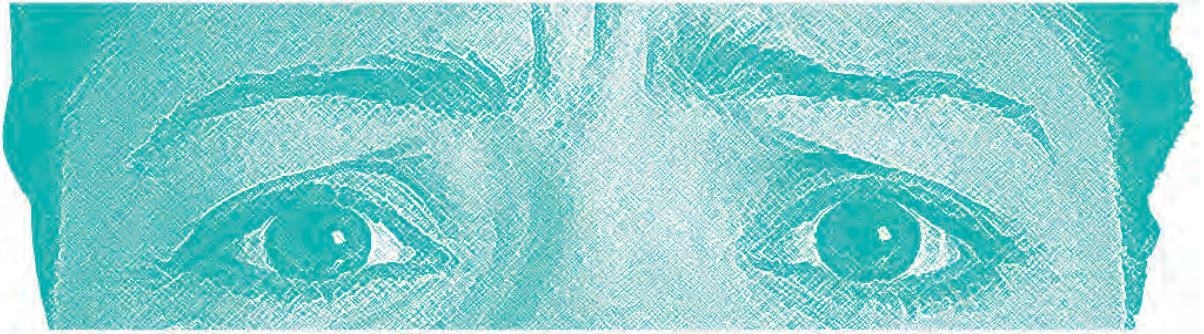


Penn State Harrisburg

Spring/Summer 2013

Currents



The science of autism treatment

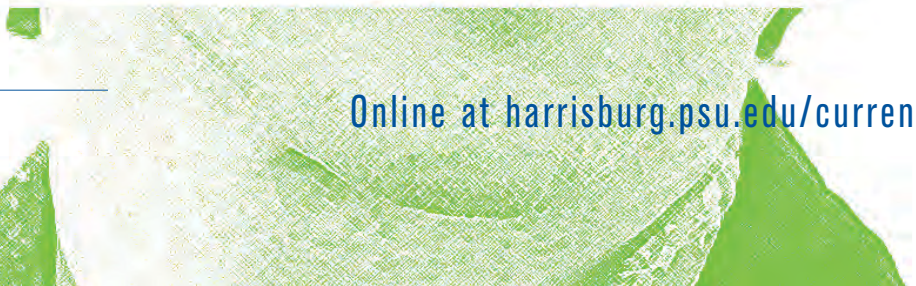


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Mukund S. Kulkarni

Greetings FROM THE CHANCELLOR

As we greet a new academic year, I am pleased to share with you news from Penn State Harrisburg. I also welcome this opportunity to thank you for your support of, and interest in, your alma mater.

Among the stories in this issue of *Currents* are several that illustrate the impact of faculty research on the community. Whether helping families find proven treatment methods for their loved ones with autism or assisting the electrical connector industry by shedding light on signal performance issues, research at Penn State Harrisburg has far-reaching effects.

This issue also features several stories that highlight how activities beyond the classroom provide our students with experiences that prepare them for careers after graduation. Internships lay the groundwork for jobs. Participation in an intense sales competition helps students hone their skills and introduces them to a network of contacts. A cybersecurity simulation exercise introduces those seeking careers in national intelligence to the issues they could confront one day. All of these activities, and others, enhance the educational experience.

With less than a year remaining in *For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students*, I am pleased to report that we have raised more than \$13 million. This is thanks to the generosity of nearly 5,500 donors who have made a total of 18,387 gifts or pledges.

Scholarships remain a campaign priority. While we are grateful for the scholarship support received throughout the campaign, we still have more than 2,000 students with significant “unmet need” – the difference between the amount of money available to them and the amount they need to pay for their education completely. The average unmet need among our students is in excess of \$9,000.

The coming year holds many exciting activities for the campus. Among these is the start of the next phase of strategic planning, as we shape the future of the college. We also will devote significant time and energy to examining how technology is changing higher education in general and to continuing to maximize technology on our campus in the delivery of instruction. Finally, we will continue to build upon ongoing enhancements to our facilities.

Our progress to date and our ability to move forward lie in the support of the college community. You, as an alum, are an important member of this group. On behalf of the college, I want to express gratitude for your support. I invite you to remain active – or become so – in college activities and to join in the celebration of our many successes.

Mukund S. Kulkarni, Ph.D.

Currents

Vol. 24 No. 2

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Mukund S. Kulkarni, Ph.D.

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Cover: Photo illustration by Sharon Siegfried



THON



Reality Series



On Campus

10 College News

12 Alumni Notes



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

How science trumps the junk in treating autism



Penn State Harrisburg researchers help parents and practitioners sort through facts and fads.

Penn State Harrisburg Professor of Psychology Dr. Kimberly A. Schreck has met families who spent thousands of dollars, even remortgaged their homes, to pay for unproven treatments to try to help their children with autism.

Desperate parents sometimes will try almost anything.

“As a mom, I get that,” Schreck said.

Coordinator of the Applied Behavior Analysis master’s program at Penn State Harrisburg, Schreck and her colleague, Professor of Psychology Dr. Richard M. Foxx, are helping families cut through the hype and zero in on the most effective treatments to help children with autism. They want to save families time, money, and disappointment.

Autism is a confusing range of complex neurodevelopment disorders, characterized by social impairments, communication difficulties, and repetitive behaviors. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that one in 88 children has been identified with autism spectrum disorder. Boys are four times more likely than girls to have some form of autism.

A relentless condition, autism has far reaching effects on families and individuals, said Foxx. “It’s a constant; it never goes away. They’re such perplexing children. They may show these splinter skills [skills mastered well ahead of a child’s usual developmental sequence], which makes it difficult for parents. It’s maddening.”

Both Foxx and Schreck conduct research on successful methods for treating autism. In their work with children with autism and their families,

A child with autism may need as much as 40 hours of effective behavioral services a week. When a family’s weekly involvement in seeking treatment includes four hours of massage therapy, six hours of sitting with head phones on listening to random sounds, and two hours having the child’s urine analyzed, valuable time is lost for methods that actually work.

“You can’t do it all. This dilutes, and in some cases, goes directly against what you’re trying to do,” Schreck said.

She and Foxx steer families toward applied behavior analysis (ABA), which teaches behaviors through a system of rewards and consequences. The National Institutes of Mental Health, the Surgeon General, and the American Academy of Pediatrics have endorsed ABA as the clinical standard-of-care treatment for autism.

Applied behavior analysis is based on more than 40 years of experimentation with people and animals, using scientifically based principles of learning that apply to everyone, Foxx said. “It’s empirically based. It has accountability.”

Behavior analysis focuses on principles that explain how learning takes



Fad treatments are rampant, Foxx said. “They take advantage of parents who want to do anything possible to help their child.”



they’ve seen plenty of unproven, ineffective methods over the years. Foxx calls them “fad treatments.” Schreck calls them “junk science.”

“Some are out for money. Others really do care about the children, but they’re not testing whether what they are doing works,” Schreck said.

Fad treatments are rampant, Foxx said. “They take advantage of parents who want to do anything possible to help their child. There are these con artists, for lack of a better word. They put out all these methods that ‘cure’ autism or make the child a lot better.”

Fad practitioners give parents false hope with no clinical proof to back up their claims.

While some doctors tell parents that alternative treatments can’t hurt, Schreck disagrees.

place – what causes a new behavior to be learned or an old one to be changed – and relies on scientific methods to study why people behave in certain ways and how the environment impacts behavior. This information can be used to motivate people – everyone from disruptive fourth graders to business executives – to learn to behave in ways that benefit them. It also helps people to be more effective when teaching and working with others. Behavior analysis principles have helped many different kinds of learners acquire many different skills – from healthier lifestyles to the mastery of new languages.

Positive reinforcement is one such principle. When a behavior is followed by a reward, the behavior is more likely to be repeated. Through decades of research, the field of behavior analysis has developed many

techniques for increasing useful behaviors and reducing those that may cause harm or interfere with learning.

These principles work with any group of people, said Foxx, whose research has illustrated the wide application of behavior analysis and recently was recognized by the American Psychological Association award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Applied Research. For example, years ago Foxx worked with an airline that sought to use behavioral methods to

“We don't want to confront. We just want to get the word out: ABA is the way to go,” Schreck said. “Science is the way to go.”

increase workers' safety habits on the flight line. ABA principles are also behind the techniques Foxx and co-author Dr. Nathan Azrin recommended in their best-selling book *Toilet Training in Less Than a Day*.

ABA uses reinforcement to help children with autism in every portion of their lives, having been shown to significantly improve communication, social relationships, play, self-care, and school success as well as reduce problem behaviors such as self-injury and aggression. This can allow a family to go out in public without fear that there will be problems. It means people can live more normal lives – visiting restaurants or going on vacation – once the child learns how to behave in those situations, Schreck said.

Unfortunately, the fad treatments get more media attention than ABA does, Schreck said. She and her students have made a study of the topic, in what they dubbed the “junk science lab.”

Unproven autism treatments like vitamin therapy or facilitated communication get too much press attention in U.S. newspapers and magazines, Schreck said. She recently began analyzing television coverage as well, looking at how many times the media talks about treatments and the number of positive and negative comments.

Parents also get recommendations for less reputable treatment methods from teachers, pediatricians, human services professionals, and other parents, she said. To help combat this problem Foxx co-edited the book *Controversial Therapies for Developmental Disabilities* with John Jacobson and James Mulick. The book covers a wide range of fads and seeks to educate and equip parents and professionals with information needed to prevent individuals with special needs from being exposed to fads.

Schreck and graduate student Brenda McCants are studying fad treatments from as far back as the 1800s, evaluating how they change over time. When a method stopped making money or hit a legal obstacle, practitioners would change the product name or change who they targeted. The fads did not disappear; they evolved.

With the explosion in numbers of children being diagnosed with autism, she's seeing the number of opportunists balloon.

“We don't want to confront. We just want to get the word out: ABA is the way to go,” Schreck said. “Science is the way to go.”



Autism research Night-time habits shed light on daytime behavior

In graduate school, Dr. Kimberly A. Schreck met a 14-year-old boy with autism who changed her life.

The boy didn't just sleepwalk – he threw furniture out of second floor windows while sleeping. Schreck began wondering whether the boy's sleep deprivation contributed to his aggression.

“Nobody had ever looked at that,” said Schreck, now professor of psychology and program chair of social sciences and psychology at Penn State Harrisburg.

Her graduate school advisor said, “You'll spend your career working on this.” He was right.

Today Schreck runs a research lab and collaborates with researchers in the United States, Australia, and Canada to learn more about how sleep affects autism. Through the work of Schreck and others, it's widely accepted that sleep problems are among a host of issues commonly associated with autism spectrum disorders.

By studying sleep, Schreck says she is trying to find answers that will ultimately help children with autism while they are awake.

She developed a sleep survey for parents of children with autism, those with other neurological issues, and normally developing kids.

Schreck's research has found that the more severe a person's sleep problems, the more profound his autism

symptoms, including communication problems, social skills deficits, and increased repetitive behaviors. She found children with autism had more disrupted sleep than typical children, waking up during the night more frequently, often screaming the household awake in the process.

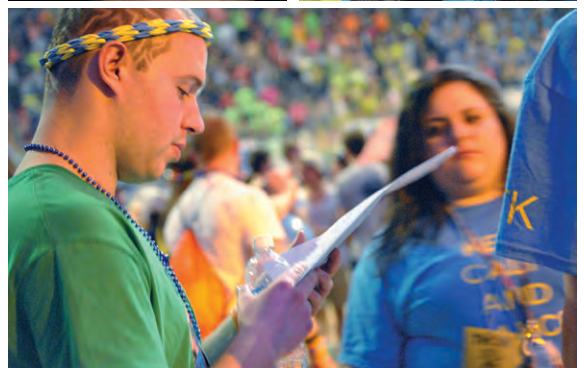
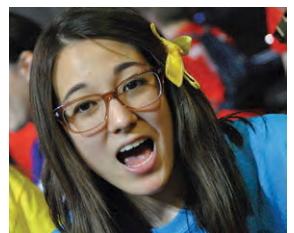
She also learned that children with autism have trouble settling in to sleep, sometimes taking hours to fall asleep. Many stop breathing while they sleep. They don't get the quantity or quality of sleep their peers enjoy. Little sounds or night lights are more likely to wake them, and they often wake very early in the morning – think 2:00 or 3:00 a.m. – and never fall back asleep.

These days she's examining whether sleep problems might predict issues with aggression, attention, anxiety, and depression. She's also researching whether a lack of sleep makes it more difficult for children with autism to communicate, whether in little ways, like remembering the right word, or in larger context such as engaging in meaningful conversation.

Still, it's early in the process. “We're still at the beginning stages of what to do on many of the problems,” Schreck said. “We can't conclusively say, ‘This is what we always need to do.’”

By studying sleep, Schreck says she is trying to find answers that will ultimately help children with autism while they are awake, finding ways to help them to learn faster during the day. Solving sleep problems can have huge benefits not just for the child's behavior, but for the whole household.





No Pain, No Gain

Penn State Harrisburg students put on their dancing shoes for 46-hour THON

Like a scene out of a Rocky movie...“moralers” coaching them on, massages to loosen up stiff muscles, and an endless supply of ice packs, Penn State Harrisburg students Joe Sadusky and Hana Suders joined 710 dancers at the Bryce Jordan Center in February to participate in the annual tradition of THON, smashing the college’s fundraising goal by raising more than \$53,000.

THON is the Penn State student dance marathon that benefits the Four Diamonds Fund and pediatric cancer patients, families, and researchers at Penn State Hershey Children’s Hospital. During the 46-hour marathon, participants are not allowed to sit or stop moving.

This year, Sadusky and Suders fought through weariness, blisters, soreness, and more to eclipse last year’s total raised by some \$22,000, setting a new record for the campus, and contributing to THON’s overall total of a record-breaking \$12,374,034.46 raised this year.



“My best friend danced last year, and I was by her side the whole time,” Suders said. “Just seeing that was an amazing experience, and I knew then I wanted to experience it myself.”

“My best friend danced last year, and I was by her side the whole time,” Suders said. “Just seeing that was an amazing experience, and I knew then I wanted to experience it myself.”

Like most THON participants, Suders’ motivation to keep on moving was the thought of helping kids with cancer.

Also helpful were the constant support from “moralers” – students whose job at THON is to keep up dancer morale – and the energy boosts that come with THON traditions such as the Saturday Pep Rally, Mail Call (when dancers get cards and letters of encouragement), and the hourly Line Dance – a special dance choreographed to a mash up of the year’s most popular songs.

The welcome and much appreciated physical breathers – like foot care or brief walks around the Jordan Center – also help dancers endure.

Participating in THON does not come without a little pain. About 36 hours in, Suders had blisters, had gotten her sore toes wrapped, had rested each foot on an ice pack, and finally had both feet wrapped, which she said made her feel like she had just started dancing.

Any pain participants experience is minor compared to the gains that THON presents. The THON motto, “For the Kids” or “FTK,” keeps students focused on their goal.

Senior Andrew Mather, who last year danced for Penn State Harrisburg and served as the overall co-chair, chose a different role this year. He was the morale chair, coordinating the people and activities designed to keep the dancers going, and helping all of the other committee chairs throughout the year. Though he was reminded that being an organizer can be stressful, at hour 38 he said, “As soon as I see that number [the grand total amount raised, revealed in THON’s final hour] though, all of those emotions will be tempered. When I see that number, it will have all been worth it.”



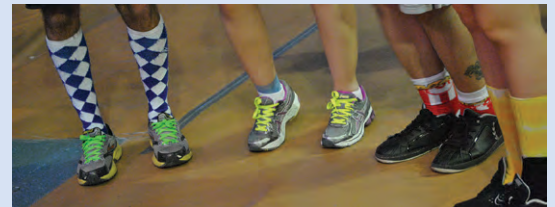
The universal nod to the Four Diamonds



Taking a breather for eye care



Moralers give dancers a leg up



Fun and first aid keep 'em going



Inspiration – stories about “the kids”



“Everybody’s doin’ it, a brand new dance, now...”

Reality Series



Sherrie



Samantha



Chris



Photos: Sharon Siegfried



Internships help students plot their futures.



Christina



Sherrie Laporta imagined herself working for Corporate America. But an internship in spring 2013 helped to change that view.

After she trained Ronald McDonald House of Central Pennsylvania volunteers at the new Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital, she now hopes to work in a hospital, teaching people about wellness and nutrition. Laporta, a Penn State Harrisburg human development and family studies (HDFS) major who graduated in May, plans to earn her master's degree in health education.

"I've learned so much about dealing with so many different personalities. I thought I knew a lot, but there were 70 plus volunteers with different personalities," said Laporta.

Laporta quickly became a stabilizing leader and a huge asset, said Ann Mahalik, Ronald McDonald House family room coordinator. When Laporta's internship ended, Mahalik missed her immediately, she said.

Laporta served in a first wave of students to intern at the new hospital. Every HDFS senior completes a full-time internship during the final undergrad semester, said Dr. Barbara Carl, senior lecturer and the program internship coordinator. Other students have interned with schools, drug rehabilitation centers, childcare centers, and counseling service providers.

HDFS is a new and growing major at Penn State Harrisburg. Fifteen seniors graduated in May, and about 85 students have declared it as their major.

The curriculum prepares students to work with people across the lifespan, from infants to senior citizens, Carl said. The classes before the internship help students hone their résumés, interviewing skills, and career interests. They find their own internships and plan projects.

"They take the internship very seriously," Carl said. "Career exploration and networking help them figure out where they want to go from here. It's a job with training wheels. They get to make some contacts they wouldn't otherwise be able to make."

She emphasizes that students need to be open and flexible. This proved a valuable lesson for the students interning at the children's hospital, which opened three months later than planned.



Samantha Wolfe, Christina Santoro, and Chris Leonard helped launch a therapeutic playroom for siblings of patients at the new hospital, under the guidance of the facility's Child Life Program, which oversees the Sibling Play Program. The playroom provides worried parents and restless siblings with much needed breaks.

The children's hospital internship reinforced for Wolfe that she wants to work with families and gave her confidence that she can do the things she learned about in classes and books. But more than that, she and the other interns saw the process of a new hospital opening, which they said was amazing.

"We can see how difficult and how rewarding it might be to get things started," she said.

They also saw how much their work benefitted families.

It's rough for a small child to be cooped up in a hospital with stressed parents and a brother or sister in pain, said Santoro, who hopes to work in pediatrics in a hospital setting.

Siblings feel isolated and anxious, guilty, or angry, Leonard said. Their therapeutic playroom helps children ages three-12 vent those feelings.

It helped the interns, too, to put their problems in perspective, Leonard said. He works part-time in the juvenile justice system and hopes to return to school to get a master's degree one day.

"Career exploration and networking help them figure out where they want to go...It's a job with training wheels."

Within Laporta's first two weeks, she worked with families whose children died.

"That was difficult," said Laporta, who met families in the hospital's four family lounges that she maintained during her internship. "We had a lot of training in counseling that taught us how to respond to people so you draw them out. We also could page social workers and the hospital can provide clergy."

Carl, who prepares and guides students through their internships, finds it exciting to see students put their academic knowledge to practical use.

"I get to see them spread their wings," she said. "I feel really fortunate to be in their lives at this time of their journey. They really do us all proud."



An internship with impact

A student intern at Penn State Harrisburg has played a key role in developing a better way for fellow students to learn about the courses they need to get their degree.

Penn State students and advisors rely on Recommended Academic Plans – RAPs – as the semester by semester roadmap for what courses students need to take and when for their particular degree. Each college or campus within Penn State maintains the RAPs for its own majors or degrees. Today, more than 1,200 RAPs reside on the University website.

But RAPs are presently in the form of PDFs – a static text document that you access on your computer.

"With the emphasis on making the web accessible, especially for people with visual impairments, we realized that these PDFs should be structured in the right way to be used by a text to speech browser," said Christopher Weaver, Penn State Harrisburg web manager.

That has become a priority for Penn State's Division of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) which has required that all RAPs throughout the University be converted from PDFs into a web-based format by October 2014.

To make that happen, the DUS looked to the web team at Penn State Harrisburg.

Weaver said the college's web team had previously developed customized software that could be shared and used by other campuses throughout the University.

The DUS came up with a template as a prototype for the new web-based RAPs, then tapped Penn State Harrisburg, Penn State New Kensington, and the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences at University Park as the first to convert their RAPs into the web format and to

pilot the new web-based RAPs for the rest of the University.

Weaver turned over the nuts and bolts of converting Penn State Harrisburg's 53 RAPs to Michelle Lynne Pellechia, an information sciences and technology major who also minored in business administration.

Pellechia began converting the RAPs in November 2012 while working as a student intern. She devoted up to 15 hours a week toward the project. At the same time Pellechia maintained a 12-credit class load and completed her senior graduation project – developing a website for a real client, a wedding/event planning business based in the Lehigh Valley.

Pellechia also played volleyball on the Penn State Harrisburg team, was president of the campus Information Technology Club, and was a public relations "captain" of the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, known as THON.

Weaver said Pellechia converted all the Penn State Harrisburg RAPs into the digital format well ahead of the timetable, allowing others to use the RAPs completed by Pellechia as a model for converting their own RAPs.

He said the web-based RAPs will benefit all Penn State students, not just those who are visually impaired. Students and advisors will be able to instantly link from the RAP to the University Bulletin entry for courses they are required to take. The web-based RAPs will be easier for students to view and manipulate on their smartphone and other mobile devices.

The new RAPs will also be better for the environment, because students shouldn't need to print out documents as often as they do now using the PDF format, Weaver added.

Pellechia, who graduated in May, now has a full-time position with PPL Corporation, where she interned in summer 2012. Her career goal is to become an analyst who can "bridge the gap between technology people and business people," Pellechia said.



Building expansions mark campus growth



Educational Activities Building (EAB)

This spring, Penn State Harrisburg dedicated its new fitness center and broke ground for an addition, including classroom and laboratory space, to the Educational Activities Building (EAB). “With increasing enrollment, the addition of an NCAA Division III athletics program in recent years, and new on- and off-campus housing, the college has faced increasing demand for more classroom, laboratory, and athletics and recreational space,” said Chancellor Mukund Kulkarni. “The building expansions and enhancements will permit us to meet these pressing needs and will help to enhance students’ educational experience.”

The \$3.8 million, 12,560-square-foot CUB expansion, begun in fall 2011, includes the addition of a 6,000-square-foot, second-floor student fitness center and atrium. First floor additions include locker rooms, laundry, and storage space.

The \$19.5 million EAB project, anticipated to be completed by summer of 2014, includes a 51,500-square-foot addition which will connect to the existing building, which also will be renovated. The completed building will feature engineering and other labs, tiered classrooms, and a multi-purpose room.

Students learn to pitch perfect(ly)

College students have the opportunity to absorb a wealth of information during their undergraduate years, but the ability to sell themselves to prospective employers continues to be a vital checkmark on a collegiate bucket list.

Networking with, and learning from, the people who run companies large and small is experience you can’t typically garner in a classroom.

Add a pressure-packed sales competition and that’s the experience two Penn State Harrisburg School of Business Administration students earned at the National Sales Challenge this past fall at William Patterson University in Wayne, N.J.



Amber Levan and Tim Carson joined about 70 students from around the country who participated in the challenge that included a 15-minute sales call role-play with a business executive and a two-minute speed selling pitch about themselves, in succession, for six other execs. Although the competition weekend may have flown quickly, getting ready for the experience spanned weeks.

Assistant Professor of Marketing Dr. Zinaida Taran was the catalyst behind getting Penn State Harrisburg students to compete. She recognized the value to students and the college and became a driving force, serving as coach, mentor, and coordinator of the students’ entire experience.

Their preparation also included sessions with Patrick Mazzolla, an alumnus of Penn State Harrisburg’s graduate program in business administration, who donated his time and substantial sales expertise for the students’ enrichment. Managing director and CEO of Remuda Management Consulting, LLC (Harrisburg), Mazzolla served as an executive coach and mentor. “He taught us rules for sales to follow, and he gave us a lot of different concepts with sales,” said Carson, a management and marketing major.

Penn State Harrisburg graduates Romeo Vallias (*left*) and Alan Saw (*right*) participated in the sales challenge in 2011. Vallias, who placed in the top 25, helped this year’s students prepare. Experience that Saw gained in the sales challenge helped him to land a job with Apple.

around campus



A flash mob in support of the cause One Billion Rising was one of several campus events this spring to raise awareness about various types of violence.



Students presented 27 projects – from “The Wild Banshee” go-kart to a voice-to-braille translator – at the Engineering Capstone Design Conference.





Security simulation puts students at the helm

Computer networks across the U.S. are being disrupted by an unknown group, possibly terrorists. Transportation systems have been impacted. Financial systems may have been compromised. Initial reports suggest a nuclear power plant is off line in Pennsylvania. Private company CEOs meet in an emergency session to discuss what information they will share with the government, wrestling between loyalty to country and obligation to shareholders.

These were among the challenges some 50 Penn State students faced during an intense, day-long cybersecurity simulation exercise held in April at the Center for Strategic Leadership and Development at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle.

Funded through a grant from the Intelligence Community Centers of Academic Excellence, a federal program to attract students to careers in national intelligence, the exercise drew on the expertise of Penn State faculty members, mentors, and facilitators from private industry and government.

Thomas Arminio, a retired U.S. Naval officer and Penn State Harrisburg homeland security instructor, coordinated the event. He said some of the students were from Penn State's homeland security master's program, but others represented other academic disciplines, including business, computer science, international relations, and law.

The disrupted computer network scenario was the unclassified version of an exercise that has been played out at the highest levels of government, said Admiral James M. Loy, a retired Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security and U.S. Coast Guard Commandant, who presented the event's keynote address.

Loy said cybersecurity is "the issue of the day" and challenged the students to come up with "better answers" than what policy makers have been able to so far.

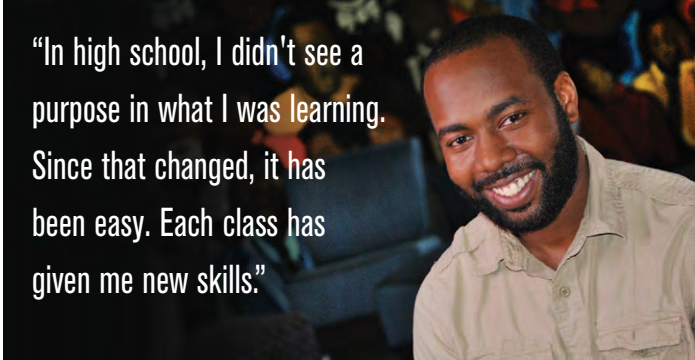
Students each were assigned to groups representing different decision-makers and were encouraged to collaborate with their counterparts in the other groups. Loy observed that the lack of information sharing among intelligence agencies before the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks is generally regarded as the most enduring lesson learned from the tragedy.

Dr. Jeremy F. Plant, interim chair of Penn State's intercollegiate master's program in homeland security based at Penn State Harrisburg, said the real-world cybersecurity scenario and the direct involvement of some of the nation's leading experts in intelligence combined to make the exercise an unforgettable educational experience, exceeding what would be possible in a traditional classroom setting.

Honors thesis topics: from body image to recycled tires

Marques Paige said he was a terrible student in high school, and he soon discovered that the nursing program he tried at a community college was not for him.

But when Marques started at Penn State Harrisburg, with a tentative major in communications, he began to thrive. He graduated on May 4, one of 130 students in Penn State Harrisburg's Capital College Honors Program out of the more than 4,200-member student body.



"In high school, I didn't see a purpose in what I was learning. Since that changed, it has been easy. Each class has given me new skills."

Just before commencement, Paige presented his honors thesis, a documentary in progress about how digital photo editing affects self-image. During his college studies, and particularly through his honors project, he discovered a love of photography and videography. He now has his own business in Harrisburg, Marq Creative Works, and says it's growing faster than expected.

"College is the reason I could start my business," he said. "In high school, I didn't see a purpose in what I was learning. Since that changed, it has been easy. Each class has given me new skills."

Paige was among eight honors program seniors who presented their theses recently. All said working on their projects – which in some cases took two years to complete – has given them direction.

To learn about other senior honors thesis projects, visit harrisburg.psu.edu/currents.

Xun "Ella" Fang, from China, was one of four international students who shared her Penn State Harrisburg experiences with the college Board of Advisers in April. Other presenters hailed from Malaysia, Mexico, and United Arab Emirates.



Students analyzed materials in the library's Alice Marshall Women's History Collection, considered one of the largest privately compiled women's history collections in the country, for the exhibit "American Women and Modern Culture, 1890-1920."



Two of the college's 25 master's programs – public administration and American studies – celebrated 40th anniversaries during the 2012-13 academic year.

Alumni Notes

1970s

Robert L. Williams Jr., '78 Business Logistics, '87 MBA, Mishawaka, Ind., received Ph.D., Edinburgh Napier University; named assistant professor of marketing, Saint Mary's College; awarded Best Paper in Track-Brand, Identity & Corporate Reputation, titled "The Brand Flux Model – the impact of disruption on the organization brand," Academy of Marketing conference.

E. Philip Wenger, '79 FINCE, '89 MBA, Lancaster, elected to board, Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce.

1990s

Brian W. Dorr, '90, SDCET, Hampton, N.J., promoted to senior associate, Gannett Fleming.

Todd Stager, '92 Environmental Engineering Technology, Marysville, named office director, State College office, Pennoni Associates.

Dan Carr, '93 MET, Bloomsburg, retiring after 20 years as engineering manager, Kawneer Company, Inc.; will concentrate on family businesses, Carr's Machine Shop and Carr's Sawmill.

Richard Murren, '94 MET, Mount Joy, named project engineer, field services division, GSM Industrial, Inc.

Cheryl C. Sakalosky, '97 HUM, Harrisburg, named vice president of commercial lending, Centric Bank.

2000s

Joshua Eisenhauer, '03 SDCET, New Cumberland, named structural project manager, Carney Engineering Group, Inc.

Denjamin F. Johns, '04 MBA, Drexel Hill, elected to executive committee, Philadelphia Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division; board of directors, Penn State Dickinson School of Law Alumni Society.

2010s

Sara Gellatly, '10 ACCT, Middletown, named trustee, Dauphin County Library System.

4th Annual Penn State Harrisburg Golf Tournament

Friday, September 27, 2013

Colonial Golf and Tennis Club
8:00 a.m. Shotgun start



Proceeds benefit
Penn State Harrisburg Athletics

Information:

Phone: 717-948-6316 • E-mail: hbgdevelopment@psu.edu

<http://harrisburg.psu.edu/webform/athletic-golf-tournament>

Alumni Society welcomes new members

The Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Society has welcomed four new board members: Kathy McCormac, '97; Samuel Monismith, '79g, '84g; Ed Nevlung, '84; and Marcellus C. Taylor, '12. Alumni Karen Dielmann, '78, '09g and Tina Hess, '96 begin second terms on the board.

Officers include: President Patricia Thompson, '86, '08g; Vice President Timothy Ritter, '89; and Past President Judy Hricak, '89.



A rite of spring, the college's bathtub races can be traced, unofficially, to 1972. This year's winners, "Cool Runnings" made their mark on history and garnered local media attention.



The college commemorated "Building 10,000's" receipt of a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver level certification. This energy efficient, green-designed building is the only LEED-certified residence hall in the Penn State Commonwealth Campus system.

Read more online at harrisburg.psu.edu/currents



Alumna receives University achievement award

Penn State Harrisburg alumna Susan E. Dickinson, of Mechanicsburg, Pa., was recognized with the 2013 Penn State Alumni Association's Alumni Achievement Award. She is the sixth Penn State Harrisburg graduate to receive this honor.



Established in 2005, the Alumni Achievement Award recognizes alumni 35 years of age and younger for their extraordinary professional accomplishments. These alumni are nominated by an academic college and invited by the University president to share their expertise with students, faculty, and administrators. Eleven alumni were honored at a dinner ceremony on the University Park campus in April.

Dickinson, a 2011 M.B.A. graduate, is supervisor of the federal programs unit for unemployment compensation within the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. Coordinating federal programs for the Commonwealth, Dickinson works with the U.S. Department of Labor and state governments to provide services to unemployed claimants who held federal or military jobs. She is also responsible for federal unemployment extensions and disaster and trade-related unemployment caused by outsourcing to foreign countries.

Previously, Dickinson served as the director of the department's Office of Unemployment Compensation Service Centers, overseeing eight service center locations and more than 1,200 employees throughout the state. She has worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry since 2006 when she joined as an administrative management trainee.

Previous Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Achievement Award winners include Meghan Jasani '99 (2012), Heather L. Neary '09 (2010), Erik P. Keptner '94 (2008), Alex Guk '00 (2007), and Stephen C. Burkholder '94 (2005).



College history made on the sandlot

The Penn State Harrisburg baseball team made history several times over this spring, with impressive efforts, collectively and individually.

On May 5, the team, led by first-year Head Coach Ryan Bown, won its first North Eastern Athletic Conference (NEAC) championship, gaining an automatic berth to the NCAA Division III championship tournament. Among the season's defining moments were a 16-game win-streak and a program-record 23 regular-season victories.

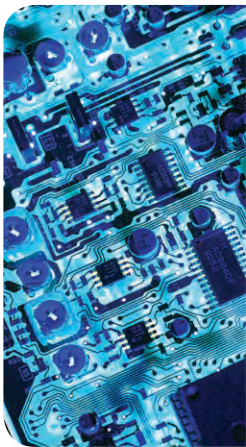
Junior outfielder Dalton Trolinger was named the NEAC championship most valuable player, with six hits, four runs, two RBIs, a stolen base and a .600 batting average.

On April 6, pitcher Derek Slagle made history when he became the college's the first player to throw a perfect game. The freshman gave up no runs, no hits and the Lions committed no errors en route to a 3-0 shutout victory that day. Slagle faced 21 batters and threw just 70 pitches, 51 of which were strikes.

At season's end, freshman Bryan Balshy was voted NEAC Rookie of the Year. The Lions first baseman drove in a team-high 42 runs and led the conference in RBIs.

Penn State Harrisburg's historic season ended May 16 when the Lions fell to Johns Hopkins in the regional round of the NCAA championship tournament.

More sports news is online at athletics.hbg.psu.edu.



Research will aid communications industry

Our digitized world of instant communication is enabled by high-speed signals transferred across many systems within a device. As signal speeds are pushed to quickly accommodate gigabytes of data, disturbances once considered minor, such as weather changes, now become more serious, with the potential to halt systems and corrupt data.

Electrical engineering faculty members Dr. Sedig Agili and Dr. Aldo Morales studied the effects of high humidity and temperature levels on microstrips, interconnecting pieces that convey radio wave signals between electronic systems, and developed a model to predict how the devices would perform under different environmental conditions.

The findings will have meaningful impact for engineers and manufacturers in the communications industry, Agili said. "The model will help digital designers to see how a circuit board would perform in a harsher environment," he said.

Agili and Morales co-direct the college's Center for Signal Integrity, which partners with central Pennsylvania's many connector companies in product development through faculty and student research and collaboration.

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

For the Future: The importance of scholarships

For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students is directed toward a shared vision of Penn State as the most comprehensive, student centered research university in America and includes six key objectives: ensuring student access and opportunity, enhancing honors education, enriching the student experience, building faculty strength and capacity, fostering discovery and creativity, and sustaining the University's tradition of quality.

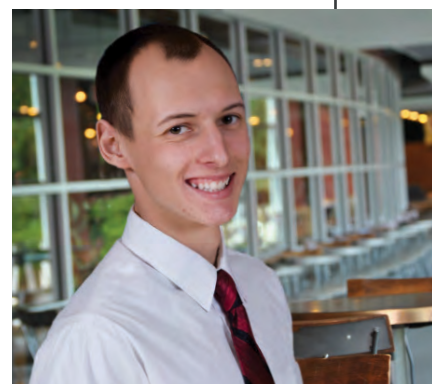
To date, Penn State Harrisburg has raised more than \$13 million. With less than a year remaining in the campaign, scholarships are the priority.

Over 2,100 of the college's more than 3,500 full-time undergraduates qualify for financial aid and currently are in need of support to pay for their education. The average scholarship award is just over \$1,500, while students' unmet need, on average, is more than \$9,200.

To help a student pursue his or her educational dreams, please consider an endowed or annual scholarship. Through the Trustee Matching Scholarship Program, you can support students while earning a 10% annual match from Penn State in perpetuity.* Another available scholarship opportunity is "Sponsor a Student," which directly supports a student with immediate financial need.**

Many other ways to give are also available. Providing opportunity to our students is paramount. For additional information, contact the Alumni and Development Office at 717-948-6316 or hbgdevelopment@psu.edu.

For the future
THE CAMPAIGN FOR PENN STATE STUDENTS



*For new endowments of \$50,000 or more
**Commitment of \$2,500 per year for five years