

Penn State Harrisburg

Summer 2019

Currents

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Greetings FROM THE CHANCELLOR



John M. Mason Jr.



This August, I celebrated my first anniversary as chancellor of Penn State Harrisburg. As a 1972 alum of the college, I had followed its growth and transformation, and I was privileged to have the opportunity in 2018 to return to serve this institution.

Over the past year, we have continued to build on the pillars that have made Penn State Harrisburg a destination campus for many and a regional economic engine and leader in higher education. We are continuing to fulfill Penn State's land grant mission – to create and disseminate knowledge and to be of service to Pennsylvania and beyond.

I have quickly seen how, in the process of fulfilling this mission, the people of Penn State Harrisburg have built a community that extends within and outside of the campus. You'll see many examples of the impact of this community illustrated in *Currents*. Whether providing new resources for students in need, aiding those around us by joining in the fight against addiction, caring for the environment through our research on cleaner waterways, or sharing our knowledge to help organizations solve workday challenges, the college is putting its commitment to service into action.

This fall we will celebrate this wonderful community during We Are Weekend, September 27-29. The weekend begins with our Alumni Awards Ceremony on Friday, September 27 followed by a TV Tailgate as we watch Penn State Football vs. Maryland. On Saturday, September 28, we're inviting everyone – our internal family as well as the public – to visit Nittany Neighborhood on campus. We're planning a day of family fun, featuring food, music, entertainment, children's hands-on activities, campus tours, sports, and more. You can find the entire rundown at harrisburg.psu.edu/we-are-weekend.

We hope to see many of you during We Are Weekend, and I encourage you to remain connected to the college in other ways as well. Follow our social media and news channels, visit any time, volunteer, and stay in touch via the alumni office at hbgalumni@psu.edu. Alumni are valued members of the Penn State Harrisburg community and we are grateful for your ongoing support as we continue to move the college forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John M. Mason Jr." in a cursive, flowing script.

Currents

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CHANCELLOR

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Serving our Student Community

The Career Closet makes professional attire accessible to all students

Making a good first impression at a job interview or career fair is crucial; many interviewers say that they know whether they will hire someone within the first 90 seconds of meeting them. However, the cost of purchasing professional attire can be difficult for students.

To help, the career services office at Penn State Harrisburg created the Career Closet, which allows students to select a professional outfit from a new or gently used collection free of charge. The Career Closet offers clothing in a range of sizes, styles and colors, as well as shoes, accessories, ties, padfolios and work bags.

Katy Rush, associate director of the college's John Crain Kunkel Career Center, found a need for professional attire through student inquiries and focus groups with the Career Peers, student staff members in the office.

"We decided to take action because we didn't want a single student to miss an opportunity, such as attending a career fair or interview, simply because they didn't own or couldn't afford a suit," she said.

The office began collecting donations in fall 2018 from generous faculty and staff across campus, as well as local businesses and organizations.

The hope is that this initiative will make students more competitive when applying to positions in the workforce.

"Looking good feels good and it instills confidence in a candidate," said Rush. "We want to deliver that feeling to every Penn State Harrisburg student. Confidence correlates with performance and we want all of our students to make a strong first impression."

The Kunkel Center provides access to a variety of tools needed for students' career success and partners with community organizations and companies that can provide experiential opportunities. Resources provided by the office include everything from résumé writing and interviewing training — and now, access to professional attire.

"Confidence correlates with performance and we want all of our students to make a strong first impression."

WE cARE student food pantry opens on campus

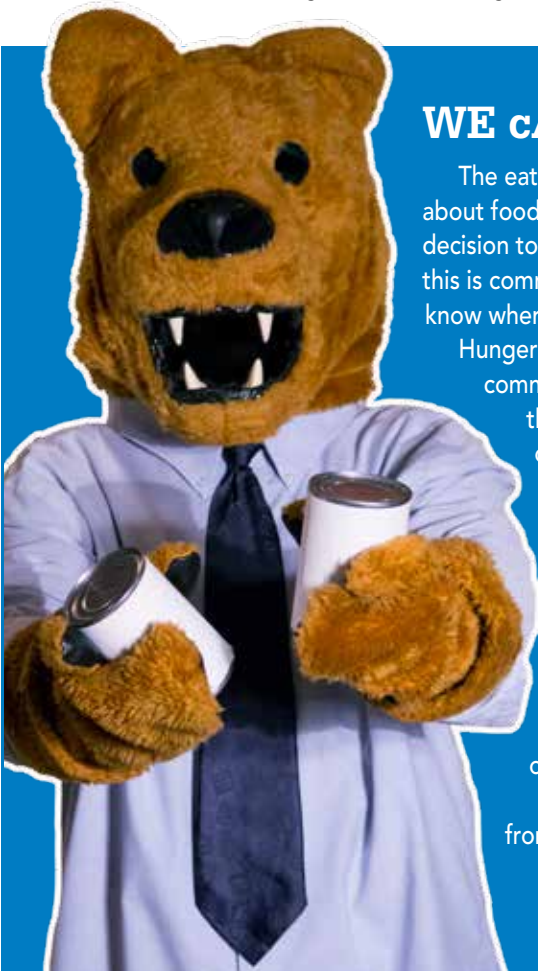
The eating habits of young adults are often depicted in a comical light, but there's nothing funny about food insecurity, currently affecting thousands of college students across America. Faced with the decision to either pay for food or school, many students choose to put their higher education first. While this is commendable, it also means that at any given time, an estimated 36 percent of students do not know where their next meal will come from.

Hunger is a real problem for today's students, including those at Penn State Harrisburg. The college's commitment to providing a supportive environment for students has gone one step further with the opening of the WE cARE food pantry. Pantry organizers believe that it will alleviate some of the financial stress faced by students by providing a place for them to have safe access to food.

Ashley Schools, a financial coordinator in the Office of Student Life and Multicultural Programming and one of the principal organizers for the WE cARE food pantry, recounted a personal interaction with a student who had to put all of her income towards paying tuition and received very little support from her family. "It broke my heart," Schools recalled. She said it isn't uncommon for students to prioritize rent or other expenses over daily meals.

"Sometimes, students are put into a position where they might have to pay for their books rather than pay for food, or put gas in their car, and we don't want that happening to our students," Schools added.

WE cARE allows all students who present a Penn State id+ card to select the food they need from the pantry shelves and take it home for free, no questions asked.





Student takes on food insecurity with new website



Food insecurity is a growing issue for many local communities. In 2016, the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank conducted a community assessment which illustrated that 36,600 people in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania — approximately 13 percent of residents — were food insecure. Data from Penn State Harrisburg’s WE cARE Food Pantry shows that more than 120 students have used the pantry since its opening in August 2018.

Elizabeth Gutman, a master’s student in health education at Penn State Harrisburg, is tackling the issue of food insecurity with her website “A Nourished Community,” a resource dedicated to making access to affordable, healthy food, a reality. With this website, Gutman hopes to make a lasting impact on the campus and local communities that are facing food insecurity.

“A Nourished Community” contains numerous resources dedicated to helping alleviate the pressures that students and individuals face as they struggle to purchase food. The website offers tips for grocery shopping and meal prep, healthy recipes requiring fewer than ten ingredients, how-to videos on cooking, local grocery store and food pantry information, coupon websites and more.

As a health education graduate student, Gutman has a passion for helping others live healthier lives. She cited learning about the WE cARE Food Pantry as one of the main inspirations for “A Nourished Community,” because she previously had not been aware of the extent of local food insecurity. Knowing that some of the main challenges to accessing healthy food include cost and availability, Gutman geared her project toward helping to make a healthy lifestyle become more feasible for everyone.

Gutman’s initiative has three main goals for success: instruct college students and low-income individuals and families on how to eat healthy on a budget through recipes; educate college students and low-income individuals on how to be successful grocery store shoppers by saving money with coupons; and provide the Middletown, Pennsylvania, community with resources that allow them to access food at no cost, such as food pantries.

Her coursework and the guidance of her professors gave Gutman the resources she needed to successfully create the project. For one course, she completed a needs assessment and a program paper, both on the topic of food insecurity in Middletown and at Penn State Harrisburg.

She said, “This course helped me to lay the foundation for the development of my website, permitted me to conduct further research on food insecurity, and determine that ‘A Nourished Community’ was truly a need for our campus community and beyond.

“I want students to know that ‘A Nourished Community’ is a welcoming place,” Gutman said. “My goal is for students to feel equipped to find the resources they need to assist them in combating their hunger, and to encourage them in a way that makes them feel valued, despite the struggles they are facing.”

The pantry is able to operate through the partnership and generous support of the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, which provides the WE cARE food pantry with donated food at 18 cents per pound. Schools says that anyone who wishes to support the pantry should do so through monetary donations, as it goes a long way in the success of the pantry operation. Donations are accepted by contacting jkg14@psu.edu or 717-948-6316.



Learning By Doing

CLASS PROJECTS LINK STUDENTS WITH CLIENTS TO TACKLE REAL WORLD ISSUES



THE CHALLENGE: Educate citizens on ways to improve water quality in Lancaster County

Science and engineering students in Dr. Russell Kirkscey's technical writing course combined their scientific expertise with newfound communications skills, working with the Lancaster County Clean Water Consortium to develop a video communications program.

THE OUTCOME:

Student teams produced 10 three-minute videos recommending best practices for protecting stream water quality, addressing topics such as proper disposal of used auto oil, safer lawn care practices, efficient car washing techniques, cleaning up after pets, and not allowing livestock in streams. Students developed messaging for target audiences, wrote scripts, and filmed the videos.

FEEDBACK:

"The Lancaster County Clean Water Consortium (LCCWC) was excited to partner with Penn State Harrisburg students ... It was a great opportunity to educate the students about stormwater and water quality problems locally, while also getting to utilize their creativity to further educate the community."

Kristen Kyler, LCCWC member and project coordinator, Penn State Agriculture and Environment Center



THE CHALLENGE: Ensure affordable housing for families in the City of Harrisburg

Nine Penn State Harrisburg students in Dr. Jane Beckett-Camarata's master's level public administration capstone course conducted research, analyzing a previous Harrisburg housing study and studying two cities similar in size and make-up – Albany, New York and Annapolis, Maryland – with similar housing issues to Harrisburg. Students presented their ideas to city council twice and participated in a wide-ranging affordable housing panel discussion.

THE OUTCOME:

Student Shawn Peck said his group emphasized "inclusionary zoning" when they made recommendations. Such zoning would require developers to set aside a certain percentage of their homes for low income buyers. Alternatively, they could choose to put money into a trust fund for providing affordable housing. Student Peterson Prime said that the students also recommended applying to the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York's Affordable Housing Program, providing training to underemployed residents, reducing permit fees and developing educational materials to enlighten landlords who refuse tenants receiving housing subsidies.

FEEDBACK:

"I think their ideas will bear some weight. It was a great project in terms of idea generation. And, there are plenty of topics Penn State Harrisburg could help with ... I would like to continue on this path ... It enhances [students'] studies in a practical, real-life way, and they can help the city they live in and love."

Ben Allat, Harrisburg City Councilman

Penn State Harrisburg faculty often integrate experiential learning – basically, learning by doing – into their teaching. Experiential learning opportunities can come in many forms, like study abroad or student government participation. This year, students in various majors were able to put theory into practice, participating in class projects with real clients trying to solve business challenges.

The arrangements proved mutually beneficial. Students gained knowledge and skills in teamwork, organization, communications, and client relations. They also began to develop a professional network. At the same time, their clients gained valuable help and insight in addressing issues.



THE CHALLENGE:

Design a better way to garner employee feedback

For students in Dr. Roderick Lee’s human-centered technology design course, the answer meant combining high-tech with a human touch.

THE OUTCOME:

Students joined with Penn State Harrisburg’s human resources office to build an online application to more effectively collect data from departing staff. Because human-centered technology design relies on understanding users’ motivations and behaviors, the survey provided a better way for human resources staff to understand why an employee was leaving, what their employment experience was like, and qualities to look for in a successor.

FEEDBACK:

“It was amazing. [The students] really drove the project ... We gave some initial thoughts and had a number of meetings where they asked pointed questions about our needs and how we were going to be using the survey, but ultimately they took the initiative and developed a very user-friendly survey.”

Dawn Hamaty, Penn State Harrisburg
Human Resources Associate



THE CHALLENGE:

Raise public understanding of the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank and promote support for its mission

THE OUTCOME:

Students in Amy Sauertieg’s public relations campaign class toured and volunteered at the food bank, surveyed public knowledge about it, and presented public relations ideas to officials, including holding a food bank grocery game, like those run on the Food Network by Chef Guy Fieri, and holding a social media contest called “Vote to Promote: Hometown Showdown” in which the food bank would share information on its social media channels with a focus on its “\$1 equals six meals” campaign.

FEEDBACK:

At the food bank, students met Andy Dessel, health innovations manager and Penn State Harrisburg alum who had taken the same class, working on a proposal to get more young people as food bank volunteers. He summarized the benefits of the class. “I took away many vital lessons from the project that I apply regularly, including how to best work as part of a team; how to effectively research, develop and write a proposal; time management; and how to present a professional proposal regardless of the particular program or campaign context.”

\$2.5M gift establishes the Pollock Center for Addiction Outreach and Research

Penn State Harrisburg has received a leadership gift of \$2.5 million from the Douglas W. Pollock Foundation to establish the Douglas W. Pollock Center for Addiction Outreach and Research on its campus.

The center was officially dedicated on August 21 as a part of All College Day.

The center will address two areas of the substance abuse problem within the central Pennsylvania region, while serving as a catalyst to enhance communications and align numerous agencies and organizations in efforts to combat substance abuse. The center's early focus will be providing targeted assistance to veterans of the U.S. military and their families who are facing addiction-related challenges, and helping to bolster nonprofit community organizations in their efforts to more effectively combat substance abuse.

"Substance abuse is devastating lives, families and communities across the Commonwealth and the nation, and Penn State is committed to a leadership role in addressing this crisis," said Penn State President Eric J. Barron. **"The Douglas W. Pollock Foundation will make it possible for Penn State Harrisburg to help individuals and organizations in the region, and to generate the research and models that will have an impact far beyond Pennsylvania."**

Douglas W. Pollock was born and raised in central Pennsylvania and was a 1973 Penn State graduate. A student-athlete in college, Pollock was an ardent Penn State supporter, as well as a supporter of the military and its veterans. Pollock battled mental health issues and addiction throughout his life, which ultimately caused his untimely death in 2016 at the age of 64.

"It is fitting and appropriate that our foundation provides this gift to Penn State Harrisburg to establish the Douglas W. Pollock Center for Addiction Outreach and Research," said Pollock Foundation Attorney Michael Bangs. **"The goal of the center is to collaborate throughout Penn State, with the private sector, foundations and government entities to coordinate efforts to address the issue of addiction."**

The gift will support professorships, graduate scholarships, and research and outreach efforts to pioneer and evaluate innovative avenues of prevention, treatment and recovery; it also will provide funding to facilitate the day-to-day operations of the center.

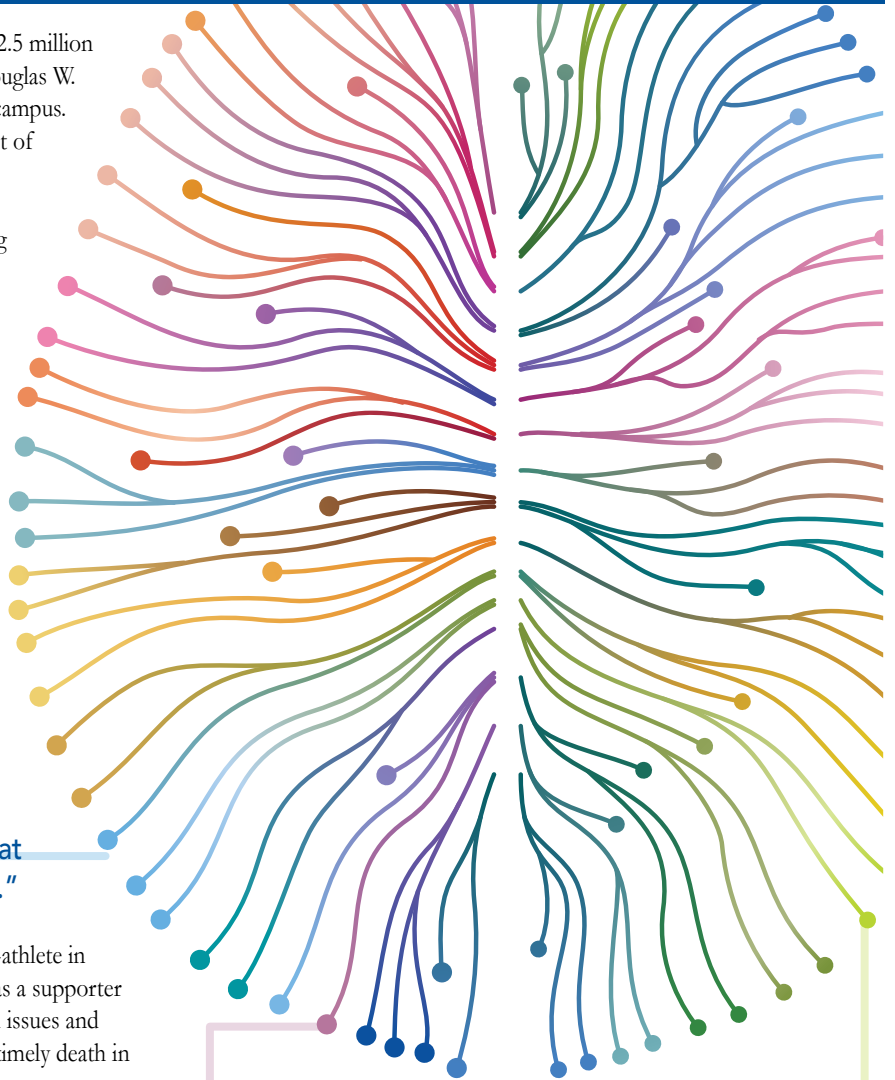
The center will be headed by Weston Kensinger, assistant teaching professor of health education in Penn State Harrisburg's School of Behavioral Sciences and Education, where the center will be housed.

"Penn State Harrisburg is ideally suited to house the center, given its

established research expertise; its academic infrastructure; and its many existing partnerships within the region and throughout Penn State," said Penn State Harrisburg Chancellor John M. Mason Jr.

"The Center for Addiction Outreach and Research is an ambitious endeavor with tremendous potential to make a lasting difference throughout the region. We are truly grateful for the generosity of the Douglas W. Pollock Foundation," Mason said.

Penn State has made addressing substance abuse a strategic priority throughout the University and has established the Penn State Consortium to Combat Substance Abuse with the goal of tackling the problem at multiple levels. As a consortium partner, the Pollock Center for Addiction Outreach and Research at Penn State Harrisburg will be a unique addition to the region's substance abuse programming with its early emphasis on assisting special populations and community organizations.





Research examines stream restorations with an eye on improving Chesapeake Bay

When it comes to improving the waters of the Chesapeake Bay, one Penn State Harrisburg researcher suggests taking the long view. As a geologist, Jennifer Sliko, assistant teaching professor of earth and geosciences, is used to studying the earth in the context of thousands of years. But for the Bay, she's only currently talking about decades.

Sliko and colleague Shirley Clark, professor of environmental engineering, led a group of undergraduate and graduate students to study the impact of stream restorations on the Bay, the world's largest estuary and a major fishery and ecological resource. The Bay has been

plagued by poor water quality that has devastated the area's ecosystem.

Pennsylvania has some 86,000 miles of streams, many of which lead to the Bay. Sliko said that to fix the Bay, the general idea has been to fix the streams dumping water into it. One way to do that is through stream restoration activities such as stabilizing stream banks or creating wetlands. These measures help the species living in and around a stream, reduce stream bank erosion and improve water quality.

"The driving questions behind our research is asking if stream restorations, which are pretty costly, are actually cleaning the water that goes down to the Bay, and are we utilizing our efforts in the best possible manner to restore the stream effectively in the long term," Sliko said.

She explained that while these restoration practices have been tested on a short term scale, like 10 years, she and her students are looking at whether or not the restoration will be effective "in 30, 40, or 50 years down the road."

"We are looking at different restorations and comparing their effectiveness, and also the age of the restoration — something that is often overlooked," Sliko said.

Sliko, Clark, and students last year studied several streams primarily in the Susquehanna River Watershed, close to the college campus and also in Lancaster County.

In one stream that was restored about 20 years ago, the group found a drop in water quality and they are trying to determine what can be done to make sure the restoration is sustainable for the long term.

"This restoration has been in place since the 1990s, and water quality improvement has tapered off a bit. It is possible that land use has changed, so maybe people in the surrounding area are not adhering to some of more rigorous environmental standards," Sliko said. "That amplifies the need for our research; we have to look at these things longitudinally, not just once."

The project was largely funded through the Penn State College of Engineering's Multi-Campus Research Experience for Undergraduates Students (MCREU) program, allowing the group to collaborate with faculty and use labs at University Park.

In the field, they do some analysis in the stream, and then bring water samples back to the labs for further testing.

"We look at different parameters of stream health, such as dissolved oxygen, PH, turbidity (cloudiness of the water), salinity," said Saran Ryan, an environmental pollution control graduate student.

"Since we don't have the ability to look at numerous heavy metals here at the college, we took advantage of the REU collaboration," Sliko said. "It was a good opportunity for the students to be exposed to resources on campus and at University Park and there is potential for future collaborations, as well."

The consensus of the group is that there is value in broad restorations that reconnect the stream to its floodplain — the area of land adjacent to a stream or river. The more you create a natural connection of the stream to the land, the better the stream performs, according to Sliko.

"These broad restorations are the most effective," Sliko said. "However, you must also look at the land-use policies in the watershed and the external

factors, such as whether you have a sewage plant dumping into a stream or a farmer discharging nutrient-rich water. The policies that regulate what gets dumped into the streams could play a more important role than the stream restorations themselves."

Sliko added that broad restorations are also beneficial because they provide a storage place for flood water.

"The more you pave, put down buildings or streets or parking lots, water cannot soak into the ground. It flows over ground, dumps into a stream and creates more flooding," she said. "Broad restorations, while more expensive, are more effective in reducing flooding."





Bret Williams



Baseball team celebrates historic season

For just the second time in program history, the Penn State Harrisburg baseball team competed in the NCAA Division III Championship Tournament. The Lions received an at-large bid to the tournament, racked up a school-record 33 wins this spring and advanced to the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) Championship Series for the second year in a row.

The team earned the No. 2 seed in the four-team regional hosted at SUNY Cortland in May and recorded its first NCAA Tournament victory by defeating Alvernia University 13-12. The team's historic 2019 campaign came to an end with a 7-4 loss to Tufts University in its third game of the tournament on May 18.

This past spring, the team received votes in the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association/ D3baseball.com Top 25 Poll and won five games over nationally-ranked opponents.

During the season, team members also collected numerous individual accolades.

Bret Williams, of Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania, was named a D3baseball.com First-Team All-American, becoming the first player in program history to earn All-American recognition of any kind. He was also named First-Team All-America by the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) and Rawlings after being tabbed the organization's NCAA Division III Mid-Atlantic Regional Player of the Year. He was a First-Team All-Region pick by the ABCA and Rawlings, as well as a First-Team All-Region selection by D3baseball.com. Williams was named the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) Player of the Year after winning the league's batting title and was named CAC First-Team All-Conference for the second year in a row. He won NCAA Division III Statistical Championships in hits (88), runs (75) and total bases (161) thanks to leading the nation in those categories. He also ranked second in the country in home runs (18) and runs batted in (70).

Miguel Torres, of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, ended his senior campaign by earning ABCA All-America Second-Team honors and ranking third in NCAA Division III in hits (79) and eighth in runs (59). He also was named First-Team All-Region by the ABCA and Rawlings, as well as Second-Team All-Region by D3baseball.com. Torres was pegged CAC First-Team All-Conference after earning second-team recognition one year prior.

Travis Van Houten was named an ABCA/Rawlings First-Team All-Region selection, as well as a D3baseball.com All-Region Second-Team pick. The Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania native won the NCAA Division III Statistical Championship in runs batted in (71) and ranked fifth in the country in total bases (132). He also earned a pair of CAC First-Team All-Conference honors as a starting pitcher and designated hitter.

Zach Gettys earned CAC Second-Team All-Conference recognition. The York, Pennsylvania native was also named the CAC Pitcher of the Week during the season.





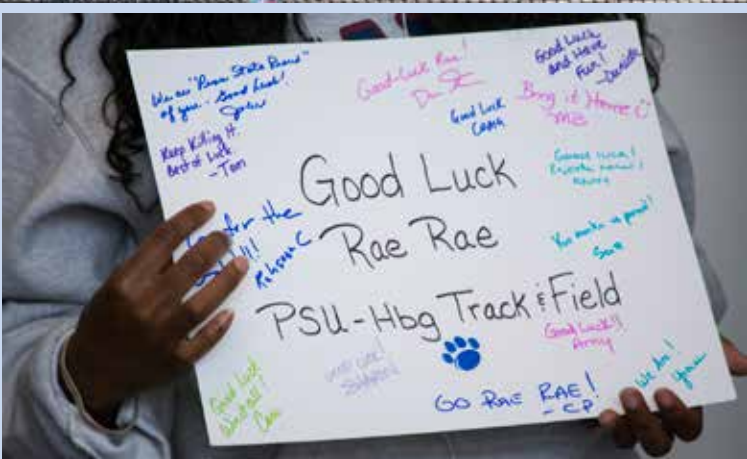
Yon becomes college's first national champion

Penn State Harrisburg senior Cameron Yon became the first student-athlete in school history to win a national championship when he secured gold in the discus throw at the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championships, May 23, at the SPIRE Institute in Geneva, Ohio.

Yon, the reigning U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) Mid-east Regional Field Athlete of the Year, entered the competition with the top mark in the nation and backed it up with a throw of 51.66 meters, a mark good enough to secure him the national title and the third USTFCCCA All-America honor of his illustrious career.

As a freshman in 2016, Yon was the first athlete in program history to qualify for an NCAA championship event. The Patuxent River, Maryland, native also was the first Penn State Harrisburg athlete to earn All-American honors, winning bronze in the event during his first trip to the national meet.

Yon was one of five men's and women's student athletes to compete at the national championships in 2019, including Jalil Clayton, Sarah Lehman, Rae Rae Taylor, and Alex White.



College names two to leadership posts

Dr. Holly Angelique has been named assistant dean for academic affairs. A professor of community psychology, Angelique joined Penn State Harrisburg in 1996 and has served the college in a number of roles, as a faculty member and an academic administrator, including as coordinator of the master's program in community psychology and social change, the chair of programs in social sciences and psychology, and the interim director of the School of Behavioral Sciences and Education. Prior to joining Penn State Harrisburg, Angelique held administrative, advising, and teaching roles at Michigan State University and California State University, Long Beach.



As the assistant dean, Angelique will oversee areas including academic advising, learning centers, continuing education, the Center for Teaching Excellence, honors programs, international programs, the registrar, and activities related to World Campus.

Angelique's research focuses on two substantive areas of inquiry, community decision-making around environmental issues, and feminist psychology. Her environmental research has focused primarily on anti-nuclear grassroots organizing at Three Mile Island in Middletown, Pennsylvania, the site of the worst commercial nuclear accident in the U.S. in 1979.

Angelique holds a doctoral degree in ecological-community psychology from Michigan State University, with a concentration in developmental psychology and women's studies; a master of arts in psychology from California State University, Long Beach; and a bachelor of arts from California State University, Long Beach.

Dr. Mark Kiselica has been named director of the college's School of Behavioral Sciences and Education. A licensed psychologist and a licensed professional counselor, Kiselica worked in a variety of mental health settings before making a transition to higher education, where he has acquired 30 years of experience as a professor and administrator.



A professor of psychology, Kiselica's previous position was as vice provost for academic affairs at Cabrini University in Radnor, Pennsylvania. He was the founding dean of Cabrini's School of Humanities and Social Sciences and also had served Cabrini as acting provost and vice president for academic affairs, and as the acting dean of the School of Business, Arts, and Media. He has held academic and administrative posts at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana; Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania; Iona College in New Rochelle, New York; and at the College of New Jersey in Ewing, New Jersey, where he had served most recently as dean of the School of Education.

Kiselica has dedicated his professional life to studying and helping troubled boys and men and to addressing social issues, such as racism, anti-Semitism, and adolescent pregnancy and parenthood.

Kiselica, a native of New Jersey, holds a doctoral degree in counseling psychology from Penn State University, a master's degree in psychology from Bucknell University, and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Saint Vincent College.

Spring 2019 commencement featured first student marshals

For the first time, Penn State Harrisburg selected six graduates to serve as student marshals at the spring 2019 commencement ceremony. The graduates bore the banners representing each academic school, and together with the faculty marshals led the graduating students during the ceremony processional.

Student marshals were selected based on their GPAs from among students eligible to graduate. Other criteria considered included engagement with the academic school and the college, involvement in research, involvement in leadership activities, and faculty recommendations.

The inaugural group of student marshals included:

School of Behavioral Sciences and Education: Joy Boettinger (Duncannon, Pennsylvania), bachelor of elementary education in elementary education with a concentration in pre-kindergarten through fourth grade. Boettinger was escorted by Dr. Candace Hogue, assistant teaching professor of kinesiology.

School of Business Administration: Amanda Moyer (Perkasie, Pennsylvania), bachelor of science in accounting and a minor in accounting information systems. Moyer was escorted by Professor Faiza Abbas, lecturer of management.

School of Humanities: Tessa Eftimiades (Middletown, Pennsylvania), bachelor of arts in communications. Eftimiades was escorted by Dr. Gloria Clark, associate professor of humanities and Spanish.

School of Public Affairs: Alyssa Teter (Ronkonkoma, New York), bachelor of science in criminal justice. Teter was escorted by Dr. Michele Tantardini, assistant professor of public administration.

School of Science, Engineering, and Technology: Elisha Kossove (Lititz, Pennsylvania), bachelor of science in mechanical engineering. Kossove was escorted by Dr. Xianlong Ge, assistant teaching professor of chemistry.

Graduate School: Greg Emerick (Hummelstown, Pennsylvania), master's of health administration. Emerick was escorted by Dr. Amit Banerjee, associate professor of mechanical engineering.



Who wore it best?

Nearly 900 degrees were conferred at spring commencement. Many grads on hand turned the mandatory garb into a canvas for creativity!



around campus



As part of the School of Science, Engineering, and Technology Lecture Series, Gerald E. Galloway '74g, retired brigadier general in the U.S. Army, presented a lecture on urban flooding.



60 math and technology and engineering teachers from 30 middle schools participated in a 3-D printing workshop offered by the college's Capital Area Institute for Mathematics and Science.



Read more online at harrisburg.psu.edu/currents





John Crain Kunkel Foundation gift expands career services

Penn State Harrisburg received a gift of \$250,000 from the John Crain Kunkel Foundation this spring to expand services and resources offered by the college's career services office, which was renamed the John Crain Kunkel Career Center.

Congressman John Crain Kunkel represented Dauphin County and in 1966 was a driving force to establish Penn State Harrisburg at the former Olmsted Air Force Base. Over the past 30 years, the foundation has made significant

contributions to the Penn State Harrisburg campus and the greater Harrisburg region.

"Penn State Harrisburg is committed to providing students with an exceptional educational experience and preparing them fully for career success after graduation," said Penn State Harrisburg Chancellor John M. Mason Jr. "We are grateful for this generous gift which will help us to provide a more comprehensive portfolio of career-readiness resources."

The gift will support the hiring and training of additional career peer counselors, student staff members in the career services office who act as liaisons between the office and students, as well as the hiring of a diversity career specialist to assist students with diverse backgrounds in their career counseling needs. The gift will also support new career center programs.

"There is a growing demand from employers with diversity recruitment initiatives and Penn State Harrisburg's highly diverse population makes us a natural choice of employers," said Katy Rush, associate director of the center. "We also enroll a large number of low-income, first-generation, and veteran students. These student populations require additional support and have unique career counseling needs. With the addition of a diversity career specialist, we are confident that we will be able to prepare these students for gainful employment and to meet employer needs."

Other new career center offerings will include an alternative career spring break where students will be immersed in career shadowing, project learning, and mentoring with participating employers; employment and monetary support for students participating in unpaid internships with non-profit and community organizations; and industry-specific career networking events aimed at specialty populations, such as veterans, athletes, individuals with disabilities, first-generation students, women, students from historically underrepresented populations, LGBTQ students, and non-traditional learners.

"These populations require a different level of preparation and need access to networking opportunities with employers in different ways," Rush said. "Programs will be industry specific with specialty populations in mind. Access to transportation, pre-event preparation, etiquette training and professional attire will be provided."

Alternative Spring Break

annually addresses a social issue for students to explore within the span of a week-long service opportunity. This year the program took Penn State Harrisburg students to Puerto Rico to aid in continuing relief efforts on the island, torn apart in 2017 by Hurricane Maria and still recovering.



This year's Wellness Fair featured the "slushie bike," which uses the cyclists pedaling energy to power a blender.



Canadian fiddling and step-dancing siblings The Fitzgeralds performed as part of the Kulkarni Cultural Series.



Retired astronaut and Penn State alumnus Guion "Guy" Bluford Jr. presented "STEM Forward: Minorities in Engineering" and discussed his space shuttle flights and the future of manned space flight.

YOU'RE INVITED!

FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 27

Alumni Awards Ceremony

Penn State vs. Maryland
TV Tailgate sponsored by
PennLive/The Patriot-News

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 28

Nittany Neighborhood
Community Day

Free family fun including children's
activities, food, entertainment,
music, student performances, sports
clinics and games, campus tours,
movie night, and more!

SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 29

Nondenominational Service

Cornhole Tournament benefitting THON



For a full schedule, please visit:
harrisburg.psu.edu/we-are-weekend

around campus



The college's School of Humanities presented the spring musical Tony-award-winning comedy "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."



More than 50 student projects were on display at the annual Capstone Design Conference, which combines classroom learning with real-life applications.



Read more online at harrisburg.psu.edu/currents





Penn State Harrisburg's class of 1969 celebrated its 50th reunion June 22 on campus, with 36 classmates joining in the activities. The class toured campus and held a reception and dinner at the Sheraton in Harrisburg/Hershey. The dinner featured a college update by Chancellor John M. Mason Jr., recognition of deceased and military class members, and the sharing of stories from their days at "Capitol College." The class of 1969 was the first class to reside on campus. The reunion was organized by class members Connie Bowden, Patricia Fry, and Tom Stovcsik.

Alumni Society Board elects two new members

Penn State Harrisburg's Alumni Society recently elected new board members; Nicole Cassel, ('10g, training and development), and Michael Furjanic ('84, public accounting). Both will serve their first term in fall 2019.

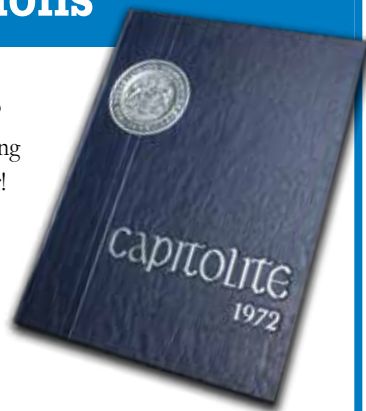
Cassel is a people site manager at Magellan Health in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania where she specializes in employee engagement and culture. Previously she was the director of Member Relations and Insurance Benefits at PennAg Industries Association. While at PennAg, she obtained her Health/Life Insurance Producer License, and continued to pursue her interest in the human resources field, earning her Society for Human Resource Management – Certified Professional (SHRM-CP) certification, and taking on the role of the in-house human resources/wellness director, in addition to her insurance responsibilities.

Furjanic has been licensed as a certified public accountant in Pennsylvania since 1991 and maintains an accounting practice in Harrisburg, providing tax, accounting, and auditing services to the local community. He is also the accountant for the Dauphin County Bar Association. Furjanic previously served in the Harrisburg City Controller's Office as audit manager from 1986 through 2009, and during that time was a board member of the PA Government Finance Officers' Association, South Central Chapter.

If you are interested in serving on the Alumni Society Board and giving back to your alma mater, please contact the Alumni Relations office at hbgalumni@psu.edu.

Upcoming Reunions

Want to be a reunion coordinator for your class?
Is organizing events or planning parties your thing?
Does contacting old classmates sound like something you'd enjoy? Contact the alumni office to volunteer!
We need your help getting ready for upcoming reunions for the classes of 1970, 1971, and more.



Contact us at
hbgalumni@psu.edu.

Chef Athan Spanos demonstrated kitchen techniques for participants in the Early Reach Academy, a program that helps prepare high school students with disabilities for success in college and employment.



High school students in the two-week STEM Summer Enrichment Program learned about science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers through hands-on activities.



Held for the first time this spring, the Business Pitch Bootcamp is an intensive five-week startup course for university and community entrepreneurs.

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



CAPITAL CONNECTIONS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The Soldier's Experience

Thursday, November 14, 2019

United States Army History and Education Center, Carlisle, PA

Join us as we explore the premier facility for historical research on U.S. Army history. This institution is dedicated to telling the Army story one soldier at a time. Key features of the USAHEC include the interactive exhibit "The Soldier Experience," a memorial art gallery, and the Army Heritage Trail. A mile-long outdoor trail allows visitors to experience history in a new way, through interactive and full-scale military exhibits. Join us as we celebrate our veterans and explore this unique facility.

Transportation and Harrisburg History on the Pride of the Susquehanna

Spring 2020



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

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

Read more online at harrisburg.psu.edu/currents

