

Penn State Harrisburg

Spring/Summer 2017

Currents

50

1966 | 2016

TH



LOOKING BACK;
MOVING FORWARD



PennState
Harrisburg

Online at harrisburg.psu.edu/currents



Mukund S. Kulkarni

Greetings FROM THE CHANCELLOR

What an exciting time at Penn State Harrisburg. As we wind down our 50th anniversary celebrations, I would like to take this time to thank our alumni and our college community for your enthusiastic participation, your endearing stories, your fond memories, and your unwavering support. Our 50th anniversary events were enhanced by your contributions.

This issue is dedicated to Penn State Harrisburg's past, present, and future and the role that you, our illustrious alumni, continue to play in our success. Stories include a look at the college's major milestones over the course of its 50-year history; a fun look back at Meade Heights, with an update on the college's current housing options; an account of the stealth mission from which The Outpost eatery in the Student Enrichment Center (SEC) derives its name; and the inspiration behind the 50th anniversary artwork currently hanging in the SEC.

Also in this issue is an account of the several distinguished guest speakers the college has hosted this past semester, including Jim Dinegar, president and CEO of the Greater Washington Board of Trade, who served as our second PNC Thought Leaders Lecture Series speaker; Jon Landau, Academy Award winning producer of films "Titanic" and "Avatar;" "Orange is the New Black" actress Diane Guerrero; Penn State head football coach James Franklin, who served as keynote speaker at our spring commencement; and many more.

Through the giving of their time and expertise, as well as through philanthropic donations, our alumni remain steadfast in support of many initiatives that improve students' lives and educational experience. One alumna who is a wonderful example of this generous spirit is Jane Filby Leipold, a 1988 graduate of Penn State Harrisburg's MBA program and former senior vice president of global human resources at TE Connectivity. She has donated scholarship funds to the college, some of which are intended to enhance opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math for women and minorities. We are grateful to Ms. Leipold for her generosity and commitment to Penn State Harrisburg.

The college remains committed to innovative research and discovery. This issue looks at research and scholarly activity on topics such as policing in Pennsylvania, location-based games, stemming the spread of superbugs, early childhood education, and teaching students to invest wisely.

This summer, we will welcome the Penn State Board of Trustees to our campus July 19 through 21. I look forward to sharing with them the range of wonderful things happening at Penn State Harrisburg.

It has been a pleasure sharing memories, watching the continued growth of the college, and looking toward Penn State Harrisburg's possibilities in the future with you. I hope you have enjoyed our 50th anniversary as much as we have. It is my sincere hope that you continue to stay connected to Penn State Harrisburg and its community as we grow, for you are a major partner in the college's success.

Mukund S. Kulkarni, Ph.D.



Vol. 29 No. 1

CHANCELLOR

Mukund S. Kulkarni, Ph.D.

BOARD OF ADVISERS

Jeffrey Merritt '85, Chair

James Talalai '94g, Vice Chair

C. Andy Klinger '81, '90g, Treasurer

Mukund S. Kulkarni, Secretary

ALUMNI SOCIETY

Helen Klinger '82, President

Timothy Ritter '89, Past President

Brad Simpson '03, '06g, Vice President

Patricia Hindermyer '80, Secretary

EDITORIAL BOARD

Laurie Dobrosky '84

Assistant Director, Alumni Relations

Rebecca Gardner

Senior Director, Marketing Research and Communications

Yvonne Harhigh '83

Associate Director, Communications

Marissa Graby Hoover '00

Director, Development and Alumni Relations

EDITOR

Yvonne Harhigh '83

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Kalisha DeVan '01, '11g

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Sharon Siegfried

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Sharon Siegfried

Lindsey Shuey Gini Woy

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Kalisha DeVan Claire Meler

Laura Knowles Monica Von Dobeneck

CURRENTS is published by the Penn State Harrisburg Marketing Research and Communications Office. News, story ideas, and address changes should be sent to:

Yvonne Harhigh

Penn State Harrisburg

Olmsted W-101 • 777 West Harrisburg Pike

Middletown, PA 17057-4898

YIH101@psu.edu

This publication is available in alternative media on request. Penn State encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Alan Babcock, 717-948-6025, in advance of your participation or visit.

Penn State is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status. U.Ed. HBO 17-147

Opinions expressed are not necessarily shared by the college or the editors.

harrisburg.psu.edu/currents



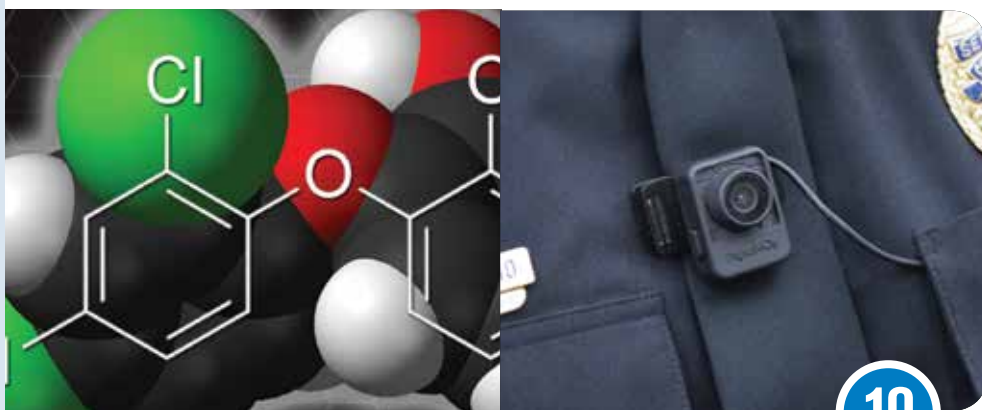
Milestones

4



No Place Like Home

6



Research and Discovery

10



12 College News



To view *Currents* online, scan the QR code with your smartphone, or visit harrisburg.psu.edu/currents.

Milestones and Memories

Penn State Harrisburg was founded in 1966 as Penn State's Capitol Campus, Pennsylvania's first upper division and graduate school and one of only three in the nation at the time. In the span of 50 years, the college has grown from eight faculty members, 18 undergraduates and 165 graduate students to more than 5,000 students. Over the college's five decades, there has been immense change – in academic and co-curricular programming, grounds and architecture, and the college community itself. Here's a look at the leaders and milestones in the college's tremendous transformation from an Air Force base to a regional leader in higher education.

1966

Capitol campus opens for classes



1966

George D. Wolf was appointed first faculty member



1967

Enrollment tripled to 564 students

1970

Meade Heights housing complex opened to students

1980

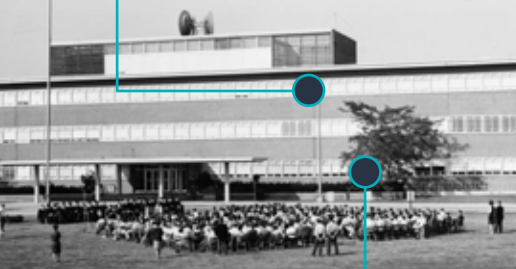
Current academic units created: Business Administration; Public Affairs; Humanities; Behavioral Sciences and Education; Science, Engineering, and Technology; Library

1984

Science and Technology Building dedicated



1960s



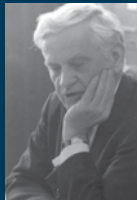
1970s



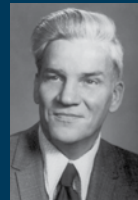
1980s



1966-1972
Coleman Herpel
Capitol Campus Director



1967-1973
Richard H. Heindel
Dean of Faculty



1972-1978
Robert E. McDermott
Provost



1973-1978
George D. Wolf
Dean of Faculty



1979-1983
Theodore L. Gross
Provost and Dean



1983-1984
Stanley N. Miller
Acting Provost and Dean



1984-1994
Ruth Leventhal
Provost and Dean

1968

First graduating class of 12 students traveled to University Park for commencement ceremony

1970

Capital Union Building (CUB) construction completed



1986

Campus gains "college" status; name becomes The Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg—Capital College

1969

First commencement on campus; 251 degrees awarded



1988

Ph.D. in public administration established—first doctorate offered outside of University Park

1989

Between 1989 and 1994, college academic units received "school" status

2001

Freshmen admitted into the college's first four-year program, Information Sciences and Technology



2002

New student housing opened

2010

Shaun Gabbidon named Distinguished Professor of Criminal Justice



2011

100th commencement

2000

New library opened



2003

Began offering all four years of study in five undergraduate majors in science, engineering, and technology

2004

Began admitting first-year students in all programs



2015

Educational Activities Building addition completed



1991

Simon Bronner named college's first Distinguished Professor, in American studies

1990s



2000s



2010s



1995
Theodore E. Kiffer
Interim Provost and Dean



1995-1999
John G. Bruhn
Provost and Dean



1999-2000
John L. Leathers
Interim Provost and Dean



2000-2010
Madlyn L. Hanes
Chancellor



2010-Present
Mukund S. Kulkarni
Chancellor

2005

Ziegler Commons dedicated

2006

Hoverter Tennis Complex dedicated



2006

2000-pound Nittany Lion Shrine permanently placed on Vartan Plaza



2007

Linda Schwab Holocaust Reading Room dedicated

2016

Beverly Cigler named Distinguished Professor of Public Policy and Administration

2016

Student Enrichment Center dedicated

2016

Enrollment reaches 5,046



There's no place like home: memories of Meade Heights

When Penn State purchased portions of the Olmsted Air Force Base from the U.S. Department of Defense for \$1 in 1966, the sale included 177.5 acres and 16 buildings; it didn't include the Meade Heights housing complex on the west side of campus. That was purchased in 1968, increasing the campus to over 217 acres and 90 buildings.

Built in 1960, Meade Heights was originally designed to accommodate officers and their families. The 140 ranch-style houses could accommodate as many as 560 people.

Meade Heights operated as student housing from 1970 to 2002, and was the largest student housing area on campus in its time. A friendly, neighborhood-like community, Meade Heights became known to its residents as a home away from home. The book *Penn State Harrisburg*, by Heidi Abbey Moyer, archivist and interim director of the Penn State Harrisburg library, described Meade Heights as a "unique 'learning-living' environment," with some houses occupied by students while others were home to faculty and their families."

The houses were divided into two sides, and eight people could live in each duplex. Homes included three bedrooms, one bathroom, a kitchen, and a common living area. Because the houses seemed to lack proper insulation for cold weather, a long-standing legend among the residents postulated that the design plans, which seemed to better accommodate warm weather conditions, were accidentally switched with those of Florida's Homestead Air Force Base.

Embracing the neighborhood-like environment the complex created, Meade Heights had a laundry facility, "Suds City," and a dining facility. Because Penn State Harrisburg was originally an upper division campus and graduate school, Meade Heights student residents were juniors, seniors, and graduate students; the average age was 26.

According to Paul Levitsky ('79), a former resident, Meade Heights was the best place to live on campus.

"Four students in a three bedroom house was pretty good living for college residency," he said. "Since all of your neighbors were also college students, no one got upset with parties, blaring music, football games in the yard, late night grilling."

For recreational purposes, the Meade Heights complex offered students a sand volleyball court, a park dubbed "People's Park," and a large, open yard area between Mars Drive and Nelson Drive. Concerts were held in People's Park as part of the Rites of Spring, a yearly tradition started by students in the 1970s that began as a festival with events such as a free picnic, bonfire, road rally, and games. The Rites evolved to also include mud wrestling and a slip-n-slide.

Another tradition was the forming of social clubs, based in specific houses, Levitsky said. Some of the largest gatherings occurred in these houses.

"There was the beloved bar in the living room that was handed down year to year," he said. "The entryway at the front door made a great dart lane. There were constant backgammon games played along with card games. There was always loud music in the air We worked hard at school and played hard with friends."

For Ronda Stump ('88), who lived in Meade Heights from 1988 to 1989, some of her fondest memories surround these social gatherings, including when she first met the man who became her husband.

"One Saturday evening in October 1988, my roommates convinced me to go to a Meade Heights party," she said. "I started talking to a young man who I sort of recognized from Penn State Harrisburg and who I later found out had admired me from afar."

After exchanging numbers and going on their first date, the pair spent much of their time in the Heights, a place that holds a special place in their hearts.

"Meade Heights is where we met, where I said yes to our first date, where we had our first kiss, and where we spent many, many nights during that first dating year," she said. "Yes, it is a special place to us."

Meade Heights itself was "decommissioned" in 2002. Before it was torn down, alumni were invited back to pay homage. Former residents, nostalgic from fond memories of their time at Meade Heights, returned to campus to take bits of drywall, bricks, and door signs with them as keepsakes.

At "We Are Weekend" in fall 2016, former residents gathered again to tour the complex's former location and share treasured memories.



Housing today



On-campus housing today looks quite a bit different from the days of Meade Heights. The Village complex on the east side of campus is home to more than

400 students who live in single-, double-, or triple-occupancy apartment style housing, and double-occupancy suite-style housing for first-year students.

Within these units, Penn State Harrisburg now offers special living options for incoming

first-year students. Two themed houses, Sustainability House and Discover House, are accepting applications for the fall 2017 semester.

Sustainability House, designed to engage students in a multidisciplinary study of environmental sustainability, offers seminars, courses, and community and social events for residents. Discover House is designed for students who are undecided in their major or have not identified a career path. A four-part exploration series will familiarize students with resources and academic tools while also exposing them to potential careers and majors.



New eatery, top secret history

When Penn State Harrisburg officials began thinking about the design of the new Student Enrichment Center and its eatery, they looked no further than the college's top secret military past and the mission that would protect the President of the United States in case of nuclear warfare during the Cold War. It's name: "The Outpost Mission"



Tucked away in a top secret government file, one so secret that only the United States president and a select group of officials knew of its existence, were the "Doomsday Blueprints," a plan outlining procedures for protecting the president in the case of nuclear warfare with the Soviet Union during the Cold War. At the center of these escape plans was the location of Penn State Harrisburg, at the time the Olmsted Air Force Base, where an undercover squadron was stationed for the emergency evacuation of the president.

The "Doomsday Blueprints" were disclosed to the public in 1992, in an article published by *Time Magazine*, that detailed the elaborate system developed to protect the executive branch, which began with the establishment of the 2857th Test Squadron, an elite unit of helicopter pilots and crewmen stationed at Olmsted.

They were disguised as a search and rescue team; only the White House and squadron members knew their true purpose: flying to Washington, D.C. and evacuating the president to safety. The evacuation plans were known as the "Outpost Mission" in the blueprints, and because Olmsted fell just outside of the blast radius of an attack on Washington, the base was the perfect location to house a secret squadron. After securing the president, the idea was to take him to a secure place, including a complex in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania or a bunker in Berryville, Virginia.

Using their search and rescue team guise, the squadron performed regular test runs at Olmsted outfitted in full gear: blast visors to protect the eyes from an atomic flash, boots, gloves, and rubber bodysuits saturated with lead to protect from radiation. The gear totaled almost 20 pounds per person.

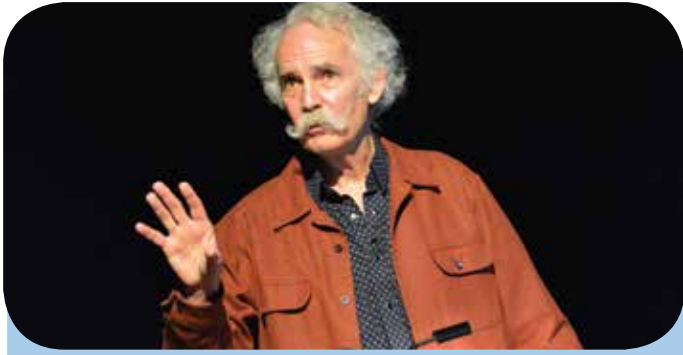
Though the Air Force base was converted into a college campus in 1966 and the "Outpost Mission" was decommissioned entirely in 1970, traces of the history were incorporated into the design of the new Student Enrichment Center; the new eatery was dubbed The Outpost, directly named after the infamous evacuation plans. And in addition to the helicopters painted on the eatery logo, "2857th" also appears as a tribute to the campus' rich history.

A nod to our military past

Other namesakes from the college location's history around campus include the Olmsted building, named after First Lieutenant Robert Sanford Olmsted. Olmsted was killed in an international balloon race in Belgium when his balloon was struck by lightning over the Netherlands. He had been stationed at the Air Force base since 1919.

Several roads on campus in the former Meade Heights area carry the names of commanding officers stationed at Olmsted, including Nelson Drive, named after first commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel George E. Nelson; Jones Street, named after Major Roy M. Jones; Weaver Avenue, named after Major Walter R. Weaver; Flickinger Street, named after Captain Harrison W. Flickinger; and Mars Drive, named after Colonel James A. Mars. Church and Wisberg Halls were named after Captain Kenneth L. Church and Captain John Wisberg, who died during a test flight from Olmsted in 1960.

Heard on Campus



Internationally renowned author and educator **Henry Glassie**, professor emeritus at Indiana University, returned to campus February 20, taking guests on a virtual global tour of traditional buildings and landscapes to uncover a new way to conceive of history. Glassie's visit was a homecoming; he began his career as assistant professor of American studies at Penn State Harrisburg in 1969.

Diane Guerrero, immigration reform activist and star of the Netflix series "Orange is the New Black," visited campus April 11 to talk about her personal experiences and her book *In the Country We Love: My Family Divided*, during a discussion facilitated by Dr. Laura Roy, associate professor of education. Born in the U.S. to undocumented



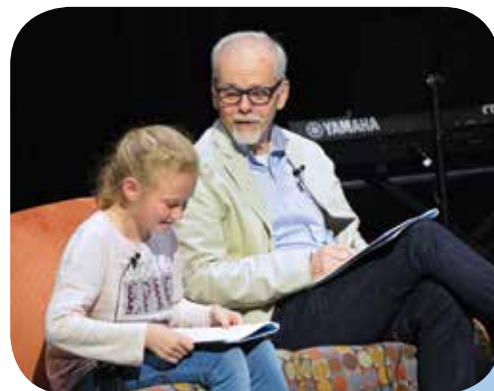
parents, Guerrero described living in "a bubble of fear" about her family's deportation. Her own experiences led to self-reliance – fear held her back from pursuing anything that

she couldn't do on her own, she said – and eventually a commitment to activism. Guerrero emphasized the importance of humanizing issues through storytelling as a way students can contribute to a cause. "We all have an immigration story in the U.S.," she said. "One way we can uplift our community is by telling and knowing our own histories."

Group president of Focus Brands and chief operations officer of its subsidiary Cinnabon, the American chain of retail bakeries, **Kat Cole** has made her mark as a top executive with the \$3 billion company. Cole visited on March 27 to speak at the School of Business Administration alumni reunion. Among her tips for business success – saying yes before you are ready. But that's only half of it, she said. "You have to use your hustle muscle to close the gap."



In honor of the college's 50th anniversary, the campus choir, chamber singers, and concert band performed "**1966-2016: The Tunes of Our Time**," covering popular music from each decade since Penn State Harrisburg was established. They were directed by Dr. Adam Gustafson, instructor in music.



Faculty and staff, and one future Penn Stater, presented "**Once Upon a Campus**," a celebration in drama and music of the college's history, written,

produced and directed by Dr. Dorothy King, assistant professor of sociology.

Jon Landau, Academy Award-winning producer of the movies "Avatar" and "Titanic," shared his insights on the film industry, technology, and creativity, April 6 on campus.



Landau emphasized pushing technology ahead, not letting it hold you back. "We want people who spawn innovation," he said, noting that challenges in the production of his movie "The Abyss" led to

creation of the image-editing software Photoshop. The biggest change he's seen during his career: "the democratizing of technology." Having technology more accessible to everyone is a good change, he said.



Drawing on his background as president and CEO of the Greater Washington

Board of Trade, **Jim Dinegar** related his experiences of bringing together local and state governments, businesses, educators and others to create a coalition that promotes regional economic development and issue advocacy. Dinegar made his remarks on April 12, as the second speaker in the PNC Thought Leaders Lecture Series at Penn State Harrisburg, which kicked off in fall 2016.

In April, Penn State Harrisburg presented "**Avenue Q,**" a musical described as "part human, part puppet ... a laugh-out-loud show that tells the timeless story of a college grad as he arrived in New York City with big dreams and a tiny bank account." Maria Enriquez, lecturer in theater, directed the production, with music direction by Dr. Adam Gustafson, instructor in music.



Penn State Football Coach James Franklin

addressed graduates at Penn State Harrisburg's spring commencement, May 6 at the Giant Center in Hershey, Pa. Acknowledging that his advice might sound crazy, Franklin said, "Right now you all are broke college students. Stay broke as long as you possibly can and chase your dreams...the minute that money becomes part of your decision process, it changes everything. Chase your dreams as long as you can and the money and success will come."



Research and Discovery

Location-based games influence our perception of culture

With the introduction of location-based games such as “Ingress” or “Pokemon Go,” an influx of gamers equipped with mobile devices appeared around the country. While the players’ primary focus is catching Pokemon or capturing portals, new research by Dr. Anthony Buccitelli, assistant professor of American studies and communications, suggests that gamers are doing more than just playing – they’re building communities and connecting with their local cultural heritage.

“Ingress” was created by Niantic Labs, formerly a Google subsidiary and the same company that developed the popular game “Pokemon Go.” Players select one of two possible factions to represent, capturing portals represented by geographical features and defending them from the opponents.

The portals are located in urban and rural areas, but concentrated around population centers; many are player-generated, Buccitelli said. An annotative feature of “Ingress” allows players to submit significant locations for review to create additional portals. These features, Buccitelli said, are key for understanding the impact of the games on players’ surroundings.

“It is important to understand these games because they shape the way we perceive what counts as important heritage locations and what does not,” he said. “For example, since part of my study was based on work in my hometown in Massachusetts, I was particularly struck by the way in which the geography of Ingress failed to match what I understood to be important sites in the cultural and historical life of our community.”

Instead, the portals reflected how Niantic Labs conceived of what counted as heritage, Buccitelli said, a definition influenced by legal and commercial concerns rather than an understanding of local cultures.

The criteria for acceptance requires portals to have cultural or historical significance, inadvertently forcing players to acknowledge their local heritage, he said. Sites with historical markers or “cool” art and culture are generally accepted, as are sites that serve as public gathering places.

At Penn State Harrisburg, 19 “Ingress” portals exist, all of which are frequently contested by both factions. “The ‘Class of 1999’ bench is particularly vulnerable,” Buccitelli joked. Local “Ingress” players are constantly battling to claim each portal for their own.

Though the game’s tagline is “the world around you is not what it seems,” “Ingress” enables players to learn about their communities and establish meaningful relationships with the physical landscape that perhaps would not otherwise exist.

“I see locative technologies more generally as part of a cluster of technologies that soon will converge into a much different everyday experience of technology,” Buccitelli said. “The combination of location-based technologies like augmented or virtual reality and the networking of everyday objects is going to much more closely tie our everyday lives to digital spaces.”



Dedication to advocacy leads to distinguished career award

For 50 years, Jane Keat, associate professor of early childhood education, has devoted her career to advocacy work for young children in three distinct ways: research, teaching, and collaboration with others in her field.

This has led to her receiving the 2017 Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children VOICE for Children Distinguished Career award.

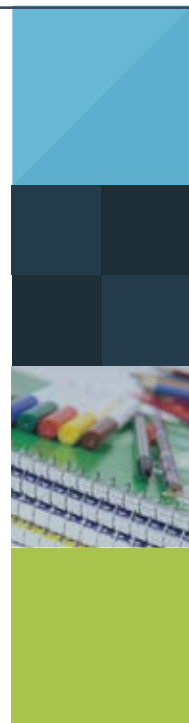
“First, my research advocates, as it focuses on the influence of teacher research within the classroom practice of teachers of young children, and is published in journals for early childhood professors and teachers,” Keat said. “Second, I advocate each time I teach graduate and undergraduate courses in which students learn the theory, research and recommended practices for teaching children, birth through grade four.

“Third, my advocacy efforts occur in concert with other early childhood educators in Pennsylvania as we work together on task forces and work groups to call other Pennsylvanians to pay careful attention to the development and learning needs of our youngest citizens in child care and primary grades,” she said.

Keat will retire this year following a long career. Twenty-two of those years were in preschool work, and 28 were in university work. She said that receiving the award meant that her work had been appreciated by others.

“As I prepare to retire from university work, I leave as professor emerita,” Keat said. “I hope I will find new ways to make a difference for young children.”

“First, my research advocates, as it focuses on the influence of teacher research within the classroom practice of teachers of young children, and is published in journals for early childhood professors and teachers.”



Research examines public opinion on policing issues

Data from a recent survey by the Center for Survey Research at Penn State Harrisburg shows how Pennsylvanians view key policing topics, including what defines police legitimacy and whether or not police wearing body cameras makes us feel safer.

Recently, high profile cases of alleged police brutality and police shootings of minorities have raised questions about a “legitimacy crisis” in policing. Penn State Harrisburg researcher, Dr. Jennifer Gibbs, assistant professor of criminal justice, asserted that before the question of a legitimacy crisis can be raised, what “police legitimacy” means to citizens must first be determined.

Gibbs explains that people from different disciplines, such as political science or criminology, define the word differently. The Center for Survey Research poll set out to ask Pennsylvania citizens directly, “what does (police) ‘legitimacy’ mean to you?”

Overall, the majority of respondents defined police legitimacy in terms of integrity or morality, followed by lawfulness, and fairness. The most common definitions varied by racial and ethnic groups. While most definitions were categorized as integrity/morality or lawfulness for whites, non-white respondents most often defined police legitimacy as integrity/morality or fairness. The sample was predominantly white. Significant differences also emerged among age groups.

“The primary implication of these findings is that police and academicians alike should take heed of the public voice,” Gibbs said. “Police should consider ways to promote public perception of officer integrity, lawfulness, and fairness, and include various communities in discussions of how to do so.”

Pennsylvanians would feel safer with police body-worn cameras

The researchers also sought to gauge Pennsylvania residents’ feelings on police body-worn cameras.

“Politicians, the media, and public interest groups have called for greater police accountability through implementation of police body-worn cameras in the wake of police shootings of minority citizens,” Gibbs said.

When asked the question “I would feel safer if a police officer was wearing a video camera,” most of the Pennsylvanians sampled – 88.1 percent – agreed. But, views differed among social groups. Black/African American respondents were more likely to say that they strongly agree with the statement than were white respondents and those of another race. Differences were also reported by gender, education, income level, and political affiliation.

Despite this support, there are some who have voiced concerns over citizen privacy, said Gibbs. She also stressed that many questions still remain and that body-worn cameras may not be a one-size-fits-all answer.



Researcher helps stem the spread of superbugs

Dr. Katherine Baker, associate professor of environmental microbiology, feels vindicated. She and other microbiologists have been warning for years that anti-bacterial soaps containing triclosan are bad for the environment, harmful for health, and do nothing to prevent disease.

In September 2016, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) banned the use of triclosan and a related product, triclocarban, from consumer soaps and wash products. But, triclosan also is incorporated in cosmetics, kitchen utensils, clothing, and even bowling balls – 22,000 consumer products in all. The FDA rules do not yet affect these products.

Baker and her students have shown through their research that anti-bacterial soaps contribute to the spread of superbugs – organisms which no longer respond to antibiotics. Triclosan also affects hormones and can disrupt the endocrine cycle.

“For the past decade, microbiologists have been speaking about entering a post-antibiotic era,” Baker said. “People will start dying again of diseases they died of before antibiotics. We took this amazing discovery, abused it, and now it won’t work...”

For her research, Baker used the “gray water” that comes from household sinks and washing machines. The gray water contained triclosan from detergents and soaps, and is often used for irrigation. She sprayed it on soil, then studied the microorganisms in the soil. Within three months, many of the microbes had developed a resistance to tetracycline, a commonly used antibiotic.

But, it’s not just anti-bacterial soaps causing the problem. The overuse of antibiotics for minor illnesses and the wholesale feeding of antibiotics to livestock is a huge problem, Baker said. “Antibiotics should be used discriminately,” she said.

Baker believes it’s not too late to reverse the trend, but said changing attitudes is tough. It’s hard to wean people away from the idea that anti-bacterial soaps are good, especially when many advertisements promote them.

“We’re so terrified of germs,” she said. “There is this idea that if you use this magic thing, you won’t get sick. Washing with plain soap – rubbing and rinsing long enough to sing ‘Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star’ or your ABCs – is as effective in preventing disease.”



Students aim to grow portfolio to benefit others

With the stock market reaching record highs in 2017, investing would seem to be a sure win. A group of finance and business majors at Penn State Harrisburg hope to find out.

Members of the Student Investment Committee are taking their academic background and turning it into a real-life experience investing real money in the stock market.

"I have been adviser to the Finance Club for 12 years, and this is something we have been building toward for many years," said Dr. Patrick Cusatis, associate professor of finance and business administration.

Through the years, the seed money to grow a fund for students to invest has gradually increased with the support of Penn State Harrisburg donors. That, Cusatis said, gives the committee the money needed to have a real investment portfolio that they can use to fund scholarships for future students.

Cusatis knows about the real-life financial marketplace, having worked in the private sector in the heart of the nation's financial district prior to joining Penn State. Now, he is able to put his Wall Street background to work as adviser to the students.

"Even though the students will be making their decisions on which stocks to invest in, there is a safety net with the advisory committee. They monitor what the students can buy or not buy," said Cusatis, who serves on that committee with three other faculty members.

"I wanted the chance to be involved in the decisions and to learn more on investing strategies from our professors in a real life situation."

To determine which stocks to select for the portfolio, the students must do their homework, researching options in all sectors and reporting their findings at regular meetings. "It's a big responsibility," said Cusatis, "one that these students do not take lightly."

Former president of the Penn State Harrisburg Finance Club, Jessica Reitenbach graduated in May with degrees in finance and accounting. "I wanted the chance to be involved in the decisions and to learn more on investing strategies from our professors in a real life situation," she said of her experience on the Student Investment Committee.

"It is important to make sure we make sound investments so that the fund can grow and future students can have the same opportunities we are being given," Reitenbach said.

Beck named new School of Humanities director

Dr. Jeffrey Beck has been appointed director of the School of Humanities, effective July 1, 2017.

Beck currently serves as the dean of the Nathan Weiss Graduate College at Kean University (New Jersey), and also has served as assistant dean and associate dean of graduate studies at East Tennessee State University (ETSU). Beck has 23 years of teaching experience

between the two institutions, having been promoted from assistant to associate to full professor at ETSU and hired as dean with the rank of professor at Kean. He also has held teaching positions at Indiana University. Beck has taught English and worked with departments in arts and sciences throughout his career.

"I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Jeffrey Beck. He brings a wealth of extensive administrative and academic experience, leadership abilities and proven success as a scholar and able administrator," said Chancellor Mukund Kulkarni. "We look forward to welcoming him to the Penn State Harrisburg community."

A literary historian, Beck has authored the books, *The American Indian Integration of Baseball* and *Writing the Flesh: The Herbert Family Dialogue*, as well as many peer-reviewed articles, notes, magazine articles, and reviews. He has received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities to pursue his research.

"I am very excited to join Penn State Harrisburg as the director of the School of Humanities," said Beck. "I am looking forward to working with the school's outstanding faculty and staff to continue the significant research and learning opportunities in progress, and to explore new ideas to advance the School of Humanities even further."

Beck holds a doctoral degree and a master's degree from Indiana University, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa.



around campus



The 19th annual MLK Day play, "Riveted," centered on four African-American women who answer the call for civilian workers during World War II.



Holi, also called the Festival of Colors, is a popular Hindu festival observed at the end of the winter season on the last full moon day of the lunar month Phalgun.

Read more online at harrisburg.psu.edu/currents





Theater brings new programming and perspectives to college community

When plans for Penn State Harrisburg's Student Enrichment Center (SEC) were approved in 2015, the initial blueprints included a multi-purpose space on the first floor intended for lectures and special events. But over the course of the project's development, the concept for the space was gradually reshaped into what is now the SEC theater, a state-of-the-art venue for cultural and academic programming and student activities.

The theater opened in August 2016 and already has been host to numerous events and hundreds of patrons from the campus and the community. The scope of events and presentations has been wide-ranging – an urban education expert and author, the student production of “Avenue Q,” the PNC Thought Leaders Lecture Series, the spring music program “1966-2016: The Tunes of Our Times,” and more.

With the new space has come new academic offerings such as a theater practicum and a music/band practicum. Students from numerous disciplines have enrolled in these courses, illustrating the importance of the arts, according to Dr. Adam Gustafson, instructor in music.

“A lot of people understand theater to mean people on a stage acting, and they don't understand that for every person on the stage, there are 20 people behind the scenes making that happen,” said Gustafson. “There are more engineers involved in theater than there are actors at the professional level, and this is a viable component of their education.”

The intention is to continue encouraging the involvement of students from all disciplines, a feat which Matthew Mitra, arts production specialist, believes is necessary given the impressive technology with which the theater is equipped.

The theater boasts more than 50 LED lighting fixtures and a state-of-the-art sound system, according to Mitra. Students are able to learn and manage the systems, giving students exposure to, and knowledge about, the theater's advanced technology.

“People who have attended events have been thrilled with the level of professionalism we've achieved in this space, and that's something to be proud of,” said Teri Guerrisi, arts administrator. “There's value in seeing what this space can do and how we can push it.”



Ashley Williams first to compete at indoor track nationals

Ashley Williams, a kinesiology major from Easton, Pa., became the first Penn State Harrisburg student to compete in the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships held at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois, March 10 and 11.

Prior to competing in the NCAA Championships, Williams claimed a second straight Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) Championship by breaking her own conference record in the 60-meter hurdles with an 8.95-second finish.

She followed the CAC Championship with a first place finish in the Eastern College Athletic Conference Championship on March 3 and 4, earning her a spot in the NCAA Championship as the 16th ranked hurdler in the country. Williams finished her indoor season with an impressive run that moved her up to 11th.



The college hosted “Enhancing Health,” one of several public forums focused on implementing Penn State's long-range Strategic Plan.



The first Latino Gala celebrated the history, traditions, and culture of Latin America through presentations, performances, and food.

50th Anniversary artwork represents community

Led by Ophelia Chambliss, a 2013 master of arts in communications graduate and lecturer in the college's School of Humanities, more than 200 members of the college community completed a large-scale artwork commemorating Penn State Harrisburg's 50th anniversary.

"I wanted to do something that would provide the opportunity for a lot of people to have their hands on it and would also signify the 50th," Chambliss said on her concept for the piece. "It had to say, 'you are all a part of this.'"

The piece, composed of more than 200 individual squares and currently hanging in the Student Enrichment Center on campus, was completed during "We Are Weekend" in October 2016, and several days after—with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and future Penn Staters lending their artistic abilities.



Chambliss said that she enjoyed that people personalized their squares with their initials or a design so that they were able to find their piece after the artwork was put together.



In developing the piece, Chambliss came up with the abstract design, incorporating the college's 50th anniversary mark. She also created all the paint colors used.

"I looked at the mark and then did a lot of serious math and planning to plot it out and get it on this image," Chambliss said. "I had to find colors of the same value, nothing too dark or too light, and they had to be completely different from the blue in the logo, so it would be distinct. The design was dictated by the needs of the project. **We wanted it to be unique to Penn State Harrisburg and the 50th anniversary.**"

Chambliss then cut the image she made into individual squares, which were painted by the Penn State Harrisburg community.

"Once it was cut up, you couldn't really tell what it was going to look like until it was put back together," she said.

Chambliss said that while it was hard to coax some people into participating, once they started, they kept coming back to do more squares. She added that she had to pull out extra squares to accommodate the volume of participants, which she eventually incorporated into the artwork.

"The piece had a real sense of community," Chambliss said. "Even after we finished, there were still people who wanted to paint. I wish I had more."

Programs named in U.S. News & World Report top graduate schools rankings

Two Penn State Harrisburg programs have been named in the U.S. News and World Report list of top graduate schools for 2018. The MBA offered in the School of Business Administration has been included in the publication's part-time MBA list and degrees in education offered in the School of Behavioral Sciences and Education have been named on the publication's list of schools of education that offer a doctorate.

The Penn State Harrisburg programs are the only ones in Pennsylvania's Capital Region in those categories to be named to the list.

around campus



Internationally recognized Tony Porter, chief executive officer of A CALL TO MEN™, visited the college to discuss prevention of violence against women while promoting a healthy, respectful manhood.



Dr. Omid Ansary, associate dean for academic affairs, led the college community on a quick loop around campus to kick off the college's first Exercise is Medicine Day.

Read more online at harrisburg.psu.edu/currents



Leipold leadership gift launches campaign effort, enhances STEM scholarships and career readiness

Jane Filby Leipold, a 1988 graduate of Penn State Harrisburg's MBA program, 2013 Penn State Alumni Fellow, and former senior vice president of global human resources at TE Connectivity has pledged \$1 million to support scholarships and student services at the college. Leipold also holds a Penn State bachelor's degree ('82) in quantitative business analysis.

Upon Leipold's retirement in 2016, the TE Connectivity Board of Directors established the annual Jane Filby Leipold Scholarship in her honor. Leipold later endowed that scholarship. She most recently made an additional pledge from her estate, committing an additional \$500,000 to enhance opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) with first preference for women and minorities and \$500,000 to establish the Jane Filby Leipold Human Resources and Career Readiness Fund.

"One of the greatest gifts my parents gave me was my Penn State education. My pledge to Penn State Harrisburg reflects my belief in the power of education, the importance of building critical knowledge and capabilities in the next generation and the responsibility to pay it forward," Leipold said.

Leipold's \$1 million gift is the largest gift to date to the college's "A Greater Penn State" campaign.

"This gift is a testament to Jane's belief in the college and our vision, and honors her passion for supporting women in STEM as well as her background in human resources," said Marissa Hoover, director of development and alumni relations. "Aside from her financial contributions, Jane has always donated her time and talents to help our students by sharing her expertise at professional development events. She also has been a tremendous advocate for the college and helped to build the successful partnership between the college and TE Connectivity."

Leipold served as senior vice president of global human resources for TE Connectivity, a multi-national company involved in the design and manufacture of products that connect and protect power and data flow. In that position, she developed and implemented human resources processes, policies, and programs and managed the company's global security, compensation, benefits, employee relations, payroll, and human resource information systems functions.

Leipold has offered her business expertise through board memberships and as a guest lecturer to college students. She was instrumental in the establishment of the TE Connectivity Capstone Design Endowment to fund Penn State Harrisburg senior engineering capstone projects and to create the TE Connectivity Lecture Series in Connector Design, which provides opportunities for students to network with industry experts. She presently serves on the Penn State Harrisburg Board of Advisers.



School of Public Affairs director Julnes named Fulbright specialist

Dr. Patria de Lancer Julnes, director of Penn State Harrisburg's School of Public Affairs, has been named a Fulbright Specialist.

The Fulbright Specialist Program sends U.S. faculty and professionals to serve as expert consultants on curriculum, faculty development, institutional planning, and related subjects at academic institutions abroad for a period of two to six weeks.

As a specialist, Julnes traveled to the municipality of Thessaloniki in Greece in early May, where she played a key role in the effort of Thessaloniki to develop a resilience strategy, in collaboration with academic and other stakeholders in the city.

This strategy development process is part of the city's participation in 100 Resilient Cities – pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping cities around the world become more resilient to the physical, social and economic challenges that are a growing part of the 21st century.

An internationally recognized expert, Julnes was named director of the School of Public Affairs in 2015. Previously, she served as special assistant to the provost at the University of Baltimore. Julnes holds a Ph.D. and a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor's degree in marketing.

Got stories?

We want to hear them! Even as our 50th anniversary winds to a close, we'd love to hear about your best campus memories. Share them at Penn State Harrisburg, Alumni Office, hbgalumni@psu.edu or 777 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057-4898 • 717-948-6715

Penn State Harrisburg
777 West Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057-4898

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
The Pennsylvania
State University



HOW WILL YOUR STORY BEGIN?



PENN STATE HARRISBURG
**Undergraduate
Open House**

Saturday, October 21, 2017

Formal program begins at 9:00 a.m.

Capital Union Building
777 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057



Graduate School Open House

**Tuesday, September 19, 2017
6:00 p.m. Library**

Learn about our more than 30 programs.
Meet with faculty. Get admission and
financial aid information.