



**Penn State Schuylkill
Community Report
Winter 2014**

Greetings and Happy New Year,

I am very pleased to welcome everyone back as we begin a new year, a new semester, and new experiences.

I want to take this opportunity to reflect on a successful summer and fall 2014, and a joyous culmination of our 80th anniversary celebration.

June marked the end of a seven-year fund-raising campaign, ***For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students***. Penn State Schuylkill raised more than \$4.7 million toward this effort, achieving 119% of its goal. This is an amazing accomplishment, and the result of a collaborative effort of campus, University, and community members, dedicated to the success of the campus and the students that we serve.

On April 30, we held a celebratory dinner at the Schuylkill Country Club to acknowledge members of the campaign committee for their hard work and dedication to the campaign. We were honored to have E. Lee Beard, vice-chair of *For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students* as the featured speaker for the event.

Our summer started off full-speed as we accomplished our final preparations for the visit of the **Penn State University Board of Trustees** for their July quarterly meeting. It was the first time the Trustees have visited the campus since 1992, and the excitement was felt among the faculty, staff, students, and local community.

Later in July, we were excited to announce the approval to offer two new academic programs, a bachelor of arts degree in **Corporate Communication**, and the **Accounting option** as part of our bachelor of science degree in Business. In December, we then received approval to offer the bachelor of science degree in **Biology**, bringing the number of baccalaureate degrees that can be completed at Penn State Schuylkill to seven.

We are also pleased to announce that we have added two new full-time faculty members. **Mr. Bob Allen**, instructor in business administration, received his bachelors and masters degrees in Business Administration from Temple University. **Brenna Traver**, assistant professor of biology, received her bachelor of science degrees in Biochemistry and Honors Biology from Eastern Connecticut State University, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Entomology at Virginia Tech.

Our **Radiological Science degree program** continues to be a popular program, always with a full entering class. We were delighted to receive notification that our program was awarded an eight-year continuing accreditation from the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). This is the maximum duration of accreditation awarded by JRCERT, and a result of the diligence of Mr. David Rill, program coordinator, and his staff, to ensure program compliance expectations.

Our students continue to build a better community by providing tens of thousands of hours of community service a year. In August, Penn State Schuylkill was named **Schuylkill Conservations District's 2014 Organization of the Year Award**. Additionally, on December 8, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) announced the **2014 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll**, with Penn State Schuylkill being named to the list for the second consecutive year. The students also continue to increase the campus' contribution to THON, the largest student-run philanthropy in the world. In the past three years, the Schuylkill THON committee has raised more than \$80,000 from the local community.

Our faculty members have been busy with research, presenting, publishing, and completing their own professional development. **Dr. Helen Hendy**, professor of psychology, has spent a decade publishing a number of research articles that document the effectiveness of the Kid's Choice Program (KCP). She subsequently published a book with her colleagues titled, "Reduce Child Obesity: A guide for using the Kid's Choice Program in school and at home," that gives school leaders and parents a practical guide for applying the Kid's Choice program. In a personalized letter to Dr. Hendy, **First Lady Michelle Obama** recognized Hendy and her colleagues for their work on improving the health of our nation's families and encouraging children to get active and eat fresh, nutritious food, in order to build a brighter, healthier future for our next generation.

Dr. Charles Cantalupo, Distinguished Professor of English, Comparative Literature, and African Studies, presented, "From Asmara 2000 to Nairobi 2014 – Beating the Odds," as a keynote speaker at the scholarly conference, From Asmara 2000 to Nairobi 2014, New Horizons and Trends in African Languages and Literatures, Kenyatta University. His documentary, "Against All Odds: African Languages and Literatures into the 21st Century," was presented at the conference as well.

We were pleased to host two more speakers for our **80th Anniversary Speaker's Series**. Mr. Tom Twardzik, president of Ateeco/Mrs. T's Pierogies, and Dr. Joe Jurgielewicz, owner of a local duck farm. Both gave insightful and interesting presentations to large audiences full of both campus and local community members.

In October, our campus hosted the second annual **Northeast Regional Career Conference**, Networking Luncheon, and Expo, a collaborative effort between Penn State Hazleton, Lehigh Valley, Scranton, Schuylkill, Wilkes-Barre, and Worthington Scranton.

This was a great learning experience for students to get a better idea of what to expect when they are ready to start looking for internships or employment. They were able to network with companies, attend workshops, and even interview for open internships or employment. Many thanks to the corporate sponsors for their involvement and support.

Our students continue to show initiative in leadership opportunities. In August, ten students were accepted to attend the 50th **Penn State Summer Leadership Conference** held at Penn State Berks. In September, the **National Society for Leadership and Success** held their annual conference, with student Bryan Underkoffler, and staff member, Tina Rose attending. In November, three students were selected, based on their academic performance, to attend the **Annual Robert D. Lynch Student Leadership Development Institute Conference** in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

We're very excited to announce that we will be adding two new varsity sports to our intercollegiate athletic programs. In fall 2015, students can participate in **women's soccer** and **men's wrestling**. Stan Cieplinski was hired this fall as the women's soccer coach and is actively recruiting for the inaugural season.

As the year of our 80th anniversary came to a close, there were many events for students, alumni, family, and friends. We held our annual **Alumni Basketball Game**, had our **Homecoming Picnic** with over 250 attendees, and hosted the **Essence of Joy Choir** concert. Then there was the final event, the 80th Anniversary **Gala**, with over 200 people in attendance at the Schuylkill Country Club. It was a night to give thanks to the local community for their support of the campus, and to celebrate the educational opportunities that Penn State Schuylkill has provided to over 11,000 students, as well as thousands of continuing education students, over the past eighty years.

Tom Verducci, senior writer for *Sports Illustrated*, was an engaging and entertaining keynote speaker, and attendees enjoyed vying over unique auction items, whose sales would benefit local students through scholarship funds.

It was a fitting end to a year filled with renewed relationships, a renewed sense of pride, and new beginnings. I am pleased to present the **Winter 2014 Community Report** that details all of the wonderful accomplishments of the dedicated and talented faculty, staff, and student population, as well as the commitment and pride displayed by the surrounding community.

Sincerely,



Chancellor
Penn State Schuylkill

SUCCESS IN ACADEMICS

We have had an exciting summer and fall semester at Penn State Schuylkill. In July, the **Penn State University Board of Trustees** held their annual meeting at our campus. Many faculty, staff, and students assisted with coordinating and hosting **campus tours** for the trustees and their entourage. The tours included three featured areas of our campus: **Showcasing Biology Laboratory; Highlighting Academic Excellence; and Sustainability at Penn State Schuylkill: The EPICS Project.**

Dr. Rod Heisey, professor of biology and program coordinator of Science, Engineering and Technology, our campus lab supervisor, and several students led visitors in an exercise that showcased our updated biology facilities. They visited the new biology laboratory that was renovated in 2010 with funds received from a grant through the National Science Foundation, a classroom that was renovated to an up-to-date research facility, and a new biology teaching laboratory that was constructed through the procurement of private and University funds.

Dr. Lee Silverberg, assistant professor of chemistry and assistant coordinator of the Undergraduate Research and Creative Accomplishments Program, and Dr. Elinor Madigan, assistant professor of Information, Sciences, and Technology (IST) and program coordinator of IST and Civic Engagement, highlighted some of Penn State Schuylkill's academic excellence programs, including: Honors Program; Civic Engagement; and Undergraduate Research and Creative Accomplishments. Student presenters gave brief summaries to the trustees on their research, a community project, and their accomplishments.

The final stop on the tour focused on sustainability. Last year, Penn State Schuylkill was a recipient of the Penn State University Sustainability Institute Reinvention Fund Grant. This grant, combined with \$25,000 received from the Office of the Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses, provided over \$50,000 that will allow Penn State Schuylkill to become a "living laboratory for sustainability." The project, known as Envision, Plan, Implement, Change, Sustain (EPICS), includes all sectors of the campus, as well as the local community and other Penn State campuses and programs. Dr. Darcy Medica, associate professor of biology and program coordinator of EPICS, the Honors Program, and Undergraduate Research and Creative Accomplishments, students, and staff presented on some of the initiatives that were being planned, including campus/community educational events, faculty development workshops, field trips, and courses centered on sustainability.

Later in the summer, David Rill, program coordinator for Radiological Sciences, and the rest of the instructional team in the **Radiological Science Program**, received notification of an eight-year continuing accreditation award from the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). This was the result of a self-study report submitted to the JRCERT, and an on-site visit last April. This is the maximum duration of accreditation awarded by JRCERT.

The first class of the accelerated **RN to B.S. in Nursing** program completed their degree program in August 2014. The program is now offered via video conferencing technology to the Berks and Brandywine campuses. As the group in August graduated, the first cohort of students from the Brandywine campus began their program. Our staff has been busy recruiting students at area hospitals and nursing diploma and associate degree program schools in our service areas.

The RN to B. S. nursing students have been active outside of the classroom by becoming involved with local organizations. During the summer, students from the Family and Community Health Concepts class participated in activities organized by Schuylkill County's VISION, the Power of Partnerships, and the Borough of Orwigsburg. We look forward to building this component of the program and partnering with other community-based organizations.

We are pleased to announce that thirteen of our students were invited to be inducted into Penn State's Beta Sigma Chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Four students accepted this recognition during a ceremony held on November 8 at University Park.

This year, the College of Nursing is celebrating fifty years of excellence in nursing, education, and research. This celebration included several programming events for current students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

After a very busy summer, we moved right into fall with some exciting news. **Two new degree programs** were added this fall to the growing list of offered programs at Penn State Schuylkill. The Accounting option of the bachelor of science in Business degree, and a bachelor of arts in Corporate Communication. The Accounting option will be offered in collaboration with Penn State Hazleton and Wilkes-Barre, and the Corporate Communication degree in collaboration with Penn State Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre, and Worthington Scranton. Courses will be delivered face-to-face, online, and through video conferencing.

The Accounting option focuses on the development and interpretation of financial information critical to managerial decision-making. It provides students with the skills and knowledge necessary to pursue careers in business, with an emphasis on the areas of financial and managerial accounting, systems and controls, auditing, and taxation.

Corporate Communication majors will be provided with the skills and knowledge necessary to prepare themselves for positions in editing, writing, technical writing, training and development, and public information.

Additionally, at the end of the semester, we received the long-anticipated news that the **Biology degree**, general biology option has been approved to be offered at Penn State Schuylkill. This program will begin in summer 2015. The program is available to current students, as well as to those pursuing acceptance beginning summer and fall 2015.

With the addition of the new degree programs, we welcomed two new full-time faculty members. **Bob Allen**, instructor in business administration, received his bachelors and masters degrees in Business Administration from Temple University. He is an education member of the American Institute of CPAs®, and is a licensed Certified Public Accountant in Pennsylvania.

Brenna Traver, assistant professor of biology, received her bachelor of science degrees in Biochemistry and Honors Biology from Eastern Connecticut State University. She went on to earn an M.S. and Ph.D. in Entomology at Virginia Tech. Her master's work focused on a gene drive mechanism in *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, and her Ph.D. work focused on a newly described microsporidian pathogen of honey bees, *Nosema ceranae*, which has been implicated as a potential cause for increased honey bee losses. Prior to coming to Penn State Schuylkill, she was a postdoctoral associate funded through a USDA NIFA Postdoctoral Fellowship at Virginia Tech. Her current research interests focus on how *Nosema ceranae* interacts with other pathogens, beekeeper applied pesticides, nutrition, and the immune system of honey bees, and whether these factors may be impacting colony losses.

The **Honors Program** co-coordinators for 2014-2015 are Dr. Michael Gallis, associate professor of physics, and Dr. Valerie Schrader, assistant professor of communications. A welcome reception was held on September 9 for thirty-six students that are participating in the program for fall 2014. At the reception, Dr. Charles Cantalupo, Distinguished Professor of English, Comparative Literature and African studies, and chair of the Honors Council, recognized three Schuylkill students for their acceptance into the Schreyer Honors College; Avril Cooper, biology; Harnoor Singh, biology; and Joshua Yom, English.

During the fall, the students attended the Pennsylvania Renaissance Festival, and traveled to Washington, D.C. to visit the Smithsonian Museums. For the upcoming 2015 spring break, they will travel to New York City to explore the city, visit many of the museums, and attend two Broadway shows.

Dr. Lee Silverberg, assistant professor of chemistry, took over the position of program coordinator for the **Faculty Research Series** in September. This year we have invited faculty from other Penn State campuses to present.

We had three excellent presentations this fall. In September, Dr. Hemant Yennawar, a faculty member from University Park presented, "X-ray crystallography - a microscope without lenses." In October, Dr. Michael Cardamone, professor of physics at Penn State Schuylkill presented, "A laser spectroscopist's satisfying and fulfilling career at Penn State Schuylkill (while keeping a sense of humor)." And our last presentation for the fall semester, "Mountains out of molehills: Designing pedagogical aids for introductory computer science," was presented in December by Dr. Jeffrey Stone, instructor in information, sciences, and technology.

The **Religious and Philosophical Forum** hosted three lectures centered on the theme, “Values and economics.” The presenters and their topics were “Hebrew scriptures and economics,” Dr. Steve Andelin; “The shadow of Hobbes,” Dr. John Sinisi; and “Ethics in business,” Dr. Mary Bonawitz. The program continues to be a popular event among the campus and local community, and we are grateful for the support that is provided by individuals and organizations.

On October 1, **Darcy Medica** assumed the role of interim director of Academic Affairs. Dr. Medica earned her B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Animal Sciences from Rutgers University. Her post-doctoral fellowship was completed in the department of Medical and Molecular Parasitology at the New York University School of Medicine.

During the 2013-2014 academic year, Dr. Medica served as co-coordinator of the Schuylkill Honors program, program coordinator for EPICS, the sustainability program at Penn State Schuylkill, program coordinator for the Undergraduate Research and Creative Accomplishments Program, and was the adviser for the Sustainability Club.

Dr. Medica and her students have been working on projects that examine different aspects of mosquito biology. Mosquitoes transmit diseases like West Nile virus, dengue and malaria, which are responsible for millions of deaths worldwide each year. They continue to look for ways to reduce the number of mosquitoes in the environment, or the number of mosquito bites, in an effort to reduce disease transmission. She is also working with Dr. Elinor Madigan on developing mobile apps for biology education.

On October 29, Dr. Susan Russell, associate professor of theatre, and **Penn State Laureate**, visited the campus and presented an interactive conversation titled, “Dignity: Changing obstacles into opportunities.” Dr. Russell’s presentation was about who we can be in the 21st Century, and how we can get there.

The Penn State Laureate is a full-time faculty member who is selected to appear regularly at University events and throughout the state at community and statewide events. The laureate brings an enhanced level of social, cultural, artistic and human perspective, and awareness to a broad array of audiences.

Members of the local community, students, faculty, and staff were invited to attend the Penn State Schuylkill annual **Informative Speech Contest** in the John E. Morgan Auditorium on December 3. Two students from each of the fall 2014 semester public speaking classes were selected by their instructor to participate. They presented their informative speech to the audience and a panel of three judges from the local community. The judges: Mr. Henry Nyce, *Republican Herald*; Mr. Thomas Cara, Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.; and Schuylkill County Commissioner Gary Hess, were provided with objective criteria through which they evaluated each speech. Stacy Greblich won first place with her speech titled, “Let the beat go on,” which informed people about heart disease and what to do in a heart-related emergency. The program was conducted by Dr. Valerie Schrader, assistant professor of communications.

Our faculty have been very productive during this time period. Their accomplishments are outlined in detail below.

Faculty and Creative Accomplishments

Bim Angst, senior instructor in writing, was invited to lead a writing workshop on "Narrative edges" for The Gathering at Keystone College in July. The Gathering is an interdisciplinary conference exploring timely themes; this year's focus was edges. Presenters and participants came from around the globe. Angst's workshop focused on using news reports as a way for writers to explore and develop plot and character, with participants collaboratively developing short narratives.

Angst published a piece of prose, "Bicycle commute," in print form in *Pennsylvania English*, and online on *Poets.net*. The story, which is both fiction and nonfiction (Angst really does commute to Penn State Schuylkill by bike), is available at <http://www.poets.net/2014/10/bicycle-commute-bim-angst.html>.

Dr. Harold Aurand, assistant professor of history, has published two manuscripts, co-authored with Dr. Dan Vice. "Models of resource depletion and ore price: A regional case study," in *Northwest Geology: The Journal of the Tobacco Root Geological Society* 43 (August 2014): 31-36, and "Restoring a lost sense of place: An interdisciplinary course in the anthracite coal region of Pennsylvania" in *In the Trenches: The News Magazine of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers* 4 (October 2014): 2-6

His book reviews include: "The Gateway Arch: A biography by Tracy Campbell," in *Society for Commercial Archeology Journal* 32 (Fall 2014): 37-38, and Walter David Greason's "Suburban erasure: How the suburbs ended the Civil Rights Movement," in *New Jersey* (Madison, NJ: Farleigh Dickinson University Press, 2013). The review is in *Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies* 81 (Autumn 2014): 537-540.

Dr. S. Hakan Can has been busy with publishing, facilitating and presenting at national and international conferences, and reviewing research.

Publications include:

Franzen, D. & Can, S. H., (2014). "Regional Comparison of Racial and Ethnic Perceptions of Police Legitimacy," *Journal of Race and Justice*.

Co-authored with **Dr. Helen Hendy**, professor of psychology, (2014), "Police stressors, negative outcomes associated with them, and coping mechanisms that may reduce them," in *Police Journal: Theory, Practice, and Principles*, 87, 167-177, and also "Behavioral variables associated with obesity in police officers," in *Industrial Health*, 52, 240-247.

Dr. Can presented, "Criminal justice applications on applied geospatial research," at the International Congress of Turkish Association of Geographers in Mugla, Turkey, June 4.

On October 25, he was an invited panel speaker for Gender Mainstreaming, and acted as co-facilitator of three workshops at the International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference in Orlando, FL.

Final Ph.D. dissertation defense for Governor Gokhan Ikitemur, University of Texas at Dallas, July 22.

Reviewed the following publications: "Obesity Warning for Police Officers" for *Police Practice and Research: An International Journal*; Schmallegger, F. J., (2015), *Criminal Justice Today: An introductory text for the 21st Century, 13/E* for Pearson Higher Education; 4th year dossier of a Penn State University College faculty member's promotion and tenure; a manuscript for *Criminal Justice Review*; and a blind reviewer for the prospective textbook, *Terrorism, Intelligence, and Homeland Security*, for publication acceptance for Pearson Higher Education.

Dr. Charles Cantalupo, Distinguished Professor of English, Comparative Literature, and African Studies, published, "The Reluctant Translator," Words Without Borders, <http://www.warscapes.com/opinion/reluctant-translator>.

In August, there was a film showing of his documentary, "Against All Odds: African Languages and Literatures into the 21st Century," at the scholarly conference, From Asmara 2000 to Nairobi 2014, New Horizons and Trends in African Languages and Literatures, Kenyatta University. Dr. Cantalupo was also invited to be a keynote speaker at the international conference, where he presented, "From Asmara 2000 to Nairobi 2014 – Beating the Odds."

Other presentations by Dr. Cantalupo this summer include: poetry readings, BerksBards, Reading, PA, July; "Africa Antetranslation," Cultural Affairs Bureau, Asmara (Eritrea), August; "Eritrea – Who Needs a Story?" Youth Conference of the People's Front for Democracy and Justice, Washington D.C., August; and Cinema Odeon, Asmara, Eritrea, August.

Dr. Cantalupo directed a three-day seminar on literary translation, sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, Asmara, Eritrea, August 13-15.

Cathy Fiorillo, assistant professor of theatre arts, spent the summer taking classes with casting directors of HBO, ABC, and Independent Films.

During the summer and the fall, she created, wrote, produced, and starred in her own web series called *Aged Fruit*. *Aged Fruit* is about three actors who return to the acting field after a twenty-year hiatus. The theme is universal in that a person is never too old to fulfill his dreams or passions. A person must find the courage to do so. The episodes aired in December on YouTube and Funny or Die.

Cathy also collaborated with the Student and Professional Development Committee to coordinate the 80th Anniversary Speaker's Series.

She held auditions in November for the spring musical, *Shrek*. Cathy and Marjorie Cotler, assistant director, completed the cast that includes students, alumni, and children of faculty and staff.

Dr. Peter Grahame, assistant professor of sociology, and Kamini Maraj Grahame, Penn State Harrisburg, presented, "Reconfiguring identity in a transnational world: Becoming Indo-Trinidadian," at Society for Caribbean Studies, Glasgow, Scotland, July 3.

Dr. Hartmut Heep, associate professor of German and comparative literature, has had two manuscripts published. "Crime and race: A cross-disciplinary analysis of Hispanic males and criminality," co-author: Pamela Black, *Sociology Study* 4.5 (2014): 461-70, and "Teaching the Holocaust as contemporary and contextualized lesson," *Journal of Modern Education Review* 4.8 (2014): 579-86.

He has also had two international invited lectures. In May, he presented, "Multiculturalism: What is the future of multiculturalism in the United States?" at Tunghai University, Taichung, Taiwan, and in August, "Consulting the Crystal Ball: multiculturalism post Obama," at American Consulate Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Dr. Helen Hendy, professor of psychology, published several works this period:

Co-authored with **Dr. S. Hakan Can**, associate professor of administration of justice, (2014), "Police stressors, negative outcomes associated with them, and coping mechanisms that may reduce them," in *Police Journal: Theory, Practice, and Principles*, 87, 167-177, and also "Behavioral variables associated with obesity in police officers," in *Industrial Health*, 52, 240-247.

Hendy, H. M., Williams, K. E., Harclerode, W., & Riegel, K. (2014). "Parent Attributions for Child Eating Scale (PACES): Psychometric characteristics and associations with child and parent variables," *Appetite*, 81, 312-319.

In a personalized letter from **First Lady Michelle Obama**, Dr. Hendy, along with her co-authors, Dr. Keith Williams and Mr. Thomas Camise, received recognition for their work on improving the health of our nation's families through their research of the Kid's Choice Program and the publication of their book, "Reduce Child Obesity: A guide for using the Kid's Choice Program in school and at home."

Dr. Hendy received a certificate for "Outstanding Contribution in Reviewing" from the journal *Appetite*.

Dr. Darcy Medica, associate professor of biology, and **Dr. Elinor Madigan**, assistant professor of information, science, and technology, presented their research, "Action research in an interdisciplinary undergraduate research project," at the bi-annual meeting of the Council for Undergraduate Research, in Washington, D.C., June 30-July 3.

Dr. Medica presented, "EPICS - developing a living laboratory model for sustainability at Penn State Schuylkill," as part of the NABT Global Perspective Committee's 2nd Annual poster session and Panel Discussion - Promoting Global Sustainability in the Teaching and Learning of Biology, National Association of Biology Teachers Annual Professional Development Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, November 12-15.

She was also Penn State Schuylkill's "Penn's Woods Fellow," and attended a training workshop at the Sustainability Institute at University Park in May.

Dr. Paul Miller, assistant professor of music, taught a workshop and seminar in jazz at the Justus Liebig University (JLU) in Giessen, Germany, in July as part of an annual and ongoing faculty exchange, a program that dates back to 2005. While in Germany, he was the featured guest performing artist as a pianist and drummer in three concerts (one of which was sponsored by the Jazz Initiative Marburg), and he directed a fourth concert that was presented by students at JLU. He also did some recording while in Marburg and Giessen, contributing to two different recordings.

In September, the exchange with Justus Liebig University continued as he arranged for Peter Geisselbrecht, professor of piano at JLU, to present a program for our students, the campus community, and the public. Professor Geisselbrecht spent an entire week in residency at our campus, meeting with classes as well as individual students.

In October, Dr. Miller was invited to Rider University to participate as a guest presenter and member of a panel in a film music workshop that was being sponsored by their department of Film Studies.

Also in October, he had the opportunity to work with several prominent musicians, including Los Angeles studio musician and keyboard artist Gary Nesteruk, New York vocalist Vicky Doney, and the Philadelphia jazz artist John Swana.

Mr. David Norris and **Dr. Renee Covell**, instructors in business administration, co-presented a seminar on June 18 titled, "Motivating others," to the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce. The seminar is designed to expand and enhance the skills of today's managers who are driven to bring out the best in their team.

In an effort to promote the bachelor of science degree in Business, Accounting option, Mr. Norris held open houses in July and December for current students. Recently hired accounting instructor, **Mr. Bob Allen**, gave a PowerPoint presentation, and Dakota Ramus, a current student with an expressed interest in pursuing an accounting career, was available to talk with students on why he decided to explore the Accounting option.

Dr. Cory Scherer, associate professor of psychology, published a book with co-authors W. Richard Walker, Winston-Salem State University, and Jessica Hartnett, Gannon University, in August 2014 by Kendall Hunt Publishing Company. The book, titled, "Pollyanna's Revenge: How memory and emotion foster happiness," challenges the modern belief that negative emotions and experiences outnumber and outlast positive emotions and positive experiences.

Dr. Valerie Schrader, assistant professor of communications, had her study, "Face-work, social movement leadership, and 'Glinda the Good:' A textual analysis of the character G(a)linda in the musical *Wicked*," published in *Studies in Musical Theatre*.

In November, she attended the National Communication Association Convention in Chicago, and presented her work on the musical, "9 to 5," with the Feminist and Women's Studies Division. She spoke about the connection between theatre and rhetoric as part of a panel with the Theatre, Film, and Multi-Media Division.

Dr. Lee Silverberg, assistant professor of chemistry, has recently published several manuscripts:

H. P. Yennawar, H. Singh, and L. J. Silverberg, "2, 3-diphenyl-2, 3-dihydro-4H-pyrido[3, 2-e][1, 3]thiazin-4-one," *Acta Crystallographica, Section E: Structure Reports Online*, 2014, E70, o638.

H. P. Yennawar, J. Tierney, and L. J. Silverberg, "2, 3-diphenyl-1, 3-thiazolidin-4-one," *Acta Crystallographica, Section E: Structure Reports Online*, 2014, E70, o847.

L. J. Silverberg, J. M. Rabb, J. M. Reno, and G. He, "Cyclopropyl Aziridines: Solvolytic Reactions of the N-Tosylaziridines of (+)-2-Carene and (+)-3-Carene," *Heterocyclic Communications*, 2014, 20, 193.

L. J. Silverberg, J. Tierney, and M. J. Bodek, "Use of Doceri Software for iPad in Online Delivery of Chemistry Content," *Journal of Chemical Education*, 2014, 11, 1999.

His presentations include two with co-authors at the Gordon Research Conference on Heterocyclic Compounds in Newport, RI, June 15-20, "Studies on Cyclic Six- and Seven-Membered 2, 3-Diaryl-1, 3-thiaza-4-ones," L. J. Silverberg, H. P. Yennawar, K. Cannon, C. Pacheco, and H. Singh, and "Studies on 2, 3-Diaryl-2, 3-dihydro-4H-1, 3-thiazin-4-ones with a Fused Arene," L. J. Silverberg, H. P. Yennawar, J. Tierney, C. Pacheco, R. V. Bendinsky, A. S. Cali, D. J. Coyle, M. J. Minehan, H. Singh, A. D. Cooper, and L. Chen, and one on his own research, "Use of Doceri Software for iPad in Chemistry Courses," at the 23rd International Conference on Chemical Education in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on July 16.

Mr. Robert Stickloon, instructor in art, won the William D. Davis Memorial Award for Drawing on June 21 at the 47th Annual Juried Exhibition, Art of the State® 2014, that was held at the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg. His winning piece, graphite and charcoal on paper, titled, “My Dad’s Plane,” was one of 122 pieces of art displayed at the exhibition that were chosen from 1772 entries. Art of the State® is a state-sponsored, juried competition that is open to Pennsylvania artists. Entries are accepted in five categories: Craft, Painting, Photography, Sculpture, and Work on Paper. Mr. Stickloon also had another piece chosen for display at the exhibit; “Motorcycle Jacket” is oil on canvas piece that measures 58 x 36 inches.

Dr. Jeffrey Stone, instructor in information, sciences, and technology, co-authored a paper titled, “Experiences with a Hybrid CS1 for Non-Majors,” with Tricia Clark, Penn State Berks. This paper was presented at the Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges-Eastern Annual Conference in York, PA.

Denise Whalen, instructor in psychology, collaborated with Kathy Miller, author of the “Chippy Chipmunk” series, to assist her in authoring a book in the series focusing on children's grief and loss. She wrote the letter to parents for the book, which is scheduled to be released in January. The book has already won a Gold Award in the Mom's Choice Awards in the category of Children's Picture Books: Growing Up / Personal Growth.

Academic Resource Center

Over the summer, the Academic Resource Center (ARC) administered the academic orientation and scheduling of all incoming freshmen and transfer students through New Student Orientation (NSO). NSO is a full-day event that orients the new students to academics, financial aid, billing, and student life at Penn State. The highlight of the day is that each student has a one-on-one meeting with an NSO adviser to discuss their goals while at Penn State, and to plan an individualized schedule to promote a successful first semester.

In August, Robin Welsh returned to the center as a full-time academic adviser.

As a result of increased advertising of our services, ARC staff, tutors, and facilities were fully utilized for the fall semester, and the center continues to have the highest number of advising and tutoring contacts of any University college campus. Additionally, all members of the ARC are teaching sections of and/or presenting on critical topics in First-Year Seminar.

The center currently has twenty-three nationally certified tutors for 105 course offerings. This semester we began to offer tutoring appointments in the “skills” areas to include: computer, note taking, text book reading, time management, test taking, and iMovie. Additional drop-in hours were also offered for some of these areas.

Advising continued to offer its Discover Program series by staffing information tables and presenting faculty lectures on various colleges and majors. The College of Agriculture and the Smeal College of Business sent representatives to meet with our students in the fall, and the College of Communication is planning a spring visit.

It has been an encouraging year for retention at Penn State Schuylkill. We have been working hard to help our students be successful, as well as working to encourage our students to remain at Schuylkill to complete their degree programs.

When comparing retention percentages at Penn State Schuylkill, our fall 2013 entering class was retained 21.3 percent higher than the ACT® national average. Additionally, we are 4.1 percent higher than we were in fall 2012, and 6.4 percent higher in two years, which is the highest we have been since fall 2008.

Community Educational Programming

Beginning July 1, Shannon Del Conte assumed the position of coordinator of the Continuing Education department. The department has been re-organizing and is taking an in-depth look at how we can best serve the educational needs of Schuylkill County. The primary focus will be on a diversified portfolio of programming within its main areas of credit, non-credit, youth, and company training.

This past summer and fall, there was a mix of several non-credit programs. Differentiated Instruction was offered to educators within the Pottsville Area School District, Teaching Methods for Cosmetology Educators was offered to students in New Jersey, and employees from Extol participated in a non-credit version of Dr. Madigan's project management course. Multiple offerings of the ServSafe food safety program took place this fall, and included instruction for both Boyer's Food Markets and MarLin Markets, as well as two public offerings.

In terms of credit programming, the campus's RN to B.S. in Nursing program is now being shared through video teleconferencing (VTC) with both the Berks and Brandywine campuses. These courses are being offered on Fridays in an accelerated learning format.

In partnership with the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce, the Continuing Education department helped to kick off the inaugural year of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) in November. This program is being held on campus for fourteen area youth participants.

On August 16, the campus community hosted a **Women's Wellness Conference** in an effort to provide educational programming related to women's health issues. Five dynamic female speakers, including a board certified plastic surgeon, a doctor of obstetrics and gynecology, a specialist in Naturopathy, an expert in managing stress and anxiety, and the director of Spa Operations at Walt Disney World, presented throughout the day, on topics concerning a woman's mind, body, and spirit, to the 100 women in attendance.

RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

The focus of the Admissions office for the summer was to complete the enrollment process for the fall 2014 class, and to continue recruiting for the fall 2015 class. During the fall, they added finalizing the spring 2015 class to their agendas.

For fall 2014, the campus brought in 311 new students. Some positive trends for the semester were maintenance of accepted students who applied directly to Schuylkill, which was right on target with last year's incoming class, and we had an impressive increase of 37% more out-of-state enrollments this year as compared to last year.

For spring 2015, the campus has seen an increase in applications and subsequent yields. Applications are up 38 percent, offers up 53 percent, and paid students up 55 percent. Additionally, fall 2015 applications have shown increases with overall applications up by 2 percent and Schuylkill County applications up by 6 percent.

Aggressive recruitment efforts for fall 2015 involved a number of strategies including: on-campus admissions events, service area recruitment visits and direct marketing pieces, out-of-state recruitment, application fee waivers, and planning for continued campus academic merit scholarships.

During the summer, we hosted three ***Spend a Summer*** events on campus. These are structured programs that are geared toward rising seniors who are considering applying to Penn State for fall 2015 admission. These visits were spread throughout the summer and were offered at various times of day and days of the week to provide a variety of choices for visitors. Over one hundred guests attended these programs, which included a presentation and campus tour.

Penn State Day Open House took place in October and hosted eighty guests. The program included an admissions presentation, staff and student panels, a classroom experience, campus tour, lunch, and application session. Penn State Day was a collaborative event, which required involvement from many faculty, staff, and students in order to be a success.

In November, we hosted an ***Athletics Open House***, which was a shared event between admissions and athletics. At this event, forty guests had the opportunity to attend an admissions presentation, meet campus coaching staff, take a campus tour, complete a free Penn State application, and enjoy a tailgate lunch while watching a televised Penn State football game.

Another type of on-campus recruitment event that was a great success during the summer and fall was hosted bus trips. During this time period, there were five scheduled group bus visits, which brought 150 guests to our campus. Bus visit agendas included an admissions presentation, campus tour, academic experience, and application session. Some bus groups were arranged at the request of organizations looking to bring groups to campus, and the campus hosted others in an effort to build applications from targeted geographic areas.

In addition to out-of-the-area bus groups, the campus also hosted several local groups of students who participate in the **Your Employability Skills (YES) program**. This is a program offered in our service area high schools that is sponsored by the Northeast Pennsylvania Manufacturers and Employers Association, and encourages students to make life plans for after high school. This fall, we had three YES groups visit from local high schools, Pine Grove, Pottsville, and Shenandoah, and they brought approximately seventy-five prospective students to the campus. The students were given application fee waivers for Penn State Schuylkill, and reminded that they receive a \$1000 scholarship if they have successfully completed the YES program in a local high school.

Maintaining a strong relationship with the guidance counselors of the local service area school districts remains a high priority. On October 31, eleven counselors, representing seven local high schools and agencies, attended the Penn State Schuylkill annual **Guidance Counselor Workshop**. The theme of this year's program was "*What do you want to be when you grow up?*" The workshop featured campus and university updates, and speakers from academic advising and career services.

Out-of-area recruitment continued to be an important focus for fall 2015 recruitment. From September through November, staff participated in twelve University-sponsored programs, sixty-one high school visits and high school college fairs, and seventeen regional and national college fairs. These recruitment events were held in New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, California, the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

Student Aid

The Student Aid office continues to assist students and their families with financial information for the funding of their education for the current academic year and for 2015-2016. During the summer, student aid staff assisted with the New Student Orientation sessions and Welcome Weekend by presenting during group sessions, and also meeting with students individually. In the fall, they presented to all First-year Seminar sections to help the freshmen class understand financial aid processes and expectations. In addition, financial aid nights were hosted throughout the fall semester at five local high schools, including: Blue Mountain, Mahanoy Area, Minersville, Nativity, and Shenandoah.

As a campus community, we continue to make great strides in improving our Veterans Services. Our campus is honored to receive designation to the **2015 Military Friendly Schools®** list. This is the third consecutive year we have been named to this exclusive list. The Military Friendly Schools® list honors the top twenty percent of colleges, universities, and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America's service members, veterans, and families. A primary example of these efforts on our campus was the addition of a Veteran's specific space this fall. The Veteran's lounge is located on the bottom floor of the Business Services Building, and is open to all veteran and military students.

The Student Aid and Veteran's Services teams hosted the campus's annual **Veteran's Day** program on November 11 to honor all those who have served and/or continue to serve in the United States armed forces. Over 100 people attended the event, including community members, campus students, faculty, staff, and students and teachers from Schuylkill Haven and Pine Grove area high schools. This event was a collaborative effort between the Penn State Schuylkill community, the Schuylkill Haven American Legion Post 38 and Veterans of Vietnam, and the students and faculty from Schuylkill Haven and Pine Grove area high schools. Featured speakers included campus students, Navy Reservist Dakota Ramus and Air Force Reservist Mehmet Can.

Recruitment and Promotion through University Relations

On July 1, Jodi Staller assumed the position of coordinator of public information and marketing for University Relations.

Throughout the summer and fall, the marketing and admissions staff have been collaborating to update campus marketing materials. In June, eCampustours sent a representative to the campus to update all the online campus virtual tours. Our web page now has full 360° views of updated campus facilities such as the Cotler Life Sciences Lab, collaboration and networking suites for information, science, and technology classes, student lounge areas, and the Nittany V common area. A total of ten new areas were photographed and updated on the website.

In following with the new University strategy of highlighting student "stories," we chose five students with different backgrounds to feature on full-size, seven foot high, portable banners. Featured subjects include: student life, study abroad, community service, adult/veterans, and athletics. These banners have been very well received by campus visitors, commenting on not only the student photos, but also the student information and how it puts a personal perspective on what it is like to be a student at Penn State Schuylkill.

In September, the University photographer spent the day on our campus with a group of rotating students taking updated photos of campus scenes for recruitment and marketing materials. The photos ranged from outdoor infrastructure, to up-close student and faculty interaction, to candid student life.

The new campus magazine, **Foundations**, was published online in early December. The inaugural issue featured articles about the campus's 80th anniversary, the Schuylkill Campus Advisory Board, Richard "Dick" Yuengling, Jr., and several others. The online link was emailed to the campus community, alumni, and the advisory board. A limited amount of copies were printed to have on-hand, but the magazine will remain primarily an online piece. The magazine will also be available on the campus website in an ADA accessible format in the near future.

THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Student Activities

This fall, students participated in more than seventy campus events sponsored by Student Affairs and collaborating campus departments. With activities ranging from speakers to trips, interactive activities, and out-of-class learning experiences, students have been provided with a vast array of involvement opportunities. There were ten off-campus day trips beginning with a trip to the beach in New Jersey. This trip, presented on the first week of school, was a great way to begin the academic year.

Without losing steam, September was a month full of co-curricular events. In celebration of **Hispanic Heritage Month**, and in partnership with Residence Life, programs included the History of Chocolate and salsa dance lessons. At another event, which led to great discussions, students were presented with the play *Remote Control*, which is about relationship violence. Given the current issues, the topic was timely and relevant.

October had a host of activities in conjunction with **Homecoming**. Students enjoyed a week full of exciting activities that culminated with the parent and family weekend, a tailgate, and carnival style picnic. For Halloween, there were a host of on and off-campus activity, but the annual favorite, **Safe Trick-or-Treat**, held on October 23, proved to draw the largest crowd yet, with over 300 children and families participating. What a great night for student clubs and organizations, and the children from the local community!

The monthly **Blockhouse**, **Midday Music**, and **Real Talk** continued this semester, keeping with a homegrown tradition, and constant exploration of student talent. **Movie Monday** was added to the monthly events, showcasing four blockbuster films ranging in subject matter. Faculty and community alike were able to connect with the films, and students were encouraged to attend if the context related to a class topic. Everyone was invited to stay for discussion following the movie.

The semester closed with **Midnight Crunch Brunch**. In its third year, Crunch Brunch offered a final opportunity to gather with friends while taking a few hours away from studying. With food and entertainment, the night continues to remain a popular opportunity to say, "goodbye and see you in the spring!"

The **Business Society** has been busy sponsoring seminars and events this semester. On October 1, a workshop was delivered on how music can affect our mood, and on October 15, an interactive workshop about time management. On October 22, twenty Business Society students participated in a Big Brothers and Big Sisters Welcoming Event at the United Church of Christ. They served as greeters for the children who were arriving by bus for a program being held at the church.

Student Leadership

Students continued to participate in leadership development throughout the semester. In August, ten students completed applications, and all were accepted to attend the 50th **Penn State Summer Leadership Conference** held at Penn State Berks. The goal of the conference was to enhance essential leadership competencies, and to identify areas for further exploration and development. Students who attended the conference gained a better understanding of their own personal leadership skills, and how they can bring the skills they learned and developed back to their campus community.

In addition, three students applied, and were selected based on their academic performance, to attend the **Annual Robert D. Lynch Student Leadership Development Institute Conference** in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. This conference is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education, Inc. and addresses topics pertinent to developing leadership skills for all college students, in particular those from ethnic backgrounds underrepresented in higher education. The conference provided the students with the opportunity to participate in workshops that dealt with interpersonal relations, building inclusive environments, cross-cultural communication, and fostering cultural awareness.

The **National Society for Leadership and Success** held their annual conference in September. Bryan Underkoffler, co-president of the Schuylkill Chapter and national student president for the Advisory Board, and Tina Rose, NSLS adviser, had the privilege of attending this conference in order to learn about new ideas for the campus chapter, and to network and collaborate with other chapters in the society. The society has approximately forty new members for the 2014-2015 academic year. NSLS sponsored two leadership speakers and a career panel this semester. Dr. Matthew Shupp from Shippensburg University spoke to our students on, "What it means to lead," and Dean Bertsch spoke on, "Effective one-on-one communication."

A career panel was held in December and focused on a variety of majors including: psychology; counseling; human development and family studies; law; and criminal justice.

Residence Life

Our mission for Residence Life is providing service with excellence that will engage and empower students. We are accomplishing this through creative programs, training, consistent student interaction, and follow-up.

One of the most exciting, relevant, and successful events took place during the first six weeks that the students were on campus. The **SELF program**, Student engagement, Lifestyle, and Follow-up, was created and implemented by the coordinator of resident life. Resident assistants worked with students over a six-week period, and held thirty minute meetings and discussions that were formatted for quality sharing, information-giving, and follow-up. Students actively participated and were given the opportunity to ask questions and obtain resources.

On Halloween, costumes and karaoke, along with lots of candy, filled the night as students sang, laughed, and sang some more. More than forty students participated in this Friday night event.

“Men ain’t Boys” was the theme for the big discussion and dinner on November 7. While enjoying dinner, students participated and listened to student guest speaker, Thomas Tinsley, newly elected Homecoming Campus King, about the differences between men and boys.

National Sundae Day was celebrated on November 11, with none other than, ice cream sundae making. Over seventy-five students enjoyed delicious ice cream concoctions.

Closing out the semester in December will long be remembered with holiday candy making, stocking stuffers, gift wrapping, the big tree lighting, gingerbread house making, free chair massages, and program-in-a-bag focused on, “Taking care of you,” while preparing for finals.

Community Service

Students, faculty, and staff are well on their way to completing another amazing year of community service for the 2014-2015 academic year.

We returned to a new semester with notification that Penn State Schuylkill had been nominated, and subsequently awarded, “**Conservation Organization of the Year**” by the Schuylkill Conservation District. This was a great honor and notable recognition for our work on The Bartrum Trail and the Healthy Haven initiative in Schuylkill County.

During orientation in August, approximately eighty-eight students, staff, and faculty completed community service at a variety of locations throughout the community. The non-profits that we assisted that day were Rest Haven, The Arts Barn, the Bartrum Trail, the Island clean-up, the Schuylkill Haven Center, and the Hillside S.P.C.A. After completing our service projects, we all joined together on campus and had lunch while discussing our day’s experiences.

In collaboration with the Athletics department, students volunteered to go to the Intermediate Unit 29 in MarLin, Pennsylvania, to participate in the annual **Special Olympics Volleyball game**. This is the third year that students have participated in this event. This is an amazing program, and the students truly enjoy being the losers of this event as they suffer defeat each year!

Students have been volunteering at a variety of places this semester including Nurse-Family Health Partnerships, the Salvation Army, Tuscarora State Park, and the RSVP Annual Luncheon. Students also held collections on campus for the Hillside S.P.C.A. and Servants to All, a local non-profit that strives to assist our local homeless population. In addition, our campus was a huge help to Servants to All, by voting for the Greater Berks Food Bank in a Wal-Mart grant competition, helping them secure a \$15,000 grant for the homeless.

In addition to being involved in all of the above-mentioned events, the Community Service Club organized and implemented the first “Box” event on campus during **Hunger Awareness Week**. Students wanted to bring about awareness to the homeless issue in our area and throughout the United States. Students received boxes donated from local businesses and set them up on one of the coldest days of the year to educate others and to raise funds for Servants to All. Boxes were placed on the mall walk, and students were not permitted to have any type of technology, or purchase any food or drink themselves. It was a great learning experience for our students, and they raised over \$600.00 for Servants to All. Donations continue to come in from the local community in support of this event.

THON continues to have a successful year, holding a variety of events and completing their three canning weekends. Students held a spaghetti dinner, participated in Borough Day, and received partial proceeds from *The Joe We Know* showing on campus. These events, combined with the first two canning weekends, (the third weekend totals are not available yet) totals \$19,188.00, and our campus THON group is well on their way towards a ground breaking total. THON has several events planned for the spring semester in order to gain additional funds towards the fight against pediatric cancer.

At the conclusion of the annual **United Way** campaign, Penn State Schuylkill surpassed its goal of \$7,000, realizing a total of \$7,585. The campus campaign team, Elyce Lykins, David Norris, and Rosalie Wiest, invited United Way director Kelly Malone and Jack Bertolet, Jr. to deliver a faculty presentation on October 6. This year’s campaign total was an increase of nearly \$2,300 above the previous year’s campaign total.

Career Services

Career Services had a very successful fall semester! On October 8, our campus hosted the second annual **Northeast Regional Career Conference**, Networking Luncheon, and Expo. This was an extremely successful event with 50 employers and 160 students in attendance, Penn State Schuylkill students accounting for 101 of the attending students. This event is a collaborative effort between Penn State Hazleton, Lehigh Valley, Scranton, Schuylkill, Wilkes-Barre, and Worthington Scranton.

Students were welcomed at the beginning of the day in the auditorium by guest speaker, Dr. Robert Orndorff, senior director of Career Services, the Pennsylvania State University. They participated in one of four workshops that they selected during registration. The workshops offered were: Soft Skills: What is developed outside the classroom matters; Career Panel: Finding your Comfort Zone; Backpack to Briefcase; and Hot Jobs, Trending Now. Once students completed their workshop, they reconvened in the auditorium to hear featured speaker, Doug Barszcz, LinkedIn.

Students and employers joined together to take part in a networking luncheon, and participated in the EXPO. Career Services received several corporate sponsorships for this program, including Wells Fargo, RAD Woodworking, Wegmans, and Dunkin Donuts.

Career Services participated in the fall First-Year Seminar classes to expose students to what career services has to offer them as they go through their college experience. Students were also educated on how to develop a professional resume, and how to utilize the MyPlan free assessment tool in order to help them decide on a major if they are undecided, or still deciding between one or two areas.

Before the students left for semester break, they were scheduling appointments for assistance with developing their resumes, cover letters, curriculum vitae, and letters of interest for graduate school.

Disability and Counseling Services

Disability Services hosted a **College Day** on December 2 for over 100 students with disabilities from local high schools. The students were high school seniors who were planning on attending college in fall 2015. Throughout the day, students were able to sit in on a college class, tour the campus, engage in a student and alumni panel, attend a workshop on assistive technology, and learn about the services available to persons with disabilities in college. Students also received information on admissions, and were able to complete a Penn State admissions application.

All students enrolled in the first-year seminar program attended a stress and relaxation session from the counselor. Residential students also participated in a self-esteem workshop that encouraged, "Becoming your own BFF."

Health Services

Several health and wellness services were presented to faculty, staff, and students during the fall, including: safe sexual health; women and diabetes awareness; healthy eating and nutrition; and self-esteem. Additionally, all new resident assistants completed a CPR and First-Aid class.

This semester, Miller-Keystone administered our semi-annual blood drive. They did an excellent job, and all the blood collected stays in our county.

We sponsored a health fair that was open to the community. Over forty vendors participated, and hundreds of campus and community members were in attendance. The annual **Breast Cancer Awareness walk** in October was also a big success. All proceeds were donated to the *Feel your Boobies* organization.

As part of our continued proactive work, a flu vaccine clinic was implemented for employees, vaccines were available to students, and the campus nurse was fully trained in Ebola precautions.

Athletics

In collaboration with the Penn State Schuylkill Alumni society, the Athletics department sponsored a very successful golf tournament at Mountain Valley in October. Proceeds will go toward academic scholarships and continued support of the Athletics department.

Stan Cieplinski joined athletics in September as the women's soccer coach. Stan brings great knowledge, experience, and expertise to the position, and he has been doing a great job in recruiting players as we build our first women's soccer program, which will begin in the fall 2015 semester.

Also set to begin for fall 2015 is the new wrestling program. We are currently interviewing coaching candidates and hope to soon begin recruiting and building our program.

A total of forty-seven student-athletes participated in golf, cross-country, women's volleyball, and soccer during the fall 2014 semester. Additionally, we had almost ninety students participate in the ever-popular intramural program, including: powder puff football, beach volleyball, and flag football.

Basketball season got underway in November with the women's team earning some quality wins. The men's team continues to gel as a group and is looking forward to returning to the court in the spring semester.

Campus Safety

During the spring and falls semesters, officers provided a number of campus and general safety presentations to resident assistants, orientation leaders, tutors, and nursing students. In an effort to continue safety awareness on campus, contact police services to schedule a presentation for your group.

In November, the Emergency Management Team, a group of campus leaders responsible for emergency planning, conducted an annual Clery exercise. They went through several possible emergency scenarios, and how they would address them in an effort to be fully prepared in the event of an emergency.

ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY

Development

On April 30, administrators, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of Penn State Schuylkill gathered at the Schuylkill Country Club, Orwigsburg, PA to celebrate the conclusion of the seven-year fundraising campaign, *For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students*.

E. Lee Beard, vice-chair of *For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students*, was the featured speaker for the event. Beard is an honorary alumnae of Penn State and was named *Fundraising Volunteer of the Year* in 2009, an award that honors the leadership of alumni and friends in securing philanthropic support for the University.

Penn State Schuylkill raised more than \$4.7 million toward this effort, achieving its goal of \$4 million dollars over a year ago. While there were many people responsible for the success of this campaign, we would like to pay special thanks to the campaign committee for their hard work and dedication throughout the last seven years. Co-chairs at the local level were William G. Heckman and Katrina Ost Heckman, and committee members included, Dr. Mary Feeney-Bonawitz, Dolores Delin, Sonny Fenstermacher, Ralph Heffner, Roy Heim, Barron “Boots” Hetherington, Attorney Joseph Jones, Sr., Joseph Schlitzer, Lisa Schroeder, and Andrew Tellep.

The University-wide, *For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students* began in 2007 and has raised nearly \$2.2 billion, exceeding its \$2 billion goal. *For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students* was directed toward a shared vision of Penn State as the most comprehensive, student-centered research university in America. The University engaged Penn State’s alumni and friends as partners in achieving six key objectives: ensuring student access and opportunity, enhancing honors education, enriching the student experience, building faculty strength and capacity, fostering discovery and creativity, and sustaining the University’s tradition of quality. The campaign’s top priority was keeping a Penn State degree affordable for students and families.

A **80th Anniversary Gala** was held on November 6 at the Schuylkill Country Club to mark the founding of Penn State Schuylkill. It was a time to celebrate the educational opportunities that Penn State Schuylkill has provided for 80 years, and the strong support that has been received from the surrounding community.

Events for the evening included keynote speaker, Tom Verducci, a 1982 Penn State graduate and senior writer for *Sports Illustrated*, the acknowledgement of Dr. Wayne D. Lammie, former campus executive officer, for his successful efforts to establish on-campus housing, and a silent auction with proceeds benefitting a Schuylkill County high school graduate attending Penn State Schuylkill.

The night was an opportunity to thank those who have contributed to the success of the campus and our students. There were many individuals, organizations, and businesses that assisted and sponsored the event. We would like to express our appreciation and give special recognition to our corporate sponsors: Barnes and Noble; Boran Dental Associates, P.C.; Boyer's Food Markets; Darlene Dolzani; Dolbin Chiropractic; Evans Delivery Co., Inc.; First National Bank of Minersville; Heckman and Laudeman, LLC; Higgins Insurance, a division of National Penn Insurance; Jeffrey and Helene Zuber Slocum; Lewis News Agency; M & T Bank; Miller Distributing, Inc.; Mountain Valley Golf Course; Sharon and Jay Linard; Williamson, Friedberg and Jones, LLC, and also our gala committee members: Cecelia Boran; Jerry Bowman; Jean Dubowitz; Thomas Dubreuil; Josette Evans; Cheryl Holland; Kay Jones; Debra Kukta; Sharon Linard; Alice Lopez; Betty Miller; Tina Rose; and Donna Stine.

Celebrating our 80th anniversary provides an opportunity to review our legacy of excellence; to renew our commitment to providing a student-centered education, steeped in strong academic excellence, rich with opportunities for community engagement; and to re-energize for a long and prosperous future. After 80 years, the campus continues to be a source of pride to the surrounding community and to Penn State University.

Alumni Relations

Football season began and alumni relations was very busy engaging with both students and alumni. We kicked off the semester by participating in the **Homecoming Parade** at University Park. This year's theme, "Honor the purpose, carry the pride," was a reminder of what it means to be a Penn Stater. The parade brought together students, alumni, faculty and staff members from all across the Penn State community through a procession across the University Park campus and the downtown State College area. Alumni groups travel from around the world to attend or walk in the parade. The **Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Society** and the **Schuylkill Blue and White Society** won first place and a \$500 award for **Best In-State Group**. Forty Schuylkill students, along with Schuylkill alumni, marched in the parade and chanted Penn State cheers along the route. Some of the students did cartwheels and handsprings which really made the crowd come alive. The award money will be used for additional alumni and student programming.

Some of the other events this fall included the **Fall Sports Rally**, honoring the golf, soccer, cross country and volleyball teams; and the second annual **Alumni Basketball Game** where Penn State Schuylkill teams played against alumni members of the men's and women's basketball teams. Penn State Schuylkill came out on top with a victory this year.

Over 250 alumni, parents, and students attended the **Homecoming Picnic** following the basketball game, and then cheered on the Penn State football team at a **tailgate/viewing party** that evening while watching the Penn State vs. Michigan football game. Alumni, parents, and students had a great time playing Penn State trivia and winning great Penn State themed prizes.

The **First Annual Four-Person Scramble** at Mountain Valley Golf Course was a huge success! 144 golfers attended and enjoyed the course and lunch at Mountain Valley. The total profit was \$3,593 and this will equally benefit athletic programs at Schuylkill and the alumni scholarship fund.

On October 16, 250 people attended a special viewing of ***The Joe We Know***, a feature documentary about Penn State football coach Joe Paterno. Three varsity letterman attended this event and entertained questions following the movie. The three men include Schuylkill County's own Gino Capone, 1999-2003, who introduced the film and recounted his time spent under Coach Paterno; Tom Donchez, 1970-74, and Dan Leri, 1975-79, the executive producers of the film. Donations collected at this event benefitted the alumni scholarship fund and Penn State Schuylkill THON.

A **tailgate/viewing party** was held at Maroon's Sports Bar in Pottsville for the Penn State vs. Indiana football game on November 8 where forty Penn State alumni gathered to cheer on Penn State. The Nittany Lion made an appearance and guests won Penn State themed prizes.

The goal for the **Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Society Board** this year is to raise funds to endow a student scholarship. This semester, \$3,158.50 was raised from the sale of Joe Paterno prints, proceeds from the golf tournament, and contributions from individual board members. Last year, \$1,000 was raised and benefitted two students, with a \$500 award to each student.

Finally, the year of our 80th anniversary concluded with a signature event, **The Essence of Joy Choir Concert**. Dr. Anthony Leach, professor of music and music education at Penn State, University Park, and the Essence of Joy Choir, University Park, performed for 100 people on November 8. Essence of Joy is one of ten choral ensembles in the Penn State School of Music. Organized in 1991 by Leach, the choir performs sacred and secular music from the African/African-American traditions.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: A BETTER PENN STATE SCHUYLKILL

The summer and fall was very busy for Physical Plant. In July, the hosting event of the quarterly meeting of the University Board of Trustees required improvements rooms 201, 201A, and 202 in the Health and Wellness Building in order to accommodate the group and their requirements for technology.

Modifications included the removal of a permanent wall that separated the current conference and activity rooms to be replaced with a movable partition. This partition will allow the campus to accommodate either large or small events with one large room, or two separate smaller rooms. Technology enhancements, as well as improvements to the acoustics and room finished completed the upgrades.

The campus was awarded \$500,000 from the Office of Physical Plant Major Maintenance Fund to assist the campus with infrastructure improvements. The funds were used to replace the chiller in the Ciletti Library, replace utility vehicles, upgrade the exterior landscape throughout campus, and fund the noted upgrades to Health and Wellness conference facilities.

The campus was also awarded a \$70,500 grant from the University Committee on Instructional Facilities (UCIF) to improve technology, furnishings, and lighting in general purpose classrooms. This year's award went toward improvements in rooms 111, 114, and 119 in the **Classroom Building**. Enhanced technology, new lighting, seating, and room finishes were included in the upgrades.

General improvements and painting projects are ongoing. Some of this past summer's enhancements included improvements to the hallways and restrooms within the Classroom Building, Health and Wellness Building, and Student Community Center. The **Schuylkill Campus Advisory Board** owned **Nittany Apartments** underwent some major improvements this summer as well. New flooring, cabinets, countertops, appliances, and living room furnishings were some of the improvements made to Nittany I. This building now provides the occupants with a modern living experience equipped with all the comforts of home. Other Nittany Apartment projects included the replacement of the fascia on Nittany II and III, plus many general improvements were made to the property that included painting projects, landscape upgrades, and new furnishings throughout the complex. Additionally, the Kiefer-Jones Carriage House received new garage doors, siding, and entrance doors.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Technology enhancements are ongoing at Penn State Schuylkill. A new type of software available at Penn State is enabling students and faculty to create professional-quality videos by simply pressing a button. This system, known as **One Button Studio**, bundles all the attractions of a professional production studio: green screen, lighting, audio, and cutting-edge camera equipment, into a single set-up, that can be used to produce instant quality video. This fall, a One Button Studio was created at the Ciletti Library, and Penn State Schuylkill is now able to provide students with a full studio package that works by simply plugging in a thumb drive and pressing a button. Additionally, faculty and staff are also able to use the studio to generate an array of video-based lectures, modules, and mini presentations for work, teaching needs, and professional development.

A new collaboration room was created within Classroom Building room 201A. Here, students and faculty are able to bring their own laptops and mobile devices, connect to a wall-mounted monitor, and work together on projects and presentations with the aid of special software.

The campus is currently in the design phase of creating a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Classroom/Presentation Facility that will be located the room 106 of the Administration Building. In this new facility, students and faculty that bring their own mobile devices will be able to connect their personal devices to larger built-in monitors that are mounted within the classroom. Collaborative software will enable device content sharing throughout the space. New “huddle-boards,” as well as flexible work-stations, will all be a part of this cutting-edge facility.

THE HIDDEN STREAM CAFÉ

A new **Pepsi Dream Machine** kiosk arrived in Student Community Center this fall. For every bottle that you recycle in a Dream Machine, you can earn points, help the planet, support clean drinking water, and support veterans. For more information on the Pepsi Dream Machine program, you can visit www.PepsiCoRecycling.com.