

# STUDENTS in the SPOTLIGHT

*Two moms with different backgrounds have something in common: determination to continue an education*

**WHEN SHE JOINED THE PENNSYLVANIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD** in August 2001, Margaret Haydock was following in the footsteps of her father and grandfather. “I always wanted to join the Army,” the 25-year-old single mother said.

After completing basic training, she returned home to Nanticoke and began her college studies, but soon she was deployed to Afghanistan for a year. A member of an aviation unit, she refueled helicopters and was a door gunner, earning several service medals. When she returned home, she resumed her college studies, earning an associate degree in criminal justice from a local community college.

But Haydock had bigger educational goals and, with her GI Bill benefits, enrolled in Penn State Wilkes-Barre’s bachelor’s program in administration of justice. For her academic achievement and community service, she received the campus’ 2009 Outstanding Adult Learner Award. “To be recognized by Penn State is quite an honor,” said Haydock, mother of Makenzie, 4. She graduated in May and has been accepted into a master’s program at Marywood University.

## ***A Rebel Who Found a Cause***

Centrice Martin was named the 2009 Outstanding Adult Student Award winner at the University Park campus. While pursuing a bachelor’s degree in agribusiness management, Martin and her daughter, Mavalynn, had to make sacrifices, like missing out on playing in the park when Martin had an exam or class assignment. Martin believes the sacrifices they made will pay off in the future with a well-paying job.

The Bellefonte resident wasn’t always so dedicated to school and learning. “I was a rebel in high school,” she



Andy Colwell

*Centrice Martin (second from left) has had to sacrifice play time with her daughter for study time.*



The Picture People

*Margaret Haydock returned to school after a tour in Afghanistan.*



admitted. But after working several years in customer service, she realized “no matter how hard I worked, I wasn’t going to top \$10 an hour in pay.”

Martin graduated in May and is continuing her education this fall in the College of Agricultural Sciences’ master’s degree program in youth and family education.

Other adult learners honored in 2009 for academic and other contributions include Cindy Kosek, Jennifer Bodenhorn, Jeffrey Sexton, Pamela K. Ott, Ross Grady, Sueann Doran and Patricia Rutter at Penn State DuBois; Kristin L. McQueeney at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College; and Christine Washington at Penn State Mont Alto.

In addition, Dr. Jennifer Parker Talwar, Penn State Lehigh Valley associate professor of sociology, received the 2009 Superior Service to Adult Learners Award from the Penn State Commission for Adult Learners.

## Leveling the Field for Adult Learners

**IT CAN BE TOUGH FOR ADULTS**, with multiple responsibilities, to go back to school. Here’s the latest in financial aid:

- **A new Adult Learner Opportunity Fund** has been established to support outstanding adult students, aid their participation in internships and study abroad activities, provide book stipends, and support career enhancing programming initiatives. The goal is to level the playing field for these nontraditional-aged students.

“More adult learners would be willing to go on internships and participate in study abroad

if they had financial help,” said Leslie A. Laing, coordinator for Adult Learner Programs, Division of Student Affairs, and creator of the fund. Donations can be made online at [www.givenow.psu.edu](http://www.givenow.psu.edu). Select “other” for designation and enter code XXTOF.

- **The Osher Reentry Scholarship** program is providing up to \$2,000 for tuition to 30 adult learners at eight Penn State campuses. The program is funded by a \$50,000 grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation, which recently awarded Penn State a second \$50,000 grant for 2010.

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