural high schools in northwestern Pennsylvania will take part in a program July 13-17 at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania which is designed to prepare and motivate rural students for a college education.

According to Dr. Salene Cowher, chairperson of Edinboro's counseling and human development department, the On-Track program will help students – especially women – become aware of their academic and career potentials, opportunities and resources. The students in this year's program are sophomores, juniors and seniors from high schools in Erie, Crawford, Lawrence, Mercer and Warren counties.

Studies have shown that rural Pennsylvanians are far less likely to finish high school than those from urban areas. Rural women are especially at risk for dropping out of high school and not entering postsecondary education. They are four percent less likely than rural men to graduate from high school, and seven percent less likely to graduate from high school than urban women. Rural women are also 11 percent less likely than urban women to finish college.

Since On-Track began in 1992, every student who has participated in the program has graduated from high school and 90 percent have gone on for postsecondary education. Not only has it benefited students, some parents have enrolled at Edinboro University as a result of the program. One such person is Conneaut Lake resident Bonnie McPherson, now a graduate student in rehabilitation counseling, who is attending Edinboro at the same time as her daughter, Holly Mears.

Cowher, who serves as the program's project director, attributed much of its success to the staff members – all of whom were born and raised in rural northwestern Pennsylvania. She also emphasized that faculty and students from the counseling and human services department

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volunteered their time when no funds were available. Cowher said the entire effort by faculty, staff, students and members of the community has been highly collaborative.

The goals of On-Track include preparing rural female students to meet admission requirements for postsecondary education, thus enhancing their likelihood of attending a college, university or other school. The five-day program will feature several daily seminars on topics such as career assessment, financial aid, computers, multicultural awareness, and handling conflict. The evenings will be spent in recreational activities.

Cowher said one of the aims of the program is to increase awareness of the importance of skills in communications, math, reasoning and decision making. The students will also be exposed to time and stress management, study skills, learning strategies and interpersonal relationships.

Not only has On-Track served the rural populations of northwestern Pennsylvania, it has also served as a model for other rural areas. It has been presented as a model program at two state conferences and an international conference. Its high success rate has contributed to its recognition by experts in the field of rural education, including nationally-known author and researcher John Rubish.

Funding for the program was provided by a grant from the State System of Higher Education's Social Equity Office, which made it possible to operate On-Track as a residential program on the Edinboro campus.



July 10, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EDINBORO PROFESSOR TO HAVE COMPUTER ARTICLE PUBLISHED

Dr. Patricia Prather Pineo, assistant professor in the mathematics and computer science department at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, has had a paper accepted to the *Journal of Parallel Algorithms and Architectures* for publication in the upcoming special issue on optimization issues in parallelizing compilers.

The paper, "The Efficient Creation of Single Assignment Forms from Unstructured Code," describes techniques for transforming a normal computer program into an equivalent single assignment form, which allows multiple segments of the program to run simultaneously on multiple processors or on a computer with parallel processing capabilities. This in turn allows the program to be executed more quickly. Dr. Pineo has published several articles in this area and has presented this work at conferences worldwide.

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July 16, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DOROTHY FEIDLER APPOINTED TO HARRISBURG INTERNSHIP

Dorothy Feidler of Erie has received The Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS) appointment for this fall. Feidler, a senior psychology major at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, will work in the department of state's legal ^{counsel} ~~council~~ office for deputy legal council John Henderson, Jr. THIS is a 15-week program sponsored by the State System of Higher Education to enhance internship experiences in top policy-making state government offices.

Feidler is a non-traditional student who decided to earn a college degree after her four children, Vickie, Kristie, Danielle and Jordan, were out of high school. In addition to majoring in psychology, Feidler is minoring in sociology and also studying criminal justice and Black studies.

Her interest in politics goes back to her experiences in Canada in the 1960s when her husband attended dental school in Montreal. She said being able to look at the United States during the Vietnam war from the outside gave her a much different perspective on America's foreign policy and its news media. "I became aware of things that I wouldn't have if I hadn't lived outside the country," she said. "That set something burning inside of me with an interest in political affairs."

Although her career plans following graduation are not definite, Feidler said she is considering attending the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, to study for a doctorate in parapsychology.

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EDINBORO UNIVERSITY AGAIN NAMED AS TOP 100 SCHOOL

Edinboro University of Pennsylvania has once again been listed as one of the top 100 schools in the nation which offer their students the best opportunity to maximize their education. The 1997 edition of *Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges* lists Edinboro as one of only nine schools in Pennsylvania and the only university in the State System of Higher Education in its "One Hundred Colleges . . . Just Darn Good Schools."

Author Frederick E. Rugg, a former director of secondary college counseling programs for 20 years, based his list on interviews with 900 secondary school counselors. They were asked the question: "What colleges do you believe offer students the best opportunity to maximize their education?"

Rugg said this list is the most valuable in the book. "This is probably the most used and Xeroxed page in the U.S.A. on the colleges," he said.

In addition to Edinboro, the other Pennsylvania schools listed were Allegheny College, Haverford College, Juniata College, Moravian College, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Pittsburgh, Susquehanna University, and Washington and Jefferson College.

NAOMI JOHNSON NAMED EDINBORO VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Naomi T. Johnson has been named Vice President for Student Affairs and Student Success at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Before accepting her new position, she was associate dean of students at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Johnson earned her undergraduate degree in sociology from Moorhead State University and her master's degree in college student personnel from Ohio's Bowling Green State University. In 1985 she earned a Ph.D. in higher education from Arizona State University.

While at UC-Santa Barbara, Johnson also served as a lecturer in the Graduate School of Education. She began her career at Bowling Green in 1976 as an assistant residence hall director. Since then, she has held such positions as student resources coordinator, peer counseling coordinator, assistant to the vice president for student affairs, director of the campus activities center and assistant dean of students.

Johnson sees her role as helping to bring to life President Frank Pogue's vision of community that centers around student learning and student success. "We're preparing them to be leaders of tomorrow," said Johnson.

She said she will be looking at ways of using all of the staff of her division to be active participants in student retention. Also among her priorities at Edinboro will be working as part of a team effort to address enrollment issues. She said she will work to create a student affairs team and to serve as a facilitator of creativity, new ideas and innovation.

Johnson said she is looking forward to her new challenge. "Every day I wake up and am excited about coming to work. There is so much energy and enthusiasm to move forward."

She also noted that she and her husband, Earl Jacobs, have been ~~so~~ impressed by the friendliness and openness of the Edinboro community.



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July 21, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EDINBORO UNIVERSITY RECOGNIZES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Edinboro University of Pennsylvania recently named eight graduates as distinguished alumni at its annual Alumni Reunion weekend.

The eight honored were Charles Agnew, vice chancellor for development of the State System of Higher Education and president of the Fund for the Advancement of the State System; Karl Boyes, Pennsylvania state representative; David Mikolajczyk, vice chairman of Country Pure Foods; Judge Richard Payne, circuit court judge in Florida; Patricia (Knezevich) Sennett, art instructor at the State University of New York, Potsdam; Richard Siegel, former president of the Art Administrators of New Jersey; Bill Waldman, key animator for Walt Disney; and Umaru Wurie, ambassador for Sierra Leone.

CHARLES AGNEW, class of 1977, received his award in the category of business and industry. He began his career as director of development at Edinboro before moving to Gannon University as vice president for external affairs. He later accepted an appointment to Quinnipiac College where he directed successful multi-million dollar campaigns. He then served as executive director of the Foundation for Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and interim vice president for institutional advancement. In his current position he is the chief policy and oversight officer for development within the State System. Agnew is a member of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, the National Society of Fundraising Executives, and the Center for the Study of the Presidency.

KARL BOYES, class of 1959, received his award in the category of public service. Boyes taught at McDowell High School for six years before entering government as a Millcreek

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Township supervisor. He was soon recognized as "Young Man of the Year" by the Erie Jaycees and received an outstanding citizenship award from the Boy Scouts. After four years in Millcreek, Boyes went to Harrisburg as a deputy director of the Governor's Justice Commission. He returned to Erie as a county commissioner and in 1981 was elected to the Pennsylvania General Assembly serving the third legislative district. Since that time he has been the prime sponsor of numerous legislative proposals and has served on many committees. He currently is the majority chairman of the house finance committee.

DAVID MIKOLAJCZYK, a 1964 graduate of Edinboro, received his award in the business and industry category. Although his career began as a teacher in the Wattsburg School District, within three years he was an industrial engineer for Westinghouse. He moved rapidly through a series of progressively more responsible positions for such companies as Welch Foods, Stouffer Hotels and Resorts, and Nestle. He earned an MBA degree from Northwestern University and in October of 1987 became chairman of the Nestle North American Purchasing Council. He left Nestle to form and serve as president and CEO of Hadd Holdings, Inc., which later purchased Ohio Pure Foods. Three years later the company merged with another company to become Country Pure Foods, Inc. Mikolajczyk served as its vice chairman and CEO for nearly two years. Since January of this year, he has served as vice chairman, committee chairman, and board member for the company. As an active member of the community, Mikolajczyk has been a volunteer board member for Parmadale, a residential treatment center for children in Cleveland.

JUDGE RICHARD PAYNE, the distinguished alumni recipient in natural or social sciences, graduated from Edinboro in 1966 and obtained his law degree from Florida State University in 1971. He served in private practice in Florida for nine years, was a criminal court prosecutor and an assistant county attorney. He has been a trial judge since 1980 – serving first as a Monroe County judge for nine years before being elected to a six-year term as circuit court judge. In 1995 his fellow judges elected him to the position of chief circuit judge, which carries the duties of overseeing the administration of all court matters in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit.

PATRICIA (KNEZEVICH) SENNETT, class of 1956, is one of two recipients in the art education category. After retiring in 1996 with 35 years of teaching art at all levels from elementary through college, Sennett is once again teaching at SUNY-Potsdam, and also at the local museum this summer. Early in her career she was instrumental in vitalizing the Northern Zone Art Teachers Association. Throughout her career she has been a parent and a homemaker

while continuing to produce her own work and exhibiting extensively in local, regional, and national forums. She and her husband, Art, also a 1956 Edinboro graduate, have had two of their children go on to earn doctorates, and another become an attorney.

RICHARD SIEGEL, class of 1957, is the other recipient in the art education category. He earned a master's degree from Penn State, and both a master's and doctorate from Columbia University Teachers College. During his distinguished career he has filled the varied roles of artist, teacher, administrator, supervisor, and leader – roles he continues to serve today. In everything he has done there has been a common thread – to promote and advance art education. Over the years he has shared two beliefs with his students: "Learning never ends," and "To teach, one must never cease to learn."

BILL WALDMAN, a 1986 graduate of Edinboro, received the alumni award in the fine arts category. Since graduating from Edinboro, the Williamsport native has moved quickly through the animation ranks. While working for the Don Bluth studio he was a key animator for *Thumbelina* and *A Troll in Central Park*. At Warner Bros. he worked on many projects, including the animation of the Warner Bros. logo and *Carrotblanca*. In his current job at Disney he was the key animator on the John Smith character in *Pocahontas*, the Esmeralda character in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and most recently, the Hercules character in *Hercules*. As a student at Edinboro, Waldman helped to found the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity and design two homecoming floats – Alice in Wonderland, and The Wonderful World of Disney, which won first prize for his fraternity. He resides in California, but returns to campus often to lecture and screen his films.

Ambassador UMARU WURIE received a special recognition award for his work to his native country of Sierra Leone. After graduating from Edinboro in 1976 with a degree in geology, Umaru earned a diploma in mining exploitation at the International Institute for Aerial Survey and Earth Sciences, located in the Netherlands. He also studied in Wisconsin, Kenya, and in England at the University of Bradford and the University of Manchester. He worked for 16 years as a government geologist before joining the Sierra Leone diplomatic service and being appointed High Commissioner to Nigeria and Ghana. Since then he has been accredited as ambassador to Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, the Republic of Benin, Togo and Zaire. He was later appointed ambassador to Saudi Arabia, and high commissioner to India and Pakistan. Most recently he has been appointed the new ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as Austria, Italy and Switzerland. He and his family now reside in Germany.

July 21, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

NEW PARTNERSHIP PROMOTES LEGAL EDUCATION FOR STATE SYSTEM STUDENTS AT WIDENER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW AT HARRISBURG

Students at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and 13 other universities in the State System of Higher Education will have a head start on legal careers thanks to a new partnership program between the State System and Widener University.

Representatives of the State System and Widener University recently signed an innovative partnership agreement which provides special admission opportunities and scholarships for State System students who want to attend the Harrisburg Campus of the Widener University School of Law.

The new agreement assures admission to Widener University School of Law for qualified graduates of State System universities. It allows exceptional State System students to earn their bachelor's and law degrees in six years, rather than seven. Additionally, eligible students will receive approximately \$300,000 in renewable scholarships to assist with tuition costs.

"This partnership is an excellent example of collaboration between a private university and a public university system," said F. Eugene Dixon, Jr., chairman of the State System's Board of Governors, who also serves as chairman of the Widener University Board of Trustees. "Some of the System's best and brightest scholars now have the exciting opportunity of earning a fine legal education to complement their strong undergraduate training."

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Through the Express Admission Program, System graduates who have earned a bachelor's degree from a System university will be assured admission to the Widener University School of Law-Harrisburg Campus if they meet the appropriate requirements.

State System students will be able to earn both a bachelor's degree and a Juris Doctor degree in six years, rather than the usual seven years, through the 3 + 3 Early Admission Program. Students admitted to the early enrollment program must meet the same criteria as the Express Admission enrollees and also are required to complete a pre-law summer program at the Widener University School of Law.

Students admitted to either program are eligible for the renewable scholarships. Titled "Dixon Scholars" in recognition of the contributions made to Pennsylvania higher education by Mr. Dixon, these scholarships will offset 30 percent of the annual tuition fee for selected students. Up to 56 Dixon Scholars may be selected each year. Dixon Scholars may retain their scholarship each year, so long as they maintain a B-cumulative grade point average.

"This partnership between the private and public sectors of higher education steps beyond historical precedent in Pennsylvania," said Widener University President Robert J. Bruce. "It is an initiative for the future, and for the common good not only of the two partners and of the students who will benefit directly, but for the citizens of the Commonwealth. We look forward to welcoming the State System's students to the Harrisburg Campus of the Widener University School of Law, and to graduating those students into positions of civic leadership in the years to come."

State System Chancellor James H. McCormick said, "This partnership is tangible evidence of the System's commitment to increase access through collaboration, rather than expansion. With this joint endeavor, System students are better served with greater opportunities for advancement."

July 25, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

NEWS ADVISORY

Travel buffs who want up-to-date reports from Scotland will be able to find out the latest this summer on the World Wide Web page of Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Music professor Tim Cordell will be leading a group of 22 Edinboro area residents on a two-week trip to the British Isles starting this Saturday, July 26.

Cordell will make daily postings to Edinboro's Web page at: www.edinboro.edu/CWIS/music/ssa-Scotland.html. He will report on Scottish castles, museums, cuisine, music, entertainment, and of course, the University of Edinburgh. By using the Internet, Cordell said family, friends and armchair travelers back home will be able to follow the group's adventures in Edinboro's namesake.

The trip is part of Edinboro's Summer Study Abroad Program in Scotland and Ireland. The group will spend 10 days in Edinburgh and three in Dublin.

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July 28, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DR. THOMAS HARTIG NAMED EDINBORO ADVANCEMENT VP

Edinboro University of Pennsylvania President Dr. Frank G. Pogue has announced the appointment of Thomas H. Hartig, Ph.D., to the post of vice president for institutional advancement and public relations at the University. His appointment, which will become effective on August 16, 1997, comes at the conclusion of a national search that began nearly a year ago.

"Tom Hartig brings to Edinboro University's advancement enterprise more than two decades of experience in the fund-raising discipline, and his expertise touches each of the important areas of major and planned gifts, capital campaigns, grants writing, public and alumni relations, annual funds, corporate and foundation giving, and donor stewardship," Pogue said, "and he combines these talents with an impressive academic and administrative background in both the public and private sectors. One of the priorities I established upon becoming Edinboro's president last year was to establish a collaborative administrative team of individuals who appreciate and are sensitive to my goal of creating a student-centered, citizen-friendly environment. Tom is the newest member of that team and we welcome him and his family to the Edinboro University Family," said Pogue.

Hartig is the former vice president for institutional advancement at Albany Law School (Union University) in Albany, N.Y., where he managed an institutional advancement division operating comprehensive programs in fund raising, public relations, alumni affairs, governmental relations and donor stewardship. During his five years there, he increased private

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gift support by 74 percent and raised the funding to establish the first endowed professorship in that school's 148-year history.

Prior to Albany Law School, Hartig served as senior development director at Kent State University, as director of development at Stephens College in Columbia, Mo., as associate director of development for the Iowa State University Foundation, and as both director of grants, sponsored programs and advancement services, and director of corporate and foundation support at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa.

Hartig began his professional career in 1975 as editor of *Ohio History*, a scholarly journal of midwestern history, and later became the curator of history for the state of Ohio at The Ohio Historical Society in Columbus. In 1979, he became executive director of the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace Foundation in Staunton, Va., a presidential birthplace museum accredited by the American Association of Museums, and in 1981, moved to Iowa City where he served as executive director of the Iowa Humanities Board, an independent grant-making organization affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Hartig earned his baccalaureate degree at Alma College, Alma, Mich. He holds a doctorate from The Ohio State University – his major field of study was the history of American foreign policy – and attended the Université de Paris, La Sorbonne.”

His wife of 24 years, Jeannie, is a native of Pittsburgh and a graduate of Allegheny College. She has an M.B.A. from The Ohio State University and is currently assistant vice president and director of communication at The Sage Colleges in upstate New York.

“I have enjoyed a great deal of professional satisfaction and success in building and creating for institutions an internal and external community culture that is conducive to fund raising and I look forward to working with President Pogue and the Edinboro University Family in accomplishing our advancement goals,” said Hartig.



July 30, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**EDINBORO'S SHAWN AHEARN IN LEADERSHIP ROLE
AT SPORTS INFORMATION NATIONAL CONVENTION**

Shawn Ahearn, the coordinator of sports information and promotions at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, played a leadership role at the national meeting of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) held recently in New Orleans.

Ahearn, who has been at Edinboro since 1995, coordinated the general session for Division II schools, served as a panelist for the session, and led the discussion on Division II All-American teams. He said the general session covered many critical issues that affect only D-II SIDs, notably the need to have its own officers.

One of the most informative parts of the CoSIDA convention is a series of informal "table talks" where each table chooses a topic of interest to discuss with other directors. Ahearn co-hosted a discussion on working with external constituents. "We stressed the need to educate the public about the importance of college athletics as a way to involve the community in the university. It's a way of building a stronger relationship with the community."

Ahearn said athletics is like the front porch of a house – it's not the most important part of the house, but it's often the part the public sees first.

Next year's CoSIDA annual meeting will take place in Spokane, Washington, and Ahearn has been appointed to its program committee to develop topics for the 1998 event. Ahearn expects that meeting will see for the first time the election of a slate of officers exclusively for D-II to deal with such issues as corporate sponsorship of All-America teams, liaison with the NCAA and coaches associations, and oversight of the division's home page on the World Wide Web.

In a related development, CoSIDA judged an Edinboro football program as second best in the nation in its division. The award was presented at the convention in New Orleans.



July 31, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ARTISTIC CAREER INSPIRED BY FAMILY AND TRAVEL

When *Erie Daily Times* managing editor Tony Pasquale wanted a courtroom artist to add to his paper's coverage of the highly-charged murder trial of Jennifer Lynn Shaffer, he turned to one of northwestern Pennsylvania's most experienced artists – Susan Joyce Weimer.

Because the Shaffer trial was likely to be Erie's most emotional in years – Shaffer was subsequently convicted in the brutal death of her 3-month-old son – Pasquale wanted to add a visual element to his paper's trial coverage in a state that does not permit courtroom cameras. Weimer had just completed an assignment as a courtroom artist for the *Reading Eagle* on a case that was tried in Erie.

"It added a nice dimension," said Pasquale. "We were glad to have it."

Weimer has been an art professor at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania since 1969. Her artistic roots go back at least to her paternal grandfather Charles X. Harris, an artist who traveled extensively through Europe and later married his costume model.

"I was raised an artist, period," Weimer said emphatically. "I didn't know my father but he was an artist. My parents met at the National Academy of Art in New York City. I just knew I wanted to paint. Both my grandfathers and father are now listed in *Who's Who in Art* – I have always wanted to paint."

Other early influences while growing up in New York were her mother's best friend who was an illustrator for *Collier's* magazine, and a well-known illustrator for the *Saturday Evening Post*.

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She learned about cruelty and death as an aerial gunnery instructor in the U. S. Navy Airforce. After serving in the Navy, Weimer's formal artistic training began at the College of Wooster in Ohio. She completed her BFA degree in painting from Ohio University where she graduated summa cum laude. She continued her education over a number of years at the Cleveland Institute of Art where she studied painting, drawing, printmaking and design. She has earned a master's degree from Case Western University and the Cleveland Institute of Art. Weimer was awarded a graduate teaching fellowship to study painting and printmaking at Kent State University. During that time she was an art director at Karamu House in Cleveland.

From the earliest times of her career, Weimer has been inspired by artists such as Toulouse LaTrec, Rembrandt and Vincent Van Gogh and Edvard Munch. She has studied the works of Munch, Cezanne and Robert Rauschenberg. Her philosophy of art is deeply rooted in humanism.

"There are few artists who truly do expressive work with a humanistic bent in the contemporary conceptual art milieu," said Weimer.

Much of her work has focused on the complexities of modern women. In the past ten years she has produced several series of artworks based on women including "Women Under Stress," "Women Against Themselves," "Women at Work," and "Women in Anger." She won the juror's award for "Women Against Herself No. 1" at the 1990 Spring Art Show at the Erie Art Museum from Judith Stein, curator for the Museum of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

The inspiration for the series came from a graduate student of Weimer's who also posed for her. When Weimer learned that this young woman was experiencing stress in her life, Weimer wanted to find out more about this phenomena among other women. Taking the advice of friends who were doctors in the facility, Weimer went to the Clements Center, a medical care facility in inner-city Cleveland, where she drew women from the neighborhoods, by choice, mostly women and children. That led to the "Women at Work" series – an exhibition of photographs and paintings of women in working situations also exhibited at the African-American Art Museum in Cleveland.

It was critic Tony Bannon from the University of Buffalo, Charles Burchfield Center who said to Weimer, "You should do anger." From that came "Women in Anger."

Her works have won numerous national awards and have been featured in several one-person shows across the United States. Twice she has won honorable mention at the Chautauqua National Painting Exhibition, and she won the juror's award at the prestigious Hoyt

Institute of Art in New Castle. Her juried exhibitions have included the National Watercolor Competition in San Diego, the Pensacola National Portrait Exhibition, and the Butler National Painting Exhibition. Her solo exhibitions have been shown in Santa Fe and in England, as well as locally and regionally.

What sets her apart from other artists is her extensive travels – a practice she inherited from her family, the men and the women. Weimer went to Norway to study Edvard Munch, visiting his house in Bergen and viewing his murals in Oslo. She has been to Paris to study the great French painter Cezanne. Weimer and fellow Edinboro art professor George Pitluga escorted Edinboro students on numerous trips to Europe visiting Amsterdam, Munich, Vienna, Florence, Rome and Venice and recently in London, a Medieval Manuscripts Exhibition at the Royal Academy of Art. She has painted and photographed in the countries of Bahrain and Niger. She studied in Scotland on the Island of Mull, and at the Vermont Studio Center. During one trip to Africa she filled a sketchbook with drawings, painted 40 watercolors, took about 200 slides, and made a movie.

Twice she has been awarded Fulbright Teacher Fellowships, and has received three faculty research grants from Edinboro University to support her work in painting, drawing and photography.

Equally important to Weimer's life as an artist and her travels has been her career as an educator. Her career began in Cleveland as a specialist artist in the public schools. She then became art director at Cleveland's Karamu House. She continued with her graduate studies at Kent State University as a teaching assistant and ultimately joined the faculty at Edinboro University.

What does the future hold for Weimer? With retirement in the near future a possibility, Weimer continues to teach at the University. Currently she is showing "New Images," an exhibition of paintings including "Courtroom Scenes" at the Hoyt Institute of Art. She is considering renewing a gallery search in New York City, Santa Fe, and again, Paris and London researching the significance of form and content in the humanistic vain.

Two sons and her daughter have carried her spirit through their own adventures. Dale, her daughter, first served in the Peace Corps, in Niger, West Africa, then in Nigeria with C.A.R.E., where she met her English husband. They currently live in Bahrain, where he is an engineer with Balexco and she is in the commercial section for the U. S. Embassy in Bahrain.

Her son, Don, is institutional research director for Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His wife, Christine, is a lawyer for the Social Security Agency.

Her youngest son, Christopher, is director of the Employee Assistance Program for Denver, Colorado. His wife Connie is a specialist in teaching emotionally, mentally, and physically handicapped children.

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