

Penn State Harrisburg

Spring/Summer 2018

Currents

MUKUND S. KULKARNI
THEATRE



PennState
Harrisburg

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Mukund S. Kulkarni

Greetings FROM THE CHANCELLOR

I have spent a wonderful 33 years serving at Penn State Harrisburg, eight of those as chancellor, and now I am retiring from this college with a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction. Although the college will always be close to my heart, I will now shift my focus to spending time with my wife, Prabha, and enjoying our grandchildren.

Spring is a time of renewal, and there is much happening at Penn State Harrisburg. Our campus continues to grow, our program offerings are increasing, and our outreach to the surrounding communities is flourishing. It is a fitting time to end my chancellorship at this great institution, knowing that I leave the college in the capable hands of our chancellor-elect Dr. John Mason Jr., as well as our outstanding faculty, staff, and students. I know that Penn State Harrisburg will continue to thrive in the years to come.

The success of the college is not something that I can take all of the credit for. There are so many who have helped along the way. So many friendships and partnerships that I have forged among colleagues, parents, students, advisers, alumni, and the extended Penn State Harrisburg family, including community leaders, lawmakers, and officials. I am extremely grateful to all of you and all that we have achieved. I thank you all for your support along the way.

This issue of *Currents* highlights a number of impressive accomplishments reflecting the wide range of the college's continued growth and impact, such as the human development and family studies class that helped senior citizens at the Middletown Home combat ageism through mining memories; or the students who spent their spring break renovating Texas homes ravaged by Hurricane Harvey. There are stories highlighting faculty achievement, and several highlighting the academic and athletic achievements of our students.

This issue also highlights upcoming programming close to my heart, a cultural series that will include annual programs and performances in the college's theatre. This series will provide an accessible way to experience other cultures, as well as highlight the understanding and awareness of the value of diversity in our society. I am very excited for the future of arts and culture at Penn State Harrisburg, and I am truly honored by the generosity and support of many donors, and the consideration given by the University.

One of the major things I will take away from my time at Penn State Harrisburg is that I have been privileged to have the support of such a robust, highly-active, accomplished group of alumni. I want to thank you all for being a major part of the college's success. It is my hope that you will continue to support and remain active at Penn State Harrisburg now and well into the bright future that is ahead.

With my fondest thoughts and deepest sincerity, I bid farewell to a place that will always be a part of me.

Mukund S. Kulkarni, Ph.D.

Currents

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Mukund S. Kulkarni, Ph.D.

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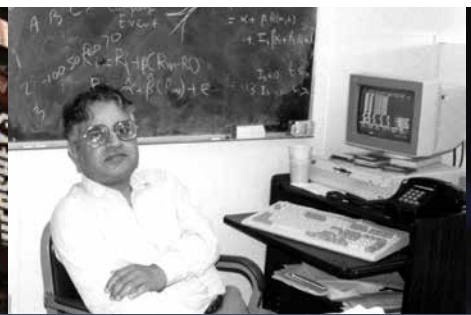
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The Road Ahead: Reflections from Chancellor Mukund Kulkarni

Outgoing Penn State Harrisburg Chancellor Mukund Kulkarni summarizes his life story as a series of happy coincidences, calling himself a “very lucky guy.” He said that starting from childhood, many people have helped him and offered guidance in many different ways. And that has altered the course of his life’s journey for the better.

He added that his string of good fortune continued when he joined Penn State Harrisburg in 1985 as a finance faculty member in the college’s School of Business Administration. He eventually became director of the school, then senior associate dean for academic affairs, and chancellor in 2010. He said he was “lucky to have found a campus with a wonderful sense of community” that “works together as family.”

Under Kulkarni’s leadership, Penn State Harrisburg experienced substantial growth in its student population, including a record number of international students. He continued to build upon the college’s reputation for attracting high-caliber students, highly credentialed faculty members, and dedicated staff members. In support of the growth in enrollment, Kulkarni oversaw the successful introduction of new degree programs, the development of new and enhanced academic and student support facilities, the expansion of teaching and learning support to faculty, and the enhancement of instructional technology. He also guided the college’s role as an economic development engine in the region.

Kulkarni said that he leaves the University with a sense of fulfillment and complete satisfaction. “If I had to live my life all over again, I would do exactly what I have done,” he said.

Here, Kulkarni reflects on his career at Penn State.

What prompted your decision to retire?

“Several factors, actually. We [he and wife Prabha] have two grandchildren now, so we are looking forward to spending more time with them. Also, I am always mindful that you need to leave when you are on top. I think that the campus is doing well and is poised to do even better. Also, I’ve been in the job for eight years. All of these factors combined, I thought, ‘it’s time to go.’ So, a little bit of personal, a little bit of professional – both were considered.”

What are your post-retirement plans?

“My wife and I will continue to live in the area. We will continue to look forward to spending more time with our grandchildren in Philadelphia and Baltimore. We will travel – we want to go to Southeast Asia (Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia); Europe; South America. We will go everywhere... safari in Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa.

“I plan to read and write; I haven’t been able to do that. While in college, I published three short fiction stories. Whether I still have that talent, I am doubtful. It will probably be nonfiction, but I may dabble in fiction as well.”

What drew you to a career at Penn State Harrisburg?

“I am a professor of finance. I was in Michigan and we got tired of the snow and cold. We wanted to move east. I applied for the position at Penn State Harrisburg although I wanted, actually, to move somewhere by the ocean, like North Carolina, southern Virginia – but I liked it here so much. The people were so nice – two years turned into 33 years.”

“If I had to live my life all over again, I would do exactly what I have done.”

How did you become chancellor?

“Becoming chancellor was not even on my radar. I became director of the college’s School of Business Administration, and even that I did not seek. People seemed to like my demeanor and temperament. After making some changes in the school, that success brought attention to me. People started looking at me differently. Next thing I know, I found myself in this job. But it was the work that I did, the success I had in the school that was the precursor to my chancellorship.

“My tenure as chancellor would not have been as successful but for the work that Dr. Madlyn Hanes [vice president for Commonwealth Campuses and executive chancellor at Penn State] had already begun; all I had to do was to build upon it. She cleared many pathways for me...making it easier for me to navigate the vast and complex world of Penn State.”

What have you enjoyed more, teaching or administration?

“I enjoy teaching more...there is no doubt in my mind. You get kind of a high after a good class. Students are absorbing what you say and then they would come up to me and tell me that they learned something from me. That is a very good feeling. It is not that I don’t get good feelings from being chancellor – a chancellor shapes the ... entire community. The impact is wider. The impact of teaching is instant. That is the difference.”



What advice would you give to the next chancellor?

“As an educational institution that is growing, and we are definitely growing, you need different kinds of leadership at different times. What we need now is someone who will emphasize research and scholarship among our faculty and students. That research and scholarship created here on campus will benefit business and industry, organizations, non-profits and the surrounding community as a whole. The new chancellor [Dr. John M. Mason Jr.] has had tremendous success in this area. I am very excited about his appointment.”

What accomplishments are you most proud of during your tenure as chancellor?

“We have become one of, if not the most, diverse campuses at Penn State. Our international students have increased tenfold during my time as chancellor, coming from more than 50 countries. That has helped drive diversity at the college ... We also continue to have quality students with each passing year.”

What part of the job will you miss the most?

“I will miss the people the most... I will miss everybody here. I will also miss the graduation ceremonies and convocations, when we see students off, letting them go out into the real world, and when we welcome new students into our fold. That is memorable. Though we do it every year, it is still always new, always fresh, always exciting. I will miss that.

“I will miss the ability to influence, not just the college community, but to make a difference in the wider society at large.”

“I will miss the people the most... I will miss everybody here.”

What is your favorite Penn State Harrisburg memory?

“There are plenty of wonderful memories, but one particular moment stands out in my mind. Many years ago, I had just become director of the School of Business Administration, and a student came to me and said that he was having many [personal] difficulties [and felt uncomfortable] within his project group. I went to the instructor of the class and others to intervene on his behalf. After that intervention, the student finished his studies and successfully graduated.

“After the graduation ceremony, his mother came up to me, tears rolling down her cheeks. She hugged me, and said, ‘you saved my son’s life.’ I had no idea. She went on to explain that before I spoke up for him, he was having thoughts of harming himself.

“A few years later, at a reunion on campus, the student approached me, thanked me, and said that he was now the CFO at a large utilities company in Florida. There are many such memories.”

How do you want to be remembered at Penn State Harrisburg? What is the legacy you leave behind?

“There are certain things that are really easy to see and I am not going to talk about those. I am not going to talk about the campus, the growth of students, the many faculty members of national repute that we have. These are all good things. But the one thing I hope I have created and I hope will continue even after I leave is that I changed the tone of dialogue. Bringing civility, politeness, and respect when we address each other, when we talk to each other, when we write to each other. I think that is important and I hope that remains as my legacy.”

Kulkarni called it an honor and privilege to serve. And, while poking fun at himself in the process, he expressed his feelings about what he views as good fortune. “Having come from a country 8,000 miles away, with a different culture all together, [having] a funny name and a weird accent, and hardly being able to [be seen] when behind the podium, the fact that I had this opportunity and was able to accomplish so much – with the help, support, and encouragement from the campus and wider community – I feel very fortunate. I am thankful and grateful.” He is also quick to spread credit for the successes of Penn State Harrisburg. “It is not me alone who did it ... everyone came together, and together, though it is a small kitchen, we were able find the perfect recipe”

Gifts honor retiring Chancellor Mukund Kulkarni, support cultural programming and scholarships



The portion of the University endowment that benefits Penn State Harrisburg will grow by more than \$3 million thanks to recent gifts honoring Chancellor Mukund S. Kulkarni, who retires June 30 after more than 30 years of service to Penn State.

Kulkarni joined the University in 1985 as a member of the business faculty at Penn State Harrisburg, and advanced in the faculty ranks and leadership posts at the college prior to becoming chancellor in 2010. Under his leadership, Penn State Harrisburg experienced growth in enrollment and academic offerings, the development of new and enhanced academic and student life facilities, the expansion of teaching and learning support to faculty, and the enhancement of instructional technology.

The recognition of Dr. Kulkarni was made possible by a generous leadership gift from John and Abby Tierney, longtime supporters of Penn State and Penn State Harrisburg; and Dr. Omid Ansary, senior associate dean for academic affairs at Penn State Harrisburg; as well as the collective gifts of many of the college's board of advisers members, colleagues, friends, and alumni, including support from Asian Indian Americans of Central Pennsylvania.

The gifts support the naming of the Mukund S. Kulkarni Theatre in the college's Student Enrichment Center; the Mukund S. Kulkarni Cultural Series Program Fund, which will bring annual cultural programs and performances to the theatre; and scholarships through Penn State's Open Doors Scholarship Matching Program.

"Facilities for arts and culture have been a dream of mine for years. This facility fills this major gap that existed on the campus and I am honored that it will bear my name," Kulkarni said. "I am truly humbled by the generosity of many donors and the consideration given by the University."

The endowment of more than \$1 million in cultural program funding will provide Penn State Harrisburg the opportunity to bring national and international performances to campus annually, allowing the community to experience a variety of different performances and events intended to showcase the college's diversity.

"Dr. Kulkarni is passionate about education, knowing that it is critical to an individual's ability to provide for their family. But those who are close to him also know that he believes education means more," said Marissa Hoover, director of the college's Office of Development and Alumni Relations. "To Dr. Kulkarni, education is important because it provides an understanding and awareness of the value of diversity in our society. It's not only about people who look different, but also about people who think differently and have different experiences. The series is an accessible way to be exposed to other cultures. Awareness and understanding of the experiences and beliefs of others allow us to be compassionate and make informed decisions to help everyone we encounter."

In addition to the program fund, several Open Doors Scholarships were created to honor Kulkarni, adding an additional \$2 million to the portion of the University endowment available for Penn State Harrisburg students. The Open Doors Scholarship Matching Program is a 2 to 1 permanent match for endowed gifts to specific programs that will help students with financial need thrive at Penn State. The Kulkarni gift funds will specifically support the "Complete Penn State" program, which assists students who are within 30 credits of graduating and have left Penn State without completing their degree to return and graduate, as well as students who are still at Penn State and experience unexpected financial hardships that might otherwise keep them from graduating.

"From supporting the arts at Penn State Harrisburg to opening doors to students with financial need, these generous gifts from John and Abby Tierney, Dr. Omid Ansary, and other alumni and friends are a truly fitting way to celebrate Chancellor Kulkarni's accomplished career and dedication to Penn State Harrisburg," said O. Richard Bundy III, Penn State's vice president for development and alumni relations. "It is gifts like these that will enable us to build 'A Greater Penn State.'"

The gifts at Penn State Harrisburg will advance "A Greater Penn State for 21st Century Excellence," a focused campaign that seeks to elevate Penn State's position as a leading public university in a world defined by rapid change and global connections. With the support of alumni and friends, "A Greater Penn State" seeks to fulfill the three key imperatives of a twenty-first century public university: keeping the doors to higher education open to hardworking students regardless of financial well-being; creating transformative experiences that go beyond the classroom; and impacting the world by fueling discovery, innovation and entrepreneurship. To learn more about "A Greater Penn State for 21st Century Excellence," visit greaterpennstate.psu.edu.

New cultural series brings performers from around the world

The new Mukund S. Kulkarni Cultural Series provides Penn State Harrisburg the opportunity to bring national and international performances to campus annually, allowing the community to experience a variety of different cultures through the arts.

The series kicks off its inaugural year with three acts from across the globe, including:

Namaste India, showcasing the folk and classical dance of India; Nobuntu, a female a cappella quintet from Zimbabwe, Africa; and The Fitzgeralds, a Celtic fiddling and step dancing family from the Ottawa Valley, Canada.



Alumnus John M. Mason Jr. named chancellor

Dr. John M. Mason Jr., vice president for research and economic development at Auburn University in Alabama, has been appointed chancellor of Penn State Harrisburg.

“Having first earned my bachelor’s degree at Penn State Harrisburg, I have a great passion and affinity for this wonderful campus,” Mason said. “Now, to be coming back as the chancellor of the campus I began at, is very rewarding and I couldn’t be more humbled and thankful for this opportunity.”

Mason begins his new role effective August 1.

“Dr. Mukund Kulkarni will be leaving an extraordinary legacy at Penn State Harrisburg and the University for his many years of distinguished service, and we are grateful to him. It is a great pleasure to welcome Dr. Mason back to the Penn State family,” said Madlyn Hanes, vice president for Commonwealth Campuses and executive chancellor at Penn State. “I previously had the privilege to serve as the chancellor of Penn State Harrisburg, a vibrant campus of accomplished scholars, dedicated staff, and talented students. Dr. Mason brings with him a wealth of leadership experience and expertise to advance the college’s long-standing commitment to educational excellence, innovative research, and community outreach.”

“Having first earned my bachelor’s degree at Penn State Harrisburg, I have a great passion and affinity for this wonderful campus.”

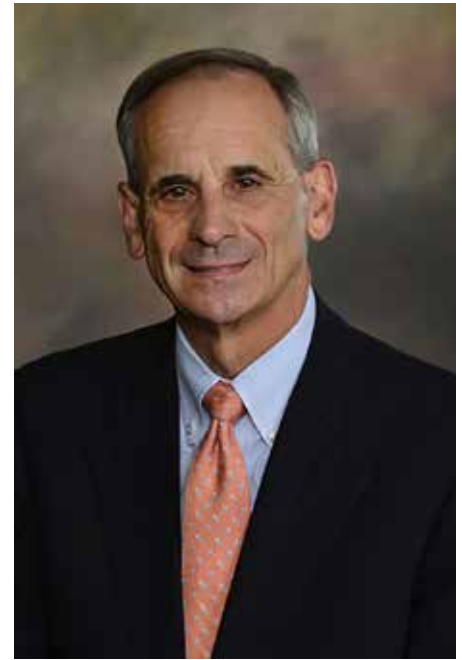
In his role at Auburn University, Mason served as the chief research officer and provided leadership for strategic research and economic development initiatives, overseeing research efforts with annual average expenditures of \$130 million. He also served as president and CEO of the Auburn Research and Technology Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides management services to various research support services, private sector tenants and facilitates the commercialization of the intellectual property of Auburn University.

Mason also served as an associate dean of the Penn State College of Engineering from 1997 to 2008, during which time he led the strategic and programmatic development in quality, quantity, significance, visibility, and recognition of the research and graduate educational programs in the College of Engineering. During his time at Penn State, Mason was also a professor of civil engineering and director of the Pennsylvania Transportation Institute and the Institute for Advanced Studies in Transportation Engineering and Management.

Prior to joining the Penn State faculty, Mason was a civil engineer working on site development for residential, commercial and industrial complexes, highway design, drainage, urban stormwater management, traffic studies, erosion and sedimentation control, and preparation of legal case studies associated with highway design and safety.

Mason said he hopes to build on his predecessors’ successes by continuing to enhance Penn State Harrisburg’s strong academic programs, recruiting a diverse and inclusive group of students, supporting the ongoing growth of faculty and staff scholarly and creative work, providing professional development opportunities for faculty and staff, and advancing campus innovation and entrepreneurial initiatives in partnership with the public and private sectors.

“I look forward to working with the faculty and staff of Penn State Harrisburg to continue to ensure that Penn State Harrisburg is a destination campus for leading students and scholars from all over the world,” Mason said.



Dr. John M. Mason Jr.

“I look forward to working with the faculty and staff of Penn State Harrisburg to continue to ensure that Penn State Harrisburg is a destination campus for leading students and scholars from all over the world.”

Namaste India

Thursday, Sept. 20, 2018
7:30 p.m.



Nobuntu

Thursday, Nov. 15, 2018
7:30 p.m.



The Fitzgeralds

Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019
7:30 p.m.

By lending a hand, students restore hope

When Max Magera, a mechanical engineering major from Penn State Behrend, stepped into the kitchen of Ms. Chandra Jones' home in Port Arthur, Texas, he had a sinking feeling.

The floor was spongy, which meant the wood beneath the linoleum had decayed while sitting in two feet of water after Hurricane Harvey hit the Houston area in August 2017.

Magera was in southeastern Texas with more than 100 students from six Penn State campuses, including Penn State Harrisburg, on an alternative spring break service trip, helping residents recover from the catastrophic flooding caused by the hurricane. Students helped with everything from demolishing warped structures to simple clean up.

At the time of the trip, there were homes in Texas that had not been touched since the hurricane.

Katelan Martinez, an English major from Penn State Harrisburg, and her group partnered with students from Penn State Greater Allegheny to bag and remove debris from one such home.

Penn State Harrisburg academic adviser Jessica Mosley led the students to the house. Mosley is from Beaumont, Texas, and has family, including her parents, who still live in the area. This year's trip really hit home for her.

"My brother and uncle lost everything to the hurricane," Mosley said, "so this trip was really emotional for me. I'm so glad that so many



Students from six Penn State campuses aided Texas flood victims over spring break.

Penn State students could come down here and help."

"The homeowner's name was Jackie Scott, and she was overwhelmed with emotion when we all showed up to help," Martinez said.

"Over two days, we moved about fifty bags worth of trash to the curb," said Ronni Corbett, a biobehavioral health major from Penn State Greater Allegheny. "It may not have been a big deal, but she really needed the help and I feel we really made a difference."

Students were encouraged to chat with homeowners at the job sites. For many residents, talking proved to be cathartic. "[The homeowner] said, 'You guys have given me hope again,'" Martinez said. "It was a very powerful moment because I'd have never thought I could do that for someone."

(Editor's note: This story was excerpted from a full story by Heather Cass at Penn State Behrend.)

Student goes global, wins case competition

Dual master's degree student Maggie Mehalko was the first Penn State Harrisburg student, and one of just three from Penn State, to attend the Beta Gamma Sigma 2017 Global Leadership Summit, held in Orlando, Florida this past November.

There, she and fellow team members won their category during an industry-sponsored Team Case Competition based on their innovative and creative solution for an assigned business case.

More than 400 undergraduate and graduate business students from all over the world attended the four-day leadership summit.

"I met students from Turkey, Lebanon, New Zealand and many other countries, so it was an excellent experience to work with students from around the world," said Mehalko.

The Team Case Competition allowed 35 teams of business students to collaborate to solve a complex business scenario. Each team presented to a panel of judges and the five category winners showcased their solutions to the full summit. The presentations were evaluated on preparation and content, with consideration for innovation, delivery and discussion.

Beta Gamma Sigma is the largest honor society for business students and graduates of business programs.

"We're proud that our business school has been recognized as a High Honor Chapter by Beta Gamma Sigma, which gives us the opportunity to award an Honor Roll Scholarship to one of our outstanding students," said Dr. Steve Schappe, director of the Penn State Harrisburg School of Business Administration. "Ms. Mehalko earned the scholarship and we are pleased she was able to take advantage of this special opportunity to attend the summit."

Mehalko earned her bachelor of science degree in accounting from Penn State Harrisburg in 2016, then began working toward two degrees, the master of science in information systems and master of business administration. She hopes to eventually become a business professor.

She also hopes to attend the summit next year in Chicago. "For me, this experience was life-changing," says Mehalko. "Everyone is smart and focused, holding themselves to the highest standards."



Maggie Mehalko



Sharing stories bonds us, enhances quality of life

Richard Huber worked from the age of 9, with jobs as varied as paperboy, parking attendant, and ice man. He played football and baseball at John Harris High School in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, learned to box, joined the military, traveled, listened to music, raised a family, and frequented Disney World.

Now a resident of the Middletown Home in Middletown, Pennsylvania, Huber shared these details with two Penn State Harrisburg students, Jing Wen Guo and Ann Asaah, for a human development and family studies course, “Perspectives on Aging.” For several weeks, students paired with residents at the continuing care retirement community to mine their memories.

Guo and Asaah created a scrapbook of life memories for Huber. But the connection between the three went beyond a recitation of events. They deepened their understanding of each other in ways they didn’t expect.

“I never talked to someone with a different religion before,” Huber, a devout Christian, said of Guo, who is Chinese and a practicing Buddhist. “She made me feel very comfortable.”

In a letter to Huber included in the scrapbook, Guo said she was initially nervous because it was the first time she talked with an older adult in English.

“Thank you for your respect for me, my country, and my religion, as well,” she wrote.

Asaah, who is from Ghana, Africa, told Huber in her letter: “I want to one day be able to say that because of what I have learned from you that I am a better daughter, sister, wife, mother and grandmother.”

Ana Patricia Aguilera Hermida, a lecturer in the Penn State Harrisburg School of Behavioral Sciences and Education, taught the course. She said the results can combat ageism. “We don’t understand each other because we don’t know each other,” she said.

For eight weeks, the students met one-on-one with six residents of the home. Students researched interventions that can help the aging population, including music therapy, dance, hand massage, and other activities to promote health and wellness. The students presented the results of their research during the first 30 minutes of their weekly meetings with the residents.

In the second part of each session students lead a guided autobiography. Students planned ahead of time questions they would ask the residents, with a focus on helping them remember important moments in their lives. Questions included: “What were your successes?” and “What are you proud of?”

“When you revisit your life and tell it, you usually pick the good things,” Aguilera said. “It brings out positive emotions.”

Asaah said their project is based on narrative therapy. Getting people to tell their stories brings up happy memories.

The scrapbook she and Guo put together was touching, humorous and filled with telling details.

Huber told them he had a strong right arm when he played baseball, so they included a picture of a weightlifter with a bulging right arm. A picture of binoculars is on one page because Huber likes to use them to watch from his window as airplanes take off from nearby Harrisburg International Airport.

One scrapbook page is devoted to scriptural verses that are important to him. Sprinkled throughout are bits of wisdom he shared with the students. There are photos of him and his wife of 69 years, Nancy, who is now in the Alzheimer’s unit at the home. The last photo shows Huber with Guo and Asaah, all three hugging and grinning.

“Getting to know [Huber] was beneficial to all of us,” Asaah said. “It gave me a new perspective on people’s lives. He is what he is because of what he went through.”

Another resident, Mary Brandt, chose to focus her scrapbook on happenings since she arrived at the home two years ago. She said she didn’t feel like her life was nearing its end when she entered, it was just another stage.

Her scrapbook is filled with mementoes of her time at the Middletown Home and family events of the past two years. “The births, the deaths, the weddings,” she said. It includes welcome cards she received when she arrived, cards from her 90th birthday, and memories of friends who have since passed away.

The connection Brandt and her student, Tuan Bui, feel for each other was apparent. They exchanged phone numbers and emails, and Brandt invited Bui to eat with her in the cafeteria. He happily accepted.

“At first it was just a class,” Bui said. “But as I got to know Mary as a person, we became friends.”

He said he has learned life lessons from Brandt, such as to “always be happy, look forward to the future.”



“When you revisit your life and tell it, you usually pick the good things. It brings out positive emotions.”



Innovation and creativity on display at Capstone Design Conference

More than 60 projects in the program areas of civil engineering and structural design/construction engineering technology, electrical engineering and electrical engineering technology, computer science, and mechanical engineering and mechanical engineering technology were on display during the annual School of Science, Engineering, and Technology Capstone Design Conference held in May. A culminating endeavor at the end of a student's academic career, the projects allow them to work on real-world projects, many of which are provided and funded by industry partners.

Among this year's projects were a driver drowsiness detection system that helps prevent accidents caused by drowsy drivers, an exoskeleton hand to aid in patient rehabilitation, a 3-D printed orthopedic implant for pediatric oncology patients, and a 3-D scanning drone designed to aid in inspections of structures such as bridges and water towers, and a system for loading the back of a pickup truck.

Some projects were designed to address medical issues, like the personalized 3-D printed implant for a pediatric cancer patient with bone loss, sponsored by the Four Diamonds and Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

Typically in these cases, the cancerous bone segment has to be removed. Penn State Harrisburg students developed a structural replacement for that removed bone for a patient at the medical center. MRI scans were used to reconstruct a computer design model of the thighbone just above the knee joint. Prototypes of the implant were 3-D printed from both a plastic material and titanium alloy.

Students Joshua Adams, Ali Elakkari, Alex Preniczky, and Phu Trinh collaborated with a multidisciplinary team of clinicians and engineers at the medical center in an experience they found humbling.

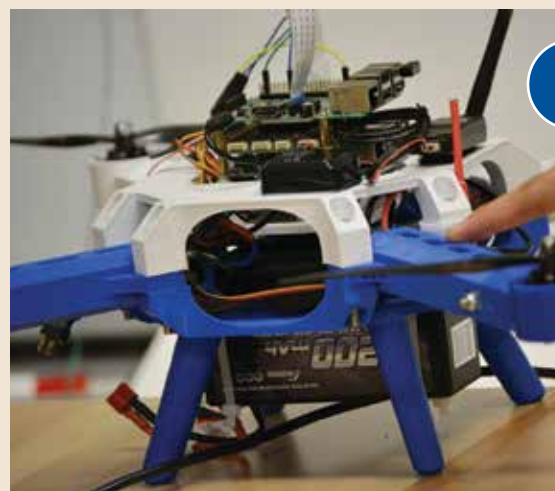
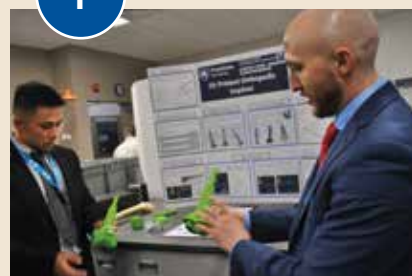
"We had so much feedback coming down the line," Preniczky said. "There was probably 100-plus years of experience in our group and they were able to guide us through our project."

Adams added that receiving validation that their concept was viable to be used in the future was "probably the best feeling I have ever had in my academic career. When you are working toward something and an expert tells you, 'yes, this will work,' it's really the best feeling."

Other projects were intended for public safety. Students Tyler Benner, Matthew Maisano, Joshua Smay, and James Then designed a quadcopter drone with a camera that is capable of independent flight, imaging, and three-dimensional scanning. Images captured are sent wirelessly to a computer that converts them into a 3-D model. The goal of such a drone is to aid in the inspection of structures, such as bridges and water towers.

The students said that their motivation for pursuing this project was the current rapid decline and aging of bridges in the U.S. and the need for more inspections. They added that the drone would reduce the need to hire more workers to inspect bridges.

Other projects were intended to make students' lives easier, like the "Smart Park System" created by Michelle Figueroa and Alexis Quinn. The system gives drivers the opportunity to know whether a parking lot is full



Athletes make college history

TRACK AND FIELD

Track and field athlete Ashley Williams (Easton, Pa.) became Penn State Harrisburg's first female All-American athlete, finishing eighth nationally in the 60-meter hurdles at the NCAA Division III



Indoor Championships in Birmingham, Alabama, in March. This is the second year Williams qualified for the national championship. During the 2017-18 season, Williams was named a Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) Champion and Eastern Capital Athletic Conference (ECAC) Champion.

Sarah Lehman (Mechanicsburg, Pa.) earned All-American honors when she took fifth place in the triple jump at the NCAA Division III Outdoor Championships in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Lehman also was the first Penn State Harrisburg athlete to be named Capital Athletic Conference Rookie of the Year for both the indoor and outdoor track seasons. She won the triple jump and finished second in long jump at the CAC outdoor championships. Rae Rae Taylor (Pottstown, Pa.) secured two individual titles in the long jump and javelin at the same meet, and was named to the All-CAC first team.

Cameron Yon (Patuxent River, Md.) also earned All-American honors at the NCAA Outdoor Championships in the discus, by taking seventh place. This was Yon's second trip to nationals and his second All-American honor. Yon also claimed All-CAC honors in the discus for the third straight season.



BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

The baseball team made program history this spring, being ranked regionally for the first time. Going into the conference playoffs, the team was 28-10 overall and 12-6 in conference and ranked twelfth in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Outfielder Bret Williams (Mount Carmel, Pa.) was named to the American Baseball Coaches Association Mid-Atlantic All-Region First Team, the All-ECAC First Team and the All-CAC First Team. He led the CAC in home runs this season, with 11.

The women's softball team also made history this year, reaching the CAC playoffs for the first time.

before entering, displaying information on a screen including the time, date, weather, and spot availability.

Lion AR, developed by Jacob Arnold, Jonathan Bauman, Supawadee Boonwoen, John Gilbertson, and David Peralta is an augmented reality campus tour. The application provides the user audio and text information about important buildings and rooms on campus while the user is pointing their camera at that location.

A long-standing Penn State Harrisburg tradition, the conference is an opportunity for students to apply everything they've learned and gain skills needed in the job market. Students learn to think creatively and collaborate, and to develop and manage every step of a project.

"Our vision is to be distinguished by excellence through transformative education based on scholarship, collaboration, and innovation," said Dr. Rafic Bachnak, director of the School of Science, Engineering and Technology.

5



6



1. Personalized 3-D printed bone implant
2. 3-D scanning drone
3. LionAR augmented reality campus tour application
4. Exoskeleton hand
5. Truck bed loading system
6. Smart Park system



"When you are working toward something and an expert tells you, 'yes, this will work,' it's really the best feeling."

Seeing – and battling – the opioid crisis from all angles

Deaths from the opioid epidemic have surpassed those from auto accidents as well as gun violence, and are now on par with those of the HIV epidemic at its height, according to Dr. Weston Kensinger, assistant teaching professor of health education in the college's School of Behavioral Sciences and Education.

"Not a day goes by that its horrible effects are not seen," he said. "It's critically important that we use all of the tools we have to continue to raise awareness about this crisis and the resources available to help anyone who needs them." In Pennsylvania, Gov. Tom Wolf declared the heroin and opioid epidemic a statewide disaster emergency. The first-of-its-kind declaration is intended to save more lives through enhanced state response and increased access to treatment.

Kensinger is helping by providing tools to graduate students to make a positive difference. He hopes the students in his colloquium class – mostly working professionals – will take their newfound knowledge to the wider community.

Throughout the course, students learned from a variety of experts fighting the battle every day, including specialists from law enforcement, treatment facilities, government agencies, medical professions, family members, and directly from those suffering from substance-use disorders. Students also had the opportunity to interview a recovering addict, and attend Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous meetings.

"I wanted my students to come out of this course knowing about the epidemic from all angles," Kensinger said. "Many see the epidemic from only one angle. This can widen their perspective. It gives an idea where to focus their attention They couldn't believe how horrible the epidemic is, not just the death toll, but how it affects families, children, as well as how addicts in recovery are affected for the rest of their lives."

One of the students, Kaitlyn Dewalt, is a learning support teacher in an elementary school. She has seen the effects of opioid addiction – in one case a student's stepfather died of an overdose; another time a student was being used as a drug runner for his father. She said knowing more about the signs and symptoms of drug addiction will be helpful in her job if she suspects something during parent/teacher conferences. She can also offer advice to colleagues.

She said Kensinger's class was beneficial in understanding the problem.

"Drug addiction is in every town, every county, every state," she said. "It does not just happen to underprivileged, young adults. In fact, it happens the most to middle-aged white males."

She learned that one way to start tackling the problem is to eliminate the stigma that comes with addiction.

"I am genuinely concerned for our nation's future if we do not begin to offer better treatment and services for those suffering from addiction," she said. "We also need to offer help rather than shut these individuals out..."

Katie Forsyth, who is completing her master's degree in health education, wants to follow a career in community health. At times the course got emotional for her. Forsyth was moved by a speaker who shared her personal story of heroin addiction and getting clean through drug court.

"She showed me that addicts are not the stereotype you often have," Forsyth said. "They are normal people who fell into this. It gave me more empathy."

Kensinger said it's important to reach out to the larger community.

"There's a need in the community for a course like this, for people to become informed," Kensinger said. "This hit close to home for many of my students. One of their best experiences was attending the AA meetings – seeing firsthand the effort addicts make to come clean."



"They couldn't believe how horrible the epidemic is, not just the death toll, but how it affects families, children..."

around campus



Managing chef Athan Spanos won the National Association of College and University Food Services Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference Culinary Challenge in April for his dish of squid ink pasta with crispy Rhode Island oyster, poached squid sausage, sautéed curry clam, batonnet zucchini, and pan roasted butternut squash in a saffron cream sauce.



The choir, chamber singers, and band presented, "I Love the 80's," in April, featuring music from Michael Jackson, Guns 'N Roses, George Michael, Toto and others.

Read more online at harrisburg.psu.edu/currents



College dedicates the Courtney Pollock Memorial Field and Softball Complex

Penn State Harrisburg in April dedicated the Courtney Pollock Memorial Field and Softball Complex on campus. The event honored the memory of Penn State Harrisburg alumna Courtney Pollock, who passed away in June 2013 from cancer.

“While cancer may have taken Courtney away from us too soon, the impact she has made on those who knew her during her lifetime will remain forever,” said Marissa Hoover, director of the college’s Office of Development and Alumni Relations. **“Penn State has always been home for Courtney and her family. Her name and the legacy of her life will live on forever at Penn State Harrisburg.”**

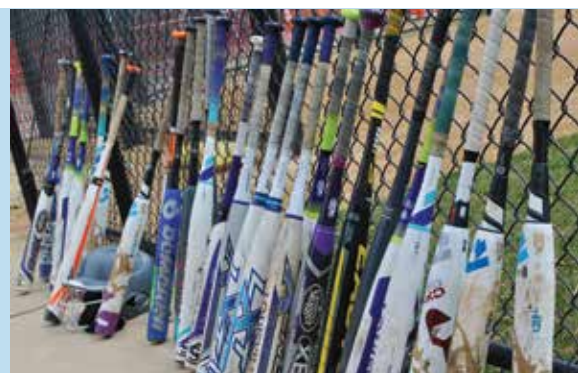


Several of Pollock’s family members were on hand at the dedication, including her mother and sisters, who cut the ribbon officially opening the field and complex.

Pollock was a native of the Capital Region, and graduated from Lower Dauphin High School in 1999, where she played softball and field hockey and actively volunteered in the community. She graduated from Penn State Harrisburg in 2003 with a bachelor of science degree in elementary education and went on to teach and coach in the Lower Dauphin and Central Dauphin school districts.

Pollock was the daughter of the late Douglas W. Pollock, a Penn State alumnus and collegiate athlete. The Douglas W. Pollock Foundation made a \$750,000 donation to support the college’s athletics and the naming of the field and softball complex.

The foundation has supported Penn State Harrisburg since 2014, and endowed the Courtney Pollock Memorial Trustee Scholarship, a need-based scholarship benefiting students in the elementary education program.



An “Introduction to Sculpture” class was held for the first time during the spring semester, providing hands-on assignments and an understanding of the technical skills and materials utilized in sculpting.



Television journalist John Quiñones presented “What Would You Do? Words of Wisdom About Doing the Right Thing” in January as part of the Student Affairs’ Civility Series.

Mazis, Young named distinguished professors

Penn State Harrisburg faculty members Glen A. Mazis, professor of humanities and philosophy, and Richard Young, professor of supply chain management, have been named distinguished professors by the Penn State Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.



Dr. Glen A. Mazis

The title recognizes professors who have achieved exceptional accomplishments in teaching, research and service.

Mazis joined Penn State Harrisburg's School of Humanities in 1991 after teaching at Louisiana State University, Wesleyan, University of Illinois, Northern Kentucky University, and SUNY Stony Brook. He also helped found the Buddhist university, Soka, located in Aliso Viejo, California.

Mazis has published widely on numerous topics.

His books include "Emotion and Embodiment: Fragile Ontology," "The Trickster, Magician and Grieving Man: Returning Men to Earth," "Earthbodies: Rediscovering Our Planetary Senses," "Humans, Animals, Machines: Blurring Boundaries," and "Merleau-Ponty and the Face of the World: Silence, Ethics, Imagination and Poetic Ontology."

Young joined Penn State in 1997 and transferred to Penn State Harrisburg in 2004. He has 19 years of corporate experience including various logistics-related



Dr. Richard Young

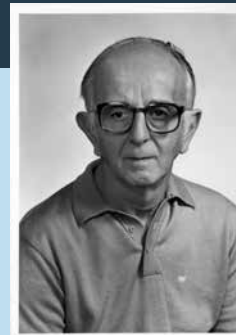
managerial posts in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries. He is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport of the United Kingdom, was a 2003 Fulbright German Studies Research Scholar in Berlin, and was a member of a panel advising the Joint Chiefs of Staff on improved supply chain processes for the U.S. military.

An active publisher, he is a member of the editorial boards of several journals and is an affiliate research associate at Penn State's Center for Supply Chain Research. He is the recipient of many distinctions and awards, the most recent being the Distinguished

Educator Award from the National Defense Transportation Association. He is co-author of the book, "Railway Security: Protecting Against Manmade and Natural Disasters," published in 2017.

In memoriam

A Penn State Harrisburg pioneer has passed away.



Dr. George Gumas, 93, died on January 19, 2018 in Boynton Beach, Florida. The college learned of his passing from his daughter, Diana, a 1983 alumna of Penn State Harrisburg.

Gumas grew up in Brooklyn, New York where he graduated from Brooklyn Tech. In 1942, he enlisted in the Army and served in Europe during WWII in the 104th Infantry Division, where he fought in the Battle of the Bulge. In 1949, he graduated from The Cooper Union with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He worked as an engineer at various organizations. During his career he designed flow control systems for wind tunnels for NACA, the predecessor to NASA. He also designed and built an analog computer which was used by NACA/NASA before the agency had its own computer. He graduated in 1967 from The University of Pennsylvania with a Ph.D. in applied mathematics.

In 1968, Gumas joined Penn State Harrisburg, then known as the Capitol Campus, as associate professor of mathematics and engineering. He worked at the college for nearly 20 years, retiring in 1985.

After retirement, Gumas and his wife Barbara moved to Annapolis, Maryland and Ocean Ridge, Florida where they enjoyed life near each of their daughters, Diana, of Millersville, Maryland and Chrisanthy Gumas Vargo, of Lantana, Florida. Dr. Gumas actively continued his studies of mathematics and cosmology and was continually writing new software programs. He is fondly remembered by friends and family for his quick wit that made people laugh and spread a special joy to all with whom he came into contact.

around campus



Popular science author and media theorist Steven Johnson recently presented "Innovation: Where Good Ideas Come From" as a part of the PNC Thought Leaders Lecture Series at Penn State Harrisburg.



The theatre and music programs presented "Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson" in April. The rock musical follows President Andrew Jackson, from his early days as a child to his controversial time in the White House.

Read more online at harrisburg.psu.edu/currents





Development campaign focuses on increasing scholarships

Penn State Harrisburg has raised over \$8.8 million to date through “A Greater Penn State for 21st Century Excellence” with just 39 percent of the campaign time elapsed. The college’s greatest focus is on creating new scholarship endowments to ensure all students have access to a timely degree and a true Penn State experience. The University’s “Open Doors” matching programs to double or triple the impact of scholarship gifts

continue to be a powerful incentive for many Penn State Harrisburg alumni and friends to establish scholarships. Since July 2017, donors have created more than 28 new scholarships. With the matching funds, these contributions have added more than \$4.7 million to the college’s scholarships.

“Our goal is to raise more than \$7 million dollars for scholarships, but we need much more. Virtually all Penn State Harrisburg students qualify for financial aid, 32 percent are first generation college students, and the average unmet financial need per student after loans is around \$11,000 annually,” said Marissa Hoover, director of development and alumni relations. “If we wanted to meet the needs of just 4,000 of our more than 5,000 students, we would need more than \$42 million annually.”

In addition to need-based scholarships, the college also will be focusing on scholarships to recruit and retain the most talented graduate students. **“This will enable Penn State Harrisburg to enhance its research efforts, further impacting the world around us and the problems that society faces around the globe,”** Hoover said.

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Family Day at the Orchard: A Capital Connections Event September 16, 2018

Flinchbaugh’s Orchards and Farm Market, 110 Ducktown Road, York, Pennsylvania

Enjoy an afternoon in the orchard featuring pictures with the Nittany Lion, hayrides, pumpkin picking and painting, donuts, cider and other foods and fall activities. The orchard owners are a family of Penn Staters ready to open their doors to a fun day for your entire family.

For more information, email hbgalumni@psu.edu or call 717-948-6715.

We Are Weekend 2018 – September 21-23, 2018

We Are Weekend is Penn State Harrisburg’s alumni, parents and families weekend event.

Make plans to meet incoming chancellor, Dr. John Mason; tour campus with the Lion Ambassadors; attend the Alumni Awards Ceremony; participate in academic program and social group reunions, clubs and organizations and much more! Plan to attend if you haven’t been to campus recently or to see how your student is settling in.

Questions about the event? Email hbgalumni@psu.edu or call 717-948-6715.

Questions about Parents’ Weekend? Email hbg-clia@psu.edu or call 717-948-6273.



Got stories?

We want to hear them! Share them with the Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Office, hbgalumni@psu.edu • 777 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057-4898 • 717-948-6715

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Want to keep up with Penn State Harrisburg news specific to your interests – like campus activities for alums, sports team news, or theatre events?




Sign up to receive email updates with content tailored just for you. Don't worry; you won't be inundated with messages. But, periodically we'll send you updates on the topics of your choosing – general campus news, theatre and cultural programs, academic and research news, or athletics.

Registration is easy. Visit harrisburg.psu.edu/news-for-you and give us your email address.

If you have questions, contact the alumni office at 717-948-6715.

And don't forget to follow Penn State Harrisburg on social media:

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