

Penn State Harrisburg

Spring/Summer 2014

Currents

Lessons Learned



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Mukund S. Kulkarni

Greetings FROM THE CHANCELLOR

It gives me great pleasure to share with you the continued progress taking place at Penn State Harrisburg – in academics, in research, in facilities, and in enrollment – and to thank you for your support and interest in your alma mater.

This spring, a new era at Penn State began as we said farewell to outgoing President Rodney Erickson and welcomed new President Eric Barron. Dr. Barron was named Penn State's 18th President in February and began his appointment on May 12.

Dr. Barron previously served as the president of Florida State University, a position he held since 2010. Earlier in his career, he spent two decades at Penn State, from 1986-2006, where he served in various capacities, most recently as the dean of Penn State's College of Earth and Mineral Sciences.

In April we welcomed Dr. Barron and his wife, Molly, to campus. The Barrons had requested time to visit every Commonwealth Campus and to meet the members of the Penn State community prior to assuming their roles as president and first lady of the University. Doing so reflects their deep appreciation of the importance of our Commonwealth Campuses.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that *For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students* has come to a successful close. Penn State Harrisburg raised a total of \$15,402,082 to support the campaign's main goal – keeping a Penn State education accessible and affordable for students and their families. Through the generosity of our Capital Society members, we received more than 150 major gifts and endowments and were able to provide more than 1,500 scholarships and awards to more than 1,000 students.

In March, the college hosted *TMI@35: The Three Mile Island Nuclear Crisis in Perspective: Analyses, Stories, Policies*. The two-day conference commemorated the 35th anniversary of the TMI accident and brought to campus key figures from that time, including former Gov. Dick Thornburgh and Harold Denton, adviser to President Jimmy Carter.

The college was uniquely situated to present the conference, not only due to its proximity to the nuclear plant, but also by virtue of its standing as the region's premier research institution.

This issue of *Currents* also features stories about how Penn State Harrisburg is helping our more than 370 international students become an integral part of the college's community, how a \$1.9 million state grant will help improve student teaching experiences, and how support from Select Medical will help us establish scholarships for nursing students and fund career exploration programs.

I could not be more proud of the exciting achievements at Penn State Harrisburg. Through academics, scholarship, and outreach, we are positioning Penn State Harrisburg as a premier learning institution in the Penn State community and throughout the region. As we continue moving forward, we recognize that none of our success can be achieved without our active, engaged alumni and friends. I thank you for your continued role within the college.

Mukund S. Kulkarni, Ph.D.

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Mukund S. Kulkarni, Ph.D.

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Cover image of Three Mile Island from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Image Library (PHIL).

Savior, Rock Star, Hero

Who's best at the helm in a crisis?



In a crisis you want a leader who is calm, unassuming and honest. You want someone just like Harold Denton.

In a crisis you want a leader who is calm, unassuming, and honest. You want someone just like Harold Denton, said Dr. Holly Angelique, professor of community psychology at Penn State Harrisburg.

Denton, a nuclear engineer who had no experience dealing with the public, wasn't flashy or loud or famous. But when the Three Mile Island (TMI) nuclear power plant suffered a partial meltdown in March 1979, Denton was the perfect person to explain the situation to a panicked public.

The public, it turned out, loved Denton. They sent him letters, photographs, and memorabilia. They requested autographs, and wrote poetry and short stories about him. He was even satirized on *Saturday Night Live*.

"People saw him as a savior and a rock star," Angelique said.

She studies leadership style and why Denton's worked so well. She thinks a commander with his attributes could reassure people about modern crises like Hurricane Katrina or the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster in Japan.

Effective leadership is essential to restoring community cohesion, Angelique says. "We need models of effective leaders that can gain support across conflicting groups and competing political interests. This is especially important when considering environmental issues, such as nuclear power, that are politically polarizing."

Nuclear Crisis

During the TMI crisis, people in South Central Pennsylvania – and the nation – were scared. Government and plant officials had been changing their messages throughout the emergency: stay inside, evacuate, don't evacuate, the danger is over, the danger is worse than expected. People felt officials were being condescending and secretive and held little confidence in their leaders or the information they released.

Some Pennsylvanians stayed put; others fled, not knowing whether they could ever return, Angelique said. "I've heard of people who drove hundred of miles to relatives and were asked to strip naked outside before they came in, for fear of radioactive contamination. I think that captures some of the fear."

In the wake of this potential public catastrophe and public relations nightmare, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials needed someone who could explain the crisis to politicians and the public, she said.

They called in Harold Denton, who arrived on the scene two days after the crisis started.

Denton, 43 at the time and a nuclear engineer who had been in Washington, D.C., wasn't sent to Three Mile Island because he had public speaking experience, but because he was knowledgeable and nearby, Angelique said.

"The people immediately loved him," she added. "He made a connection with people on both sides of the aisle, the anti-nuclear people, the nuclear folks. They all felt like he was telling the truth."

He was a quiet, unassuming, intelligent man who loved anything to do with atoms, Angelique said. Denton brought community cohesion. He explained things simply but didn't talk down to the public. He just had a natural way of being able to translate nuke speak into everyday language, she said. His presence on TV every night comforted and calmed people.



A young Harold Denton at TMI in 1979, above with President Jimmy Carter and at left with Gov. Dick Thornburgh.

They began to write him letters. Some gushed. Some wrote him time and again, telling him about family vacations and illnesses. One woman sent him a shoo fly pie.

Angelique discovered more than 200 of these letters in the Pennsylvania State Archives, where Harold and his wife, Lucinda, had donated them. With one of her students, Angelique examined each letter to understand the characteristics that the public most valued in Denton's leadership.

They praised his calm, his honesty, and his professionalism. The words "trust," "truth" and "pray" came up again and again in the letters, as did "calm," "cool," "honest" and "knowledgeable."

The Letters

The handwritten letters are a window into another time. The notes are surprising for their intimacy and admiration, Angelique said.



One read: "My nights...have been spent much more restful knowing you are in command...your warm smile, gentle manner but firm and knowledgeable control has been a pillar of strength... thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Another read: "When you spoke everything stopped, in the midst of terror you were our only calming factor, I wanted to hear more...never would have tired of your face, voice or positive manner...if you said evacuate, we were ready..."

Denton's wife Lucinda answered every letter, sometimes establishing correspondences that went on for months. She was the unsung hero, with the ability to make people feel cared for, like family, Angelique said. Some letters praised Lucinda, mentioning her sacrifice or referring to her as the dutiful wife.

"Your gifted husband...a national hero," one fan wrote. "I love your husband, Mrs. Denton. Thanks for sharing him." Another wrote that she felt as if she'd known Lucinda all her life.

Denton probably didn't realize what an impression he made while in the limelight.

"My sense was there was almost no time to be uncomfortable," Angelique said. "I don't think he ever expected this would turn into his 15 minutes of fame. I think he was trying to do a job."

Angelique specifically described one example of Denton's calm under pressure. President Jimmy Carter was on his way to Three Mile Island to



assess the damage and calm the public. The two top mathematicians disagreed on what to tell the President about the accident.

"One had a calculation that there was a hydrogen bubble inside ready to blow. Even today, by conservative standards, they came within 40 minutes of a meltdown," she said. "The other guy was saying 'No, we still have time.'"

As the President's plane was landing, Denton said, "We're going to tell him both calculations."

"Harold was very trustworthy and he was telling the truth. That came out over and over again," Angelique said. "He seemed calm under pressure. He did not seem rattled, even when the news was bleak. He listened to people and answered their questions to the best of his ability."

He took seriously his role as the man to calm the public.

As the plant stabilized, workers had to vent radioactive krypton gas, further scaring the public who had heard wildly varied reports about how much radiation they had already had.

"Harold Denton took Lucinda and his children, and while they were venting gas, they had a picnic on the grounds of Three Mile Island," Angelique said.

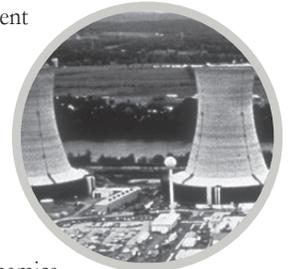
A Researcher's Twist of Fate

Angelique met Denton in person through a twist of fate.

In 2009, for the 30th anniversary of the accident, she taught a TMI Special Topics class. A student in the class knew Denton, and eventually Angelique met Denton and his wife face to face.

"At first I don't think Harold had much trust in me," Angelique said. "Most of my research up until this point had been with anti-nuclear people: community mobilization, what it's like to be an activist, social power dynamics that benefit the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I told him from the beginning, I consider myself anti-nuclear, but I'm also an academic."

But the Dentons met her with the same open, unassuming nature they had shown the nation 30 years before.



Angelique and Denton were reunited again this past March, when both spoke at Penn State Harrisburg's symposium, *TMI@35: The Three Mile Island Nuclear Crisis in Perspective*. Commemorating the 35th anniversary of the TMI accident, the symposium brought to campus many experts to assess the lessons learned from Three Mile Island. Several conference speakers, including former Gov. Dick Thornburgh, called Denton the "hero" of the TMI crisis, confirming again what Angelique's research revealed about how Denton was viewed.

The Next Rock Star

Angelique continues to examine commanders during natural and man-made emergencies as her research on leadership progresses. She hasn't been impressed.

"We need strong leadership now," she said.

TMI@35

The Three Mile Island Nuclear Crisis in Perspective: Analyses, Stories, Policies

On March 28, 1979, the worst accident in commercial nuclear power history in the United States began unfolding at the Three Mile Island (TMI) plant outside Middletown, Pa. The events of the ensuing week would rivet the attention of the world on the Harrisburg area.

The disaster would profoundly impact the future course of the nuclear industry, and forever change the lives of thousands of people. Many of these voices converged during TMI@35, held at Penn State Harrisburg, March 27-28, to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the accident and look at the incident from a current perspective. The seminar brought to campus a diverse cadre of expertise and opinion to critically assess the lessons learned, and what they mean today, in an era in which homeland security includes a focus on resilience to disasters.

“As I had in professional endeavors . . . I wanted the facts as best as they could be determined and as quickly as they could be identified. In the case of Three Mile Island this would prove to be far more difficult than any of us had imagined.”

– Dick Thornburgh, Pennsylvania Governor, 1979-1987



“Nuclear power, like no other form of man-made power, generates within the human psyche a feeling of awe-inspiring fear of what man has created.”

– Hannah Spector, Assistant Professor of Education, Penn State Harrisburg

“The conference showed how important emergency management and crisis communication such as in the TMI accident 35 years ago continue to be in the era of homeland security. We need to be aware that homeland security is based on an all-hazards approach, and that it must be geared towards meeting the citizens’ demands, beyond abstract analyses of risk. The citizens are the ultimate end users of both homeland security policies and research output.”

– Alexander Siedschlag, Professor and Chair of Homeland Security, Penn State Harrisburg



“His choice for this task was Harold Denton, my friend and one of America’s great public servants. The choice turned out to be a near perfect one, and his arrival later in the day would represent a turning point in the crisis . . .”

– Thornburgh, on President Jimmy Carter’s selection of a personal adviser during the TMI crisis

“My whole staff was very stressed about being here. We thought we had built a review process that was capable of keeping accidents from happening.”

– Harold Denton, President Carter’s personal adviser during the TMI accident who at the time was Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

“Another big improvement was the president’s establishment of FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He did that a few days after his visit here.”

– Denton



“Preparedness begins at the local level. All disasters are local, that’s where it starts. Everything else is support. You can’t plan in a vacuum.”

– Kevin J. Molloy, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Integration Center, retired; Dauphin County Civil Defense Director during TMI accident

“What I really was starting to learn is that there are connections and there are complex issues and complex answers . . . you have to be ready to really look at the issue and educate yourself . . . I went from being a neighbor, to a victim, to an activist, to a scholar and I’m back to being a neighbor.”

– Catherine A. McCormick, Instructor in Communications and Humanities, Penn State Harrisburg

“Plants are much safer today from all the lessons that we learned at TMI.”

– Denton



“TMI taught us that multiple components will fail, instruments won’t work, hydrogen will blow up, and containment will fail. Guess what, the same thing happened at Fukushima (in 2011). What have we learned in the last 35 years?”

– Arnie Gundersen, Fairewinds Energy Education

“While he (Denton) was on his way up to Pennsylvania, his colleagues in Washington finally referred publicly to the theoretical possibility of a meltdown - an accurate but poorly handled statement - that caused even the most credible of all Americans in those days, Walter Cronkite, to lead the CBS Evening News by saying ‘We are faced with the remote but very real possibility of a nuclear meltdown at the Three Mile Island nuclear energy plant.’ One could almost feel a collective shudder going through the citizens of Central Pennsylvania.”

– Thornburgh

“The middle of the crisis is the time to be able to pull off the shelf a thoughtful game plan that you put together so that the people . . . doing the work that needs to be done, are doing it in a well-planned fashion.”

– James M. Loy, Chairman, Penn State Homeland Security Advisory Council; Former Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security

“They (activists) also work very hard to understand nuclear technology. . . . In fact I can’t think of one who did not in some way say - that they pretty much read everything they could get their hands on.”

– Holly Angelique, Professor of Community Psychology and Social Change, Penn State Harrisburg



“One of the things we have found is that having all of the voices at the table is really important. That’s what this conference and other opportunities like this allow to happen. Not having a diversity of opinion at the table is not a good thing. It results in groupthink.”

– Marci Culley, Assistant Professor of Psychology, College of Coastal Georgia



TMI@35

From March through May, the college library featured the exhibit “Nuclear Expressions,” including memorabilia and documents from the 1979 accident and local culture. Items on display included novelty tee shirts, bumper stickers and buttons, as well as the React-or Game and Canned Radiation.



Programs aim to ease transitions, celebrate culture

Boarding a plane in her home country of Ghana, bound for the U.S., Nana Annan could feel her heart beating. She was embarking on a journey that would take her thousands of miles away.

About to begin graduate school at Penn State Harrisburg, Annan faced challenges big and small. However, excitement soon replaced her nervous feelings as she realized the adventures awaiting her and she wasted no time getting involved.

Penn State Harrisburg has experienced a surge in international enrollment, from 70 students in 2008 to more than 370, representing 38 countries, in 2014. As the college has worked to expand support for these students, one thing is clear: the programs help bring together the entire college community.

The Global Lion Ambassador and Global Lion Mentor programs, for example, help to unite the campus and the surrounding community. The ambassador program, created by Ana Patricia (Patty) Aguilera, a Penn State Harrisburg doctoral student from Mexico, encourages student leaders to build relationships on campus and in the community and to participate in friendship-building activities. The mentor program helps make the transition easier by connecting new international students with American students and returning international students.

“Having a mentor allowed me to have a friend before ever arriving in America,” Annan said.

Iranian student Amir Sodeifi who serves as a Global Lion Ambassador recently was able to attend a gathering in Lancaster County. There he met both American and Iranian friends from the local community.

Anna Wei Marshall, Penn State Harrisburg’s international student advisor, organizes many of the programs for international students. She acknowledges that cultural and language barriers can resonate inside and outside the classroom, so programs in which American students and community volunteers work together are important.

“Because I was an international student myself, I can relate to the students. I am here to serve them, but I have found there is so much I can learn from them,” she said.

New student orientation, during which international students learn about campus and community resources and get personalized advising sessions on government rules, employment options, and cultural and language adjustment, is another beneficial program.

“Leaving my family in India was the hardest thing, but I knew it would be tough,” said sophomore Lakshmi Chirmamilla. “The orientation program helped make my transition much easier and helped me make friends quickly.”

But it’s not only programs uniquely for international students that help them feel at home at Penn State Harrisburg. Programs open to the entire college community have helped students like In Haeng Lee adjust to life far from her home country of South Korea.

“The Learning Center on campus has worked with me on improving my English. Tutors are friendly and really willing to help,” Lee said. “We don’t just talk about class assignments and papers, but also cultural experiences and social life. I love the Learning Center!”

Some campus programs bring a little piece of home to college for international students and give students an opportunity to showcase their home countries. Events like Lunch with an International Flavor, the Lunar New Year Celebration, and the Indian Holi festival showcase the traditions important to many cultures on campus.

As the college’s international population continues to grow, these programs will continue to help students become an integral part of the campus identity and add to the college’s rich diversity. Available to international and non-international students, the programs share a common goal: to present an environment where students with diverse backgrounds can build meaningful interaction and prepare to be global citizens.



In Haeng Lee





Penn State Harrisburg has experienced a surge in international enrollment to 377 students representing 38 countries in 2014.



Events like Lunch with an International Flavor, the Lunar New Year Celebration, and the Indian Holi festival showcase the traditions important to many cultures on campus.



Barron becomes Penn State president

In February, Penn State's Board of Trustees named Dr. Eric J. Barron the 18th President of the University. Most recently the president of Florida State University (FSU), Barron is a former dean at Penn State. He took the helm at the University on May 12.

Barron, 62, brings to Penn State nearly 35 years of experience in academic administration, education, research and public service, as well as fiscal management within large and complex institutions. He succeeds Dr. Rodney A. Erickson, who in 2012 announced his intention to retire before June 30, 2014.

Barron served as FSU president from 2010 to 2014. Previously, he held a number of notable positions within higher education, including dean of Penn State's College of Earth and Mineral Sciences from 2002 to 2006, having become a member of the Penn State faculty in 1986.

"My wife, Molly, and I spent 20 years at Penn State, where I served as a faculty member, center director and dean. In that time, I learned what it meant to continually strive for excellence – to make every year stronger than the year before," Barron said. "I also came to understand the power of this community; we are unbeatable when we are working together for a common purpose. It is an honor to lead this great University."

In the previous two decades, Barron served in various positions at Penn State, including professor of geosciences, director of the Earth System Science Center, director of the EMS Environmental Institute and dean of the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences. He also earned the title of distinguished professor of geosciences, and was named winner of the Wilson Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Wilson Award for Excellence in Research.

He is a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Geophysical Union, the American Meteorological Society and the Geological Society of America. He has received a number of national awards including NASA Group Achievement Award and NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal.

"I am thrilled to take on the leadership role of one of the nation's most prestigious universities," Barron said. "Penn State, already well-known for its high academic standards, its innovative research, global vision and unmatched public service, is well-positioned for the future and for creating more opportunities for students, as well as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

A native of Lafayette, Ind., Barron received a bachelor's degree in geology from Florida State University, a master's degree and Ph.D., both in oceanography, from the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla.



Project aims to build K-16 teaching and learning capacity

Dr. Jane M. Wilburne, associate professor of mathematics education in Penn State Harrisburg's teacher education program, has received a \$1.9 million Eligible Partnership Project grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The three-year award supports partnerships with and professional development opportunities for local school districts to provide innovative, research-based approaches to improve student teaching experiences.

Penn State Harrisburg serves as lead institution for the program, titled Project EXCELLENCE, which will run from 2014 to 2017. Participating Central Pennsylvania school districts include Lower Dauphin, Derry Township, Middletown, and Harrisburg.

Project EXCELLENCE, or "Partnerships for Teaching and Leadership Excellence," provides student teachers the opportunity to join with cooperating teachers from local school districts and to be trained in co-teaching. Co-teaching puts the student teacher in partnership, rather than apprenticeship, with the cooperating teacher. In this model, the student teacher and the cooperating teacher share all responsibilities of the classroom from the first day.

The project also provides professional development opportunities for teachers and "Professional Learning Communities" for networking and exchanging ideas – all in an effort to improve the preparation of future teachers.

around campus



In April, Penn State Harrisburg men put on high heels to participate in Walk a Mile in Her Shoes: The International Men's March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault & Gender Violence.



In March, the college community joined together in the Oliver LaGrone Cultural Center to celebrate the life and legacy of the room's namesake.

Read more online at harrisburg.psu.edu/currents



Gift provides for naming of nursing lab, new scholarship

Select Medical, one of the nation's largest providers of specialized acute and post-acute care, made a \$250,000 gift that will name the Select Medical Nursing Simulation Lab at Penn State Harrisburg, a 2,600 square-foot state-of-the-art facility with six patient beds, two simulation rooms, a central observation area, and an adjoining classroom.

A portion of the gift also will be used to establish an endowed Medical Community Trustee Scholarship for undergraduate students, with preference given to nursing majors. Penn State Harrisburg offers two nursing degree programs, one for registered nurses seeking to earn a bachelor's degree and another for students with a baccalaureate degree in another field seeking a bachelor's degree in nursing.

Another portion of the gift will fund career exploration programs for school students through the Capital Area Institute of Mathematics and Science (CAIMS) based at Penn State Harrisburg. The college will collaborate with local schools to provide opportunities to introduce students to careers in medicine and health-related fields, including nursing.



School of Business Administration goes high-tech

The School of Business Administration has installed a 10' x 6' high-definition video information wall and an electronic stock ticker on the third floor of the Olmsted Building near the school's offices.

The energy efficient screens highlight business school news such as club meetings, events, and guest speakers, as well as up-to-the-minute business news developments, headlines from around the world, and sports scores.

School of Business Administration Director Dr. Stephen Schappe is hopeful that the video boards will help to start a conversation among faculty, staff, and students. "The attractive new wall will serve as a landmark for the business school and keep students informed about events in the school, on campus, and beyond," said Schappe.



SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

- Senior Chidere Igwe this fall became the women's volleyball program all-time leader in kills. Senior Bree Green set an NCAA record when she served 24 consecutive points in a match on Sep. 20, 2013.
- The men's cross country team finished off the most successful season in program history this fall. The team took home the overall team trophy at the school's home meet on Oct. 4, 2013, a program first.
- Will Doyle, a senior captain on the men's basketball team, set the school's single game point record with 40 points in December. He also made school history in his final collegiate game by joining the 900 point club and sharing the school title for three-point field goals made. His play earned him Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) All Conference honors.
- Colton Houseal became the men's baseball all-time leader in hits and total bases.
- Women's softball player Gabrielle Wolfe was named to the Capital Athletic Conference All Conference First Team. She ranked first in the CAC with 16 doubles and recorded her 200th strikeout in the last game of the season, putting her second in the school's record book.
- Women's soccer player Mackenzie Gates and men's golfer Tyler Shank were named Penn State Harrisburg's 2013-14 Female and Male Student-Athletes of the Year.

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Instructor Holly McKenna led the 2014 swim-a-thon - swimming 15 miles in 15 hours - to raise money for the Four Diamonds Fund, which supports patients and families battling pediatric cancer.



Advanced Graphic Design students constructed an 8' x 42' panorama of the text of the Gettysburg Address, crafted out of cardboard boxes and painstakingly hand-cut letters, as the backdrop for a recent National Gettysburg Address Competition.



Russell Horn: a champion for students

Russell E. Horn, a 1933 civil engineering graduate, had a lifelong love for Penn State. He was outspoken about his fondness for the University and made this evident through his many generous gifts, even as recently as 2012, when he made a leadership gift of \$1 million to support the construction of a student enrichment center at Penn State Harrisburg.

Horn passed away on December 4, 2013. He was 101.

After military service during World War II, Horn joined architect Clair Buchart to form an engineering consulting business in York, Pa. and helped organize Print-O-Stat, an engineering supply and blueprinting firm. He eventually became president and chief engineer of the firm Buchart Horn, and also helped to organize PACE Resources to provide administrative services for Buchart Horn and Print-O-Stat.

The Learning Center at Penn State Harrisburg bears Horn's name. The center is one of two areas within the new student enrichment building project for which Horn's gift provided funding; the other is a planned spiritual meditation center to accommodate students' varied religious practices. Scheduled for completion in 2015, the project will house offices that provide key student services and currently are in various locations across campus.

To date, more than 125 students at Penn State Harrisburg, Penn State York, and University Park have benefited from scholarships created by Horn. He also provided donations to help support the expansion of Penn State Harrisburg's Science and Technology Building and the School of Science, Engineering, and Technology program fund in honor of Dr. Charles A. Cole. University-wide, the Four Diamonds Fund and the Children's Miracle Network have benefited from his philanthropy.

While Horn's generosity has made a great impact on Penn State, he believed that he was the greater beneficiary in that long-lasting relationship. "I have been a Penn State man since I graduated in 1933," he said in 2012, "and I have received more from Penn State than I have given to them."

Programs allow students to obtain a bachelor's, master's in five years

This summer, Penn State Harrisburg will begin offering an integrated undergraduate-graduate program in American Studies. This is the second such program at the college, which also offers an integrated program in Computer Science.

An integrated program at Penn State helps select students combine a bachelor's degree with a master's degree as a continuous program of study. The new program will allow academically superior baccalaureate students in American Studies obtain a bachelor's and master's degree in American Studies within five years.

"This opportunity offers exceptional students early in their studies the opportunity to develop long-range academic goals, work with graduate faculty in advancing research and knowledge, and be academically challenged to match the level of their abilities," said Dr. Peter Idowu, assistant dean for graduate studies. **"Programs such as this typically lead to lower costs and shorter time period to complete the combined undergraduate and graduate degrees."**



At the college's annual Women's History Month panel, alumni including Kelly Logan, '99 MBA, Secretary of Administration, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, shared their career and life experiences.



International lunches and coffee hours held throughout the semester introduce the community to the diverse cultures on campus. Ireland, Japan, and Ghana were among the countries highlighted this spring.

Read more online at harrisburg.psu.edu/currents





Playing it safe

Advances in technology have brought “the cloud” within reach of anyone who uses a computer, which is just about all of us.

The cloud refers to any kind of hosted service provided to a computer user over the Internet. For example, the cloud allows you to back up and store data on the Internet. You can retrieve your data anytime and from anywhere, as long as you are using a device with Internet access.

According to Penn State Harrisburg Associate Professor of Computer Science Linda Null, cloud computing is the “future of Internet technology.”

In addition to ease of access, the cloud can reduce – even eliminate – the cost of backing up and storing your data. Instead of spending money on an external hard drive, you can store data up to a certain amount for free through cloud providers like Dropbox.

But as Dr. Null points out, these advantages come with a price of a different kind – your data is less secure.

A quick Internet search can uncover news of numerous cases of data breaches, lost data, and data becoming unavailable to cloud users. In January, a software update led to the disappearance of messages and contacts by Gmail users. Fortunately, Gmail had backed up the information so the loss amounted to a temporary inconvenience, Null said.

Sometimes the consequences are more serious. A few years ago users of a cloud service by T-Mobile lost all of their data because it hadn't been backed up properly, Null said.

The incidents are happening more often, Null said, because of the sheer volume of information being uploaded to the cloud.

“There is much more data out there for people to get to. They may be doing it on purpose, it may happen accidentally. But the more data out there, the more chance that data can be breached.”

So how do you protect yourself?

Find out where your data is stored. Your provider may be U.S.-based, but the company could be storing data in multiple sites around the world where U.S. laws and regulations don't apply.

“If someone breaches my data in India and their laws are different, how do I take care of that,” Null said. Better to know the answers before your data is jeopardized.

Read the fine print in those service level agreements that providers ask you to check – those agreements that most of us don't read.

“They say ‘we will do the best that we can and that is pretty much all we can do. We aren't really going to guarantee anything,’” Null said. “You are outsourcing your data and apps but not outsourcing the liability. It's really important that you look at those agreements. You really aren't protected very much if something does happen.”

When it comes to uploading data, don't just file it and forget it.

“How many of us go back through Dropbox and check to see if the files we put out there two years ago are still there and are not corrupted? I don't. I figure it is not my job, but it is sort of our job because it's not the provider's job,” Null said.

Check to see what your cloud provider offers when it comes to encrypting data. “They are working more and more to protect privacy,” Null said. “So if the data is breached it will be encrypted and there won't be a problem.”

Greg Madden, Penn State Harrisburg's associate director of information technology services, adds other advice – don't rely on just one cloud provider. “Use two different services so if one goes down you still have the other one,” he said. “Use one to back up the other.”

For the Future campaign comes to a successful close



The top priority in *For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students* was keeping a Penn State degree affordable for students and families. On May 2, 2014 students revealed the total raised at Penn State Harrisburg of \$15,402,082 during the Capital Society Dinner and Campaign Celebration.*

During the campaign, Capital Society members contributed more than 150 major gifts and endowments. In addition, nearly 1,500 scholarships and awards were given to more than 1,000 students.

The effects of their generosity were far reaching, creating enriching and meaningful opportunities for students.

**As of April 15, 2014*

alumni news

We want to hear from you!

Help us keep up with your whereabouts, activities, and achievements.

Send updates to:

Penn State Harrisburg, Alumni Office, hbgalumni@psu.edu or 777 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057-4898 • 717-948-6715

STUDY TOURS take students on adventures around the world

Penn State Harrisburg's International Study Tours provide students an exciting opportunity to travel around the world and learn about different countries through firsthand experience. This spring, the tours took students to China, Ghana, India, Guatemala and London, where students went beyond classroom learning and immersed themselves in the culture of these countries. Check out our Facebook page for more photos from these tours.

