

Penn State Harrisburg

Fall 2012

# Currents



N.Y.C. TAXI

ONE design  
lands in  
Big Apple

PENNSTATE



Harrisburg

# Greetings from the Chancellor

The start of a new year and a new semester is a good time to reflect upon the progress that we, as a college, and Penn State, as a whole, have made recently. Despite the difficulties that the University faced in the last year, our core strengths remain intact. Penn State continues to be known for exceptional academics and for inspiring research, making an impact in the Commonwealth and across the globe.

Progress at Penn State Harrisburg continues, as evidenced by our enrollment growth, ongoing philanthropic support, the success of our alumni, and in many other ways. This issue of Currents highlights many of the achievements. For example, we are very pleased to recognize Penn State alumnus Russell Horn, who, in 2012, made a leadership gift commitment of \$1 million to Penn State Harrisburg. Mr. Horn's donation will support student enrichment, through the existing Learning Center and creation of a nondenominational spiritual meditation center. The year 2012 was significant for Mr. Horn in a more personal way, as well. In May, he celebrated his 100th birthday.

Also featured in this issue are many of our alumni who have been recognized for their professional achievements. Collectively, they have garnered many competitive University-wide awards.

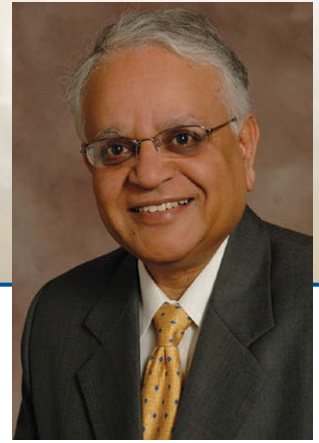
Our feature articles look at experiences beyond the classroom and what they mean to students, their careers and aspirations. One story documents how a graphic design project catapulted a group of students into the limelight at an international design conference. The other shows the impact – personal and professional – of students' work on senior engineering projects.

In spring 2012, students presented their senior projects to audiences at the college's first Engineering Capstone Design Conference. Locally-based businesses, led by ArcelorMittal and including Brenner Motors and Phoenix Contact, provided support for capstone projects. This is but one example of the many ways that the college works in partnership with local industry and businesses. While their support benefits our students, the region benefits from the research that takes place on campus and the well-educated graduates we supply for the workforce.

Representatives from regional businesses and organizations also contribute to the college through service on our Board of Advisers, and also through service on the advisory boards of our academic programs. Their input is vital to our success.

As a reminder, an expanded version of Currents is available online at [harrisburg.psu.edu/currents](http://harrisburg.psu.edu/currents). In addition to the stories available in the print version, you will also find other articles, links to news coverage, photo galleries, videos, and more.

When you read and learn more about Penn State Harrisburg, I hope that you experience pride in your association with the college, just as we are proud of the success of our alumni and students.



Mukund S. Kulkarni  
*Chancellor*

*Mukund S. Kulkarni*

Mukund S. Kulkarni, Ph.D.

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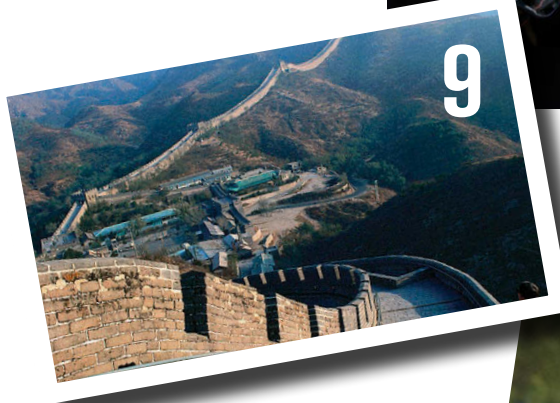
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Cover: Photo illustration by Sharon Siegfried

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# ONE design, Big Apple ticket

Advanced Graphic Design students tackled hundreds of pounds of cardboard as part of a class project that ended up getting them an invitation to display their work at Lincoln Center in New York.

For students likely to become the brand and account managers of the world, there was more value in them understanding “the thought process of design than the making of design.”

Students thought Craig Welsh was crazy.

“That was our literal thought,” said senior Marques Paige with a laugh. “It was more about what we would be using that made us think, ‘Is he serious?’”

Welsh, assistant professor of communications, announced to students in his spring 2012 Advanced Graphic Design class that they would complete a design project strictly using cardboard and glue — in three weeks.

“We were kind of like, ‘Wow, this is never gonna work out,’” said Kristen Hepler, who graduated in May with a degree in communications.

Not only would the class project be graded, but it would be entered into the worldwide Your ONEderful World Design Contest organized by The One Club, a New York-based nonprofit that promotes excellence in advertising and design.

The contest provided a series of images to be manipulated in any way contestants saw fit to best exemplify the theme “Celebrate ONEness.” Images to be part of the entry included several animals — a bear, a giraffe, a zebra.

“The art direction of that whole campaign includes these kinds of fantastic, imaginative scenes of photography,” Welsh explained. “A series of animals that were stylized. The club posted photos (and) anyone could download and create their own version.”

He added: “Everyone but our class created some Photoshopped version of them.”

Welsh said he didn’t feel that yet another Photoshop project would sufficiently challenge the class of 21 students. Instead, he wanted something unexpected.

“If they have to work with material or a process that’s unfamiliar, it requires them to pause and consider and evaluate and think through — all those critical-thinking skills,” he explained. “Simply downloading a Photoshop file from Facebook and applying filters ... they already do that pretty regularly.”

For students who likely will become the brand and account managers of the world — positions that oversee graphic designers — Welsh said there was more value in the students understanding “the thought process of design than the making of design.”





Photos: Marquies Paige

## Mission impossible

When Welsh announced the project, “we thought it might be impossible,” Paige said.

The first order of business was breaking up into groups, each tasked with a job — acquiring raw materials, scouting the appropriate location to build, choosing the best place for photographs, and physically creating the piece.

Not everybody knew each other in the class, Paige said. But after the students began working, they saw the project coming together.

“It flowed really well,” he added. “We actually surprised ourselves at the amount of teamwork that occurred.”

Paige was in the group responsible for photography and video.

“We took pictures and sound, and used that for promotion in social media,” he said.

The group created a Tumblr blog, where photos and videos documented the project’s creation. “We were the only participants who had extra social-media aspects, as far as behind the scenes,” he noted of the contest entries.

Hepler, meanwhile, was in the group responsible for attaining materials. Although there weren’t many to acquire — cardboard, wood glue, cardboard cutters — transporting several hundred pounds of cardboard required special consideration.

“I had to borrow my dad’s truck,” Hepler said.

Finally, creation of the project started to take shape. The final creation used about 500 lbs. of cardboard. The 7-foot-tall bear, alone, weighed more than 100 lbs. with multiple layers and a base for it to freely stand.

“Their initial skepticism was quickly replaced by a feeling of enthusiasm, and they were all part of making something special,” Welsh said.

## A greater reward

To win the contest, an entry had to garner the most likes on Facebook.

Despite more than 40 entries from around the globe, the students in Welsh’s class were confident their project had a shot at winning.

“Because we were the only entry to use physical material and (build) our project by hand, and because of our blogging and behind-the-scenes footage,” Paige explained. “We felt that gave us some leverage.”

The project received more than 2,200 likes days before the deadline.

The winner would receive a round-trip airline ticket to New York, hotel accommodations, and a ticket to attend the prestigious One Show awards ceremony on May 10, 2012 at Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall. There, the winning design would appear onscreen at the awards presentation.

In the contest’s last six hours, a Peruvian art director’s collage pulled ahead to win.

Paige conceded that he and his classmates started to “slack off” on social-media promotion once the winner began taking the lead.

But a week after the contest closed, the students received a surprise: a Facebook message from One Club Managing Director Emily Isovitsch. One Club employees still were buzzing about the cardboard project, and they wanted to have it on display during the One Show awards, she said.

“When we saw the students who went above and beyond ... it was incredible,” Isovitsch said. “It seemed like it would be a great fit for the show. It was a fun idea to have them there for photo ops.”

She added: “It was the only entry that was not digital, from what I could tell.”

The students transported the project in pieces via SUV to New York. There, they had roughly 30 minutes to direct Lincoln Center union workers to re-assemble the piece for display. Once assembled, numerous award-show attendees stopped by to get photographed with the piece, students said.

“Their résumés got padded pretty nicely with that,” Welsh said.

The piece had to be taken apart during the One Show awards, where Italian fashion model Fabio was a guest. Although students were disappointed Fabio did not pose with their project, they offered him cardboard flowers and had pictures taken with him.

Eight students made the trip to New York for several days during 2012 Creative Week NYC. They received free tickets to attend the week’s events and had assignments such as creating a video log of activities. They also availed themselves of networking opportunities, including a visit to publisher Condé Nast.



**“When we saw the students, who went above and beyond...it was incredible. It seemed like [the cardboard scene] would be a great fit for the show.”**

“[The students] were really great to work with and professional. I was surprised at how easily everything worked. It was really nice,” Isovitsch said.

“They were involved in some pretty high-end discussions about creative, about industry things happening that otherwise I don’t know that they would have had,” Welsh said. “They spent \$200 on material and it got them nearly \$10,000 of access to things in New York for the week.”

Those with whom they rubbed elbows included longtime Vogue magazine Editor-in-Chief Anna Wintour.

“The number of people we met was mind blowing,” said Cody Page, who graduated in May with a communications degree and now is a graduate student at New York University.

Both Hepler and Paige called the experience “awesome.”

“It was very educational,” Hepler said. “I would do anything to do it again. It just happened so fast.”

Paige said the project taught him to take school assignments as work that he would “be proud to take out to the real world.”

A senior, Paige has a year-old photography-and-video business he plans to grow after graduation. Hepler, meanwhile, is in the midst of two internships. She hopes to turn one into a full-time job handling social media.

The lessons learned during the creation of the cardboard project, Welsh said, are ones the students won’t soon forget.

Page learned that sometimes, coming in second isn’t so bad. “This was even better (than winning),” he said, “because it was more than just a popularity contest.”

# THE PROJECT OF A LIFETIME

It could be argued that mechanical engineering technology graduate Steven Georges started planning his senior-year project when he was a child. The goal was for Georges, who has cerebral palsy, to drive a manual-transmission car with only his hands.

On his first day of kindergarten, Georges realized he was different.

“Obviously everyone else was not in a wheelchair,” says the 24-year-old who graduated in August.

Georges was born with cerebral palsy and does not have the use of his legs. Yet it’s cerebral palsy that put him on a path to pursue engineering.

“Sometimes, when I couldn’t do something, I would sit and think, ‘OK, how can I do that?’” Georges says of his childhood. “I still think that today.”

At the gym, if he can’t get himself onto a machine, he says he knows he simply needs to ponder the logistics — or get stronger.

“Since I’ve been disabled all my life, I got into that style of thinking because that’s just how I got things done if I wanted to go out and do something instead of sitting around and doing nothing,” Georges explained in a matter-of-fact tone.

That approach led him to his senior-year engineering project: developing a system that would allow a disabled person to drive a manual-transmission vehicle with only use of the hands. Although such a system exists — called duck clutch — it costs roughly \$3,000 to install.

“I was very hesitant because it’s a very complex project. It involves a lot of electronics and servo-motors,” said Dr. Ganesh Bal, assistant professor of engineering.

Bal taught Georges’ first-semester, senior-year course that focused on developing the project proposal. During the second semester, senior engineering majors take a class that focuses on executing the project.

“I had a lot of reservations about whether he would be able to accomplish the goals he had set,” Bal added. “But just looking at his enthusiasm and his devotion, I said, ‘OK.’”

## A dream becomes reality

Georges’ dream started in earnest when he was 17.

“It began when I first learned how to drive, and it was a question of whether or not I could drive a car (at all),” he said.

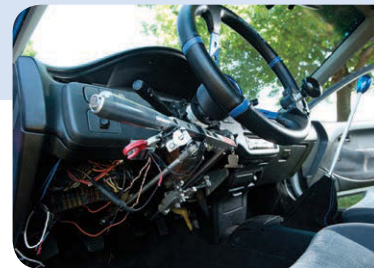
Through the state’s Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the teenager completed 50 hours of training to learn how to drive an automatic-transmission car.



Photos: Gini Woy



For their senior engineering project, Steven Georges (above), Joval Shamsoum (right), and Mike Carter (not pictured) designed a hand-operated clutch system for driving a manual transmission vehicle.



“I finally got my license when I was 19,” he said.

But that wasn’t enough. Georges wanted to drive a manual transmission.

“I began to think about it and figured, ‘Well, I’m going for engineering. I would gain more knowledge of making some type of system like that,’” he recounted.

Through the years, Georges acquired parts he thought could aid his pursuit. He had learned from his dad, who liked to fix old cars.

“When I was a little kid, I would sit in the middle of his ’62 Chevy pick-up, with a bench seat, (and) I would shift the gears for him,” Georges remembered.

When the time came to put ideas into action in his senior year, he recruited two friends in the same class: Mike Carter and Joval Shamsoum.

“At first I was a little bit skeptical because I drive stick shift as a daily driver,” Shamsoum said. “Just driving with both feet and both hands at the same time is a little tricky, and the fact that he couldn’t use his legs meant he would have to do four operations with both hands.”

He nervously agreed after hearing that Georges had saved money for parts and had ideas. In the end, the group spent less than \$100 on the project.

Georges did the research and development, Shamsoum said.

The three students at first toyed with the idea of a hydraulic system, then a pneumatic one before finally settling on an electronic method.

“Once he gave me that idea, we just started ripping the car apart,” Shamsoum said, referring to Georges’ 1993 Honda hatchback.

Work was done on the fly, and countless hours were spent testing and recalculating.

Shamsoum said they sometimes got really frustrated, fearing the system wasn’t going to work. “Then we’d take a 10-minute coffee break and get back into it,” said Shamsoum, now a full-time application engineer at Emka Inc. in Middletown.

In an automatic vehicle modified for hands-only operation, a bar is mounted beneath the steering column to control the gas and brake, Georges explained. The bar moves in two directions: pushed toward the dashboard, it brakes; pushed down, it controls the gas.

The driver controls the bar with the left hand and the steering with the right, with a set-up Georges likened to that found in some tractors.

“That right there took a lot of practice to learn how to drive safely,” he said. “I was always thinking, ‘How could I control the clutch of the car?’ And, ‘How could I shift?’”

Georges had many ideas. But the one that stuck was to mount a clutch control on the bar that

operates the gas and the brake. It would be a finger trigger similar to one that operates the gas on a remote control car, he said.

“When you pull the trigger, it presses the clutch pedal, and when you release the trigger, the pedal comes back up,” Georges said. “It’s direct, one-to-one movement, just as it would be with your foot.”

## “Absolutely delightful to watch”

After two semesters of working on the project, the three students proved naysayers wrong.

“It was really exciting once we put it all together to see the moving parts and see it happen,” Shamsoum said. “If Steven didn’t want to be a man about it, he would have started to cry.”

For Georges, it represented a culmination of years.

“This has been my dream,” he said. “I always try to find ways to be independent.”

Bal said he not only was surprised the system worked, but overjoyed.

“It was a great learning process and ... it will help him with whatever job he’s looking for because he already has a lot of practical background — not just theory from the books,” Bal said of Georges.

Although his entire grade was riding on the project, Shamsoum said working on it carried a deeper meaning. “I just wanted to make a friend’s dream come true and we succeeded. It was great. It was very rewarding to me,” he said. “It wasn’t a grade letter to me. It was something that I could do for my friend.”

Although no companies have approached the graduates about manufacturing their system, it’s still being put to use. “I just talked to Steve this morning,” Bal said in late November. “He tells me it’s working, and he actually drove the car last Friday.”

The professor has been impressed by Georges’ outlook.

“He was able to accomplish what he set out to do,” Bal noted. “He never gave up. He’s such a pleasant guy. He never complains. He just goes about his work. And once he set his mind to accomplish that, he was determined. That was absolutely delightful to watch.”

Georges said he was “really happy” when he realized the auto-assist clutch could be accomplished and the project manageable.

“Then I drove the car for the first time,” he said. “That was a feeling beyond words. It was a dream for me. It was like, ‘Wow, I can do that now.’”



## Capstone projects help build bridge to careers

Senior projects for Penn State Harrisburg engineering students have been a long-standing tradition, said Dr. Rick Ciocchi, associate professor of mechanical engineering.

The projects are an opportunity for students to apply everything they’ve learned and to transfer into the job market, he noted.

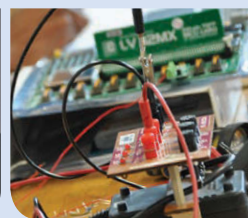
“We do a lot of team work in many classes, but when it comes down to the senior project and the entire grade riding on its success, I think it kind of drives home the idea of cooperation and team work,” Ciocchi said. “Students learn how creative they can be in both the ideas of the project and also in managing the projects — how to get things done.”

All told, engineering majors completed 26 senior projects in April 2012.

Besides Georges’ auto-assist clutch project, others included a vehicle-fire suppression system, a green electrolysis hydrogen production system, a moving soccer-goalie target, and controllable vehicle window tinting.

Locally-based businesses, led by ArcelorMittal, provided support for the capstone projects. Others included Brenner Motors and Phoenix Contact. The year’s work culminated at the Engineering Capstone Design Conference, April 21, 2012, when the students presented their projects to the public.

“Engineers, regardless of what type, will always be working on some type of project,” Ciocchi said. “We like to think that the senior project is a real good warm-up (for) their careers.”



Photos: Sharon Siegfried

## Ansary named senior associate dean for academic affairs



Photo: Gini Woy

Dr. Omid Ansary has been named senior associate dean for academic affairs after a national search. Ansary has served as the interim senior associate dean since July 2010.

A tenured professor of electrical engineering, Ansary joined the college in 1985 and served as director of the School of Science, Engineering, and Technology for nine years before being named interim senior associate dean.

“We are very pleased that Dr. Ansary will continue to provide our campus with his outstanding academic leadership,” said Chancellor Mukund Kulkarni.

“Most recently, he has overseen progress in many areas, including undergraduate enrollment growth of nearly 10 percent, establishment of an office dedicated to advancing graduate studies at the college, development of new academic programs, and creation of the Central Pennsylvania Research and Teaching Laboratory for Biofuels,” Kulkarni said.

At the college, Ansary also has promoted emerging technologies, research, and education in electrical engineering and has developed several undergraduate and graduate courses. With colleagues, he has initiated innovative programs in engineering and science curricula, including internship and externship experiences for freshmen and sophomores. He has served on the Faculty Senate, including one term as president; on the University’s Academic Leadership Planning Committee; and on numerous other committees. He is also a member of the University’s Administrative Council on Undergraduate Education.

Ansary has the rare distinction of having received the college’s awards for excellence in teaching (1996), research (2000), and service (2000). He received the Central Pennsylvania Engineers Week Council 2005 Technical Achievement Award and the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Third Millennium Medal.

Ansary earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Youngstown State University and a master’s and doctorate in electrical engineering from the University of Akron.

## STEM programs take root on campus

Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs are growing at Penn State Harrisburg. The strength of programs for local youth, continued support for summer research initiatives, and a new grant have spurred the advance.

The college received a \$600,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant in May 2012 to be used to enhance student support services, provide students with mentoring assistance from faculty and professionals, and foster internship opportunities and industrial experiences. The grant money will also be used to attract female and under-represented, low-income students to STEM areas of study. With funding from the college, the grant should provide 19 annually renewable scholarships.

“This grant will further STEM-related undergraduate education in South Central Pennsylvania, and ultimately will support the economic vitality of the metropolitan Harrisburg region and the nation at large,” said Dr. Omid Ansary, senior associate dean for academic affairs.

The college’s annual STEM Career Launch, which hosts local ninth grade students for a glimpse into mathematics and science-related fields, celebrated its fifth anniversary in March. An estimated 100 youngsters from six area schools meet with faculty, staff, and community professionals who conduct interactive sessions, incorporating lectures, teamwork activities, hands-on discovery, and mentoring.

In the Central Pennsylvania Research and Teaching Laboratory for Biofuels, the idea of STEM programs setting roots is more than a figure of speech as the NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) summer program completed its second year in 2012.

Funded largely by a NSF REU grant, college students from around the country spend 10 weeks at Penn State Harrisburg researching plant species and investigating alternate energy creation. Following their stay, the students publish research and give presentations at their home institutions.

## around campus



The School of Public Affairs, the M.B.A., and undergraduate engineering programs have made U.S. News & World Report’s 2013 “Best” lists.



Students admitted to Schreyer Honors College now may complete their studies at Penn State Harrisburg.



A new fountain graces the bookstore entrance.

Read more online at [harrisburg.psu.edu/currents](http://harrisburg.psu.edu/currents)





## Study tours in a word: profound

When M.B.A. student Brandon Rogers returned from a study tour to China, he summarized the value of international study for students. “Penn State would do well to continue leading such trips,” he said, “especially considering the profound impact it had on not only my business perspective of the second largest economy in the world but on the way we all, whether Chinese or American, are still looking to create a better life for ourselves and our families.”

Rogers was one of 62 Penn State Harrisburg students and four faculty members who, over spring break 2012, traveled around the world to complement their classroom studies, conduct humanitarian work, and experience new cultures. Rogers’ group went to China, another travelled to Guatemala, and a third to England.

M.B.A. student Leo Knepper looked forward to the trip as “a great way to see beyond the headlines in the newspaper or the version of China depicted in the nightly news.” The business-focused study tour took students to Shanghai, Xian, and Beijing, where they visited global companies, including the Pennsylvania-based Hershey Company.

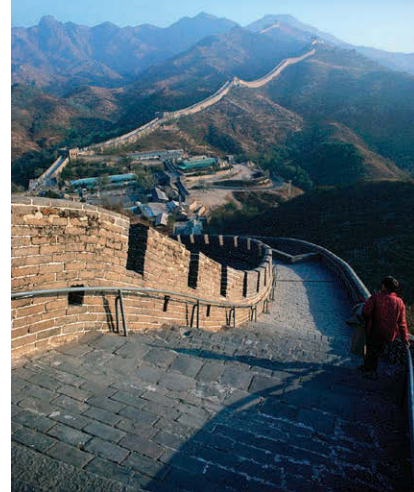
The study tour to Guatemala had a humanitarian foundation. Students taught Guatemalan schoolchildren, met with The Mayan Families Organization, and helped build stoves with adequate venting to improve the air quality in local homes. Students on the tour also learned about the Guatemalan textile and folk art industries.

An undergraduate science major, Rosanny Reyes said she most enjoyed reaching out to help Guatemala’s people and learning the country’s culture. She said meeting with and reading to Mayan schoolchildren was a highlight, and she now plans to pursue similar endeavors in the future.

Finance students on the London tour became familiar with the U.K. banking system, financial and derivatives markets, and international capital markets, meeting with the British Bankers’ Association and touring The London Stock Exchange, Goldman Sachs, and The Bank of England Museum.

Aaron Richmond, an M.B.A. student, saw the trip as practical experience for his future career, providing access into European culture through corporate visits and sightseeing. “Hands-on is the best way to learn,” he said.

A way to see the world beyond the headlines or the version depicted in the nightly news



“This grant will further STEM-related undergraduate education in South Central Pennsylvania, and ultimately will support the economic vitality of the metropolitan Harrisburg region and the nation at large.”



The college hosted Maya Angelou on October 2, 2012 as part of the Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture Series.



Fifty international flags fly in the Olmsted Building atrium. Each represents the home country of Penn State Harrisburg students, faculty, and staff.

## Engineering graduate's \$1 million gift will support student enrichment

Yet for all the impact he has had on the University, Horn believes he is the greater beneficiary in that long-lasting relationship.

Russell E. Horn Sr.,  
a 1933 Penn State  
graduate in  
engineering



Photo: Gina Wray

Penn State Harrisburg has received a leadership gift commitment of \$1 million from Russell E. Horn Sr., a 1933 Penn State graduate in engineering, to support the construction of a student enrichment center. The new facility will centralize and enhance a variety of student services.

"This remarkable gift will go far toward helping us meet the needs of our rapidly growing student population," said Chancellor Mukund Kulkarni. "The student enrichment center will create a one-stop resource center that lets students more easily access the services that enhance all aspects of their learning. We're extremely grateful for Mr. Horn's generosity in making the first gift toward this major effort."

The student enrichment center will bring together under one roof many services that students access regularly, but which currently are housed in various locations across campus. The Horn gift will fund two areas within the student enrichment center: the Learning Center, which offers tutoring services and fosters student collaborations; and a spiritual meditation center, a nondenominational space to accommodate students' religious practices.

The new facility also will house offices for student advising, counseling and disability services, honors education, and international study programs.

"I have always believed that education is the key to success, so the Learning Center is very dear to my heart," said Horn, who celebrated his 100th birthday in May 2012. "I wouldn't be where I am today without the education that I received from Penn State, and I am thrilled to be able to help all students on campus to reach their full potential."

"I'm really happy that this gift will also provide students on campus a place where they can fulfill their diverse spiritual needs," Horn added. "Faith is something that means a lot to me, and being able to make the spiritual center possible through my gift is part of who I am."

Horn is the founder and retired chairman of PACE Resources, Inc., York, Pa., the most prominent subsidiary of which is the engineering and architectural firm Buchart Horn, Inc. Horn and his company have previously established scholarships at Penn State Harrisburg and have supported a campus environmental science building expansion. He also has taken an active role in advising and mentoring engineering students.

"Mr. Horn has been a great benefactor to Penn State Harrisburg for many years," said Madlyn L. Hanes, vice president for Commonwealth Campuses and past Penn State Harrisburg chancellor. "His latest gift is another excellent example of how philanthropy can have an enormous positive impact on Penn State's students. The continued success of the University's current fundraising effort, For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students, depends upon alumni and friends sharing his belief in the importance of Penn State's educational mission and the power of private giving to enhance the quality and accessibility of a Penn State education."

Yet for all the impact he has had on the University, Horn believes he is the greater beneficiary in that long-lasting relationship. "I have been a Penn State man since I graduated," he said, "and I have received more from Penn State than I have given."

## First-of-a-kind gifts promote opportunity

From building a safer country by uniting business and higher education to providing scholarships for students with disabilities, alumni contributions to Penn State Harrisburg are expanding opportunities and enriching students' educational experiences in first-of-a-kind ways.

One such donation, from 1979 business administration alumnus Alex Kormushoff, established the Alex Kormushoff Program Fund for Homeland Security and Cyber Studies. Aimed at encouraging business and higher education collaboration for the protection of the nation, this first gift to the program will enhance students' educational and professional training by supporting student research, travel, and a speaker series.

Another gift, the joint effort of an anonymous Penn State Harrisburg graduate and the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation, created the college's first scholarship for students with disabilities. The Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation Endowed Trustee Scholarship will provide financial assistance to undergraduate students with disabilities, increasing their access to higher education.


2012

# SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

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[harrisburg.psu.edu/currents](http://harrisburg.psu.edu/currents)

## Alumni honored for career achievements

Each of Penn State Harrisburg's five academic schools presented an Alumni Achievement Award to a graduate who demonstrates outstanding professional accomplishment. The awards were presented during Homecoming activities on October 12, 2012.

Luke Kempfski, '95 master's in training and development, received the School of Behavioral Sciences and Education award. Since 2004, he has served as president of JPL, a marketing and communications company for regional, national, and global brands with headquarters in Harrisburg. Kempfski's efforts helped the company grow as a strategic, integrated communications provider and to expand into interactive media.

The School of Business Administration presented its award to E. Philip Wenger, '79 finance, '87 M.B.A., president and chief executive officer of Fulton Financial Corporation, a \$16 billion financial holding company based in Lancaster, Pa., which provides financial products and personalized services through banking offices in five states. Wenger has held numerous positions within Fulton Financial Corporation since starting his career there shortly after graduation.

Kathy Marley-Dunbar, '89 American studies, '93 master's in American studies, received the School of Humanities award. She has served on the Art Association of Harrisburg board of directors since 2007 and as the first Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) Gettysburg Campus art exhibit coordinator, where she also taught as an adjunct professor. An active promoter of humanities and the arts through numerous volunteer positions, she has received several awards for her efforts.

The School of Public Affairs recognized Dr. Richard White, '97 Ph.D. in public administration, who serves as dean and Distinguished Professor of Business in the E.J. Ourso College of Business at Louisiana State University. Before working in academia, White was a senior officer in the United States Coast Guard. He is also a Pulitzer-nominated political biographer and author.

John Mason, Jr., a 1972 transportation technology graduate, received the School of Science, Engineering, and Technology award. Since 2008, Mason has served as associate provost and vice president for research at Auburn University, responsible for program development, sponsored programs, and technology transfer and commercialization. Before working at Auburn, Mason was associate dean for graduate studies, research, and outreach in Penn State's College of Engineering.

*Alumni Achievement Award winners (top left): Luke Kempfski, E. Philip Wenger, Kathy Marley-Dunbar, and John Mason, Jr. Not pictured: Richard White.*

Photos: Gini Woy



## Research takes students places

During 2012, research took students places, from rooftops to the Rockies, and even back in time.

American studies doctoral student Lynne Calamia had Pennsylvania history at her fingertips as she studied historic sites restored during the Great Depression. The first Penn State Harrisburg student to receive a Pennypacker Fellowship, she had access to libraries, manuscript and artifact collections, and Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission facilities statewide.

Calamia said beyond having access to troves of information, the fellowship provided the equally rewarding opportunity for networking with cultural resource management professionals.

American studies doctoral student James McMahon also received a first-time fellowship. School history director at Milton Hershey School, McMahon is the first Penn State Harrisburg student to receive a Winterthur Research Fellowship. He studied Swiss bank houses, a type of Pennsylvania-German architecture, at the Delaware-based Winterthur Museum.

For undergraduate student Abigail Mickey, a life science major, summer 2012 held more rooftop study. She, Associate Professor of Environmental Microbiology Katherine Baker, and environmental pollution control program alumna Danielle Harrow conducted research on green roofs. That's green, as in environmentally cleaner, but also green, literally, in that plants are grown on them. The researchers investigate use of recycled and organic materials as "soil" for rooftop planting, where weight, energy efficiency, and the amount and purity of stormwater runoff are important considerations.

Mickey received a Penn State Office of Undergraduate Education Summer Discovery Grant for the project, with support also from the Innovation Transfer Network and the Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center. She and Harrow presented findings at the annual meeting of the American Ecological Engineering Society.

Dylan Guarisco, a 2012 honors program and sociology graduate, presented his paper "Greek Modes and Social Movements" at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, the world's largest professional coalition of sociologists. "To present a paper at the annual conference in Denver is a huge feather in the cap," said Dr. Scott Lewis, assistant professor of sociology, enabling Guarisco to connect with the foremost researchers in his discipline.

Photo: Gini Woy



**James McMahon's research, the first to document a Milton Hershey School building as a Swiss bank house, provides him with information he can use on the job. "I am always looking for ways to connect our students with the past and with Milton Hershey," he said.**

# Alumni Notes

## 1970s

**Daniel J. Fichtner**, '74 BCT, elected to board, Keystone Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.

**James S. Bollinger**, '75 BBA, Camp Hill, retired from Defense Information Systems Agency as IT project manager after 36 years.

## 1980s

**Teri Guerrisi**, '82 M HUM, director, Live at Rose Lehman artist series, Harrisburg Area Community College, received 2012 Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts in the Capital Region.

**Tod Sherman**, '82 ENG, Lancaster, co-founded Tybec Energy Management Specialists, Inc.

**La-Verna Fountain**, '83 PUBPL, received Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise Advocate of the Year Award for Upper Manhattan.

**Edward J. Bardella**, '86 EET, New Holland, named assistant chief engineer for combines, CNH, an international agricultural and construction equipment business.

**Donna Deerin Ward**, '87 FINCE, received *Central Penn Business Journal* Women of Influence Award.

**Sheryl Zapcic**, '88 MRKT, named senior public relations account manager, Godfrey.

**Geoffrey Fix**, '89 EET, named associate, RETTEW.

**Michael Potteiger**, '89 CRIMJ, appointed chairman, Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole.

## 1990s

**Steven M. Siegfried**, '90 EET, named project manager, energy services division, RETTEW.

**Jeannine Strom Boyer**, '91 TRDEV, named Lancaster County program director, Bridge of Hope Lancaster and Chester Counties.

**Dr. Suzanne K. Kelley**, '92 MPA, elected president, Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society.

**Enrique A. Berrios**, '93 MET, named performance assurance specialist, Reynolds Energy Services.

**Janak M. Amin**, '94 MBA, named executive vice president and Pennsylvania Market CEO, Susquehanna Bank.

**Dan Popp**, '94 ACCT, Dillsburg, authored book, *Sensei's Final Lessons: A Memoir* (Outskirts Press). Email: dpopp@ncua.gov; website: seizanshodo.com.

**David E. Ritter**, '95 MPA, named vice president of private sector services, The Benecon Group.

**Jennifer L. Buehler**, '99 FINCE, received *Central Penn Business Journal* Women of Influence Award.

## 2000s

**Lawrence Oxley**, '00 MBA, Holmdel, N.J., authored book, *Extreme Weather & Financial Markets: Opportunities in Commodities & Futures* (Wiley Publishing).

**Robert W. Surridge**, '00 D.Ed. ADTED, Kingston, authored book, *Butter Size of a Turkey Egg* (Luzerne County Historical Society). Surridge is a retired Penn State Harrisburg administrator and faculty member.

**Jennifer K. Engle**, '01 MPA, received *Central Penn Business Journal* Woman to Watch Award.

**Wesley Werner**, '01 SDCET, named senior engineering technician, C.S. Davidson, Inc.

**Tara S. Latsha**, '02 MNGMT, named manager, Mid Penn Bank, Elizabethtown branch.

**Omar Shute**, '03 MNGMT, named vice president of business lending operations, Members 1st Federal Credit Union.

**Karen Ponti**, '04 TRDEV, named associate professor of dental hygiene, Harrisburg Area Community College.

**James J. Willshier**, '04 MPA, named director of policy and partnership, Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers.

**Brian Crossland**, '06 ACCT, named audit and accounting services manager, ParenteBeard.

**Christine Brindle**, '07 MRKT, named director of communications and outreach, Harrisburg Regional Chamber & Capital Region Economic Development Corporation.

**Bradley Bowers**, '09 ACCT, named senior tax services accountant, ParenteBeard.

**Andrea S. Blevins Primeau**, '09 MBA, named visiting assistant professor of biology, Lebanon Valley College.

## 2010s

**Christina Brindamour**, '10 MNGMT, named workforce coordinator, Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers.

**Sara El Gellatly**, '10 ACCT, named Steelton municipal manager.

**Jeffrey A. Mohn Jr.**, '11 SDCET, named project engineer, Quandt Enterprises, Inc.

**Daniel W. Patton**, '11 SDCET, named assistant project manager, High Construction Co.

**Christopher Rice**, '11 MBA, named staff accountant, ParenteBeard.

**Eric J. Rowits**, '12 SDCET, named associate design engineer, High Concrete Group, LLC.

## Alumna receives achievement award

Alumna Meghan Jasani received the 2012 Penn State Alumni Association's Alumni Achievement Award.



The award recognizes alumni 35 years of age and younger for their extraordinary professional accomplishments. Alums are nominated by an academic college and invited by the University president to share their expertise with students, faculty, and administrators. In 2012, 11 alumni were honored.

Jasani, a 1999 finance major, is vice president and product manager for J.P. Morgan Worldwide Securities Services, a subsidiary of J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. which provides mutual fund accounting and administration, and pension accounting services. She is responsible for pricing services for new and existing clients, and she works closely with the company's finance team. In 2006, Jasani received an M.B.A. from Columbia University.

A resident of Boston, Jasani is the fifth Penn State Harrisburg graduate to receive the achievement award. Previous winners include Heather L. Neary '09g (2010), Erik P. Keptner '94 (2008), Alex Guk '00 (2007), and Stephen C. Burkholder '94 (2005).

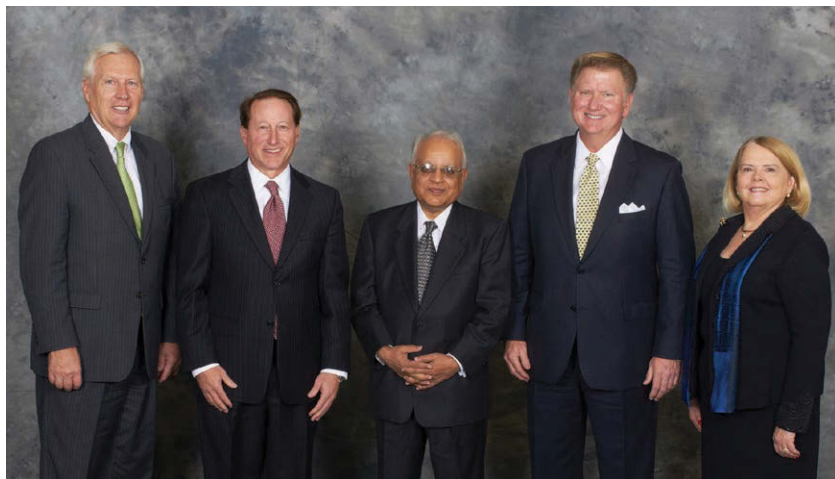
## College alums named Penn State Alumni Fellows

Alumni Michael Fiaschetti and William Lambert were among 19 named 2012 Penn State Alumni Fellows. The highest award given by the Penn State Alumni Association, the title recognizes outstanding professional achievements.

Only 700 of the University's 560,000 living alumni have received this award since 1973. More than 30 Penn State Harrisburg alumni have been named.

Fiaschetti, '04 M.B.A., is president of Health Markets for Highmark, Inc., a health insurance company employing more than 19,500 people and serving 4.9 million health plan members. He has 25 years of executive experience in the managed care and health insurance industry. A Penn State Harrisburg Advisory Board member, Fiaschetti also serves on the boards of the Harrisburg Regional Chamber, Capital Region Economic Development Corporation, and is chairman of the Inter-County Health Plan and the Pennsylvania Health Information Exchange boards. In 2008, the Penn State Harrisburg chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma, an international business honor society, named Fiaschetti a Distinguished Honoree. He received the college's 2011 Alumni Achievement Award.

Lambert, '80 mechanical engineering technology, is president and CEO of Mine Safety Appliances Company, the world's leading manufacturer of worker safety products. Lambert joined the company in 1981 as a design engineer and developed and patented the Quick-Fill System, which enables firefighters to restore their air supplies rapidly in emergency situations. A member of the Penn State Harrisburg Board of Advisers, Lambert also serves on the boards of the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, the American Red Cross of Southwestern Pennsylvania, the Senator John Heinz History Center, and the International Safety Equipment Association. In 2010, he received the college's Alumni Achievement Award.



*Alumni Fellows Michael Fiaschetti and William Lambert (second and fourth from left) with Penn State President Rodney Erickson, Penn State Harrisburg Chancellor Mukund Kulkarni, and Penn State Alumni Association President Kathleen Smarilli.*

*Photo: Vista Professional Studios*

### Alum, benefactor receives international award

Alumnus Salvatore D. Fazzolari, '77 accounting, former CEO and chairman of HARSCO Corporation, has received the Business Achievement Award from Beta Gamma Sigma, an international business honor society.

Fazzolari served the Camp Hill-based HARSCO Corporation for more than 30 years, helping to grow the global industrial services company's annual revenue to nearly \$4 billion and its workforce to approximately 21,000 people. During his tenure, he directed funds to support Penn State Harrisburg's library, study abroad programs, and scholarships. In 2008, he was named a Penn State Alumni Fellow, the Alumni Association's most prestigious award.

The Business Achievement Award recognizes significant accomplishment in the field of business that has advanced the industry and contributed to society.

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## alumni news

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Photos: Shanna Siegfried